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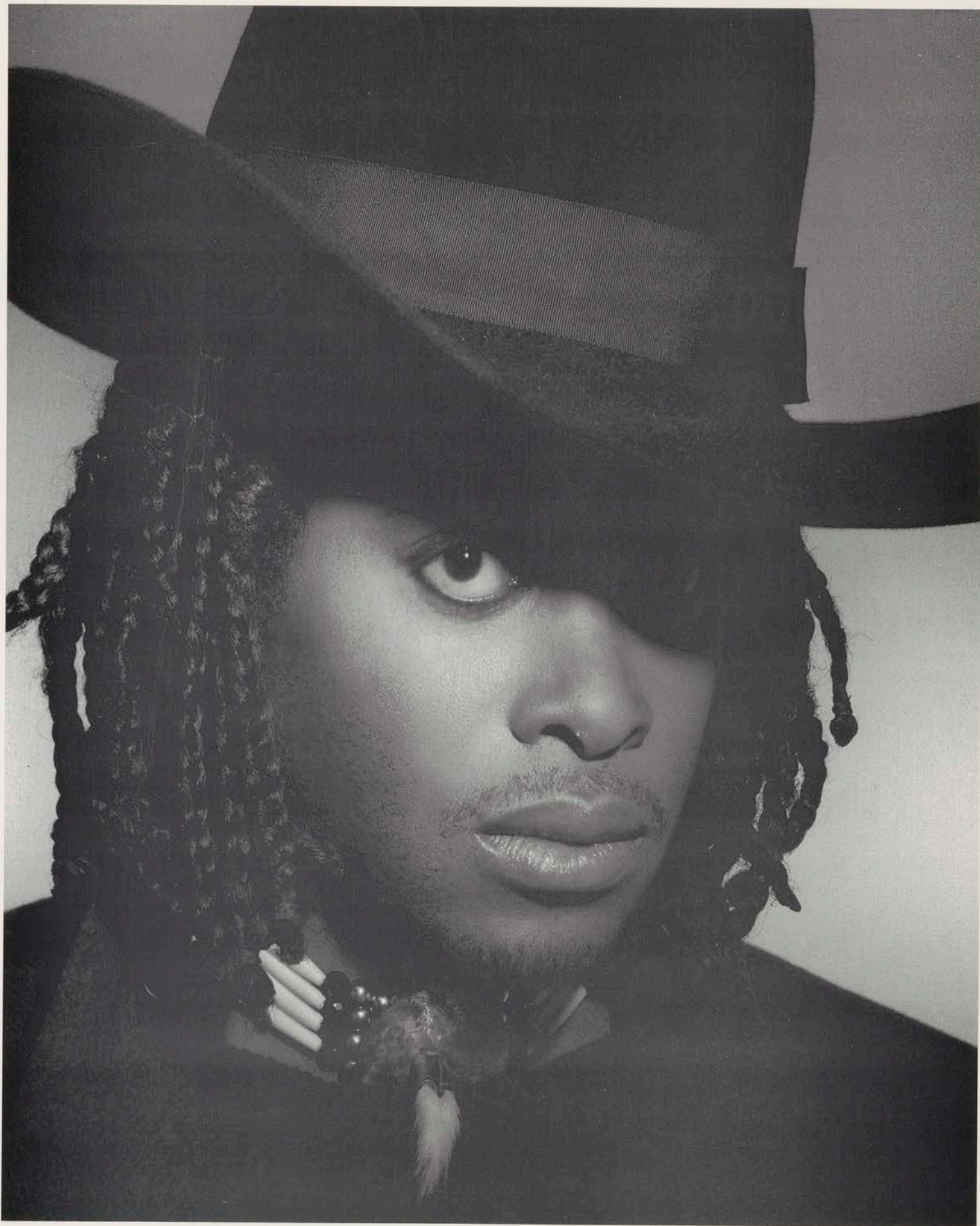
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Photo: Sandy May 2/94

**SOUNDS OF
BLACKNESS**





MIDAMERICA
T A L E N T

Jesse Johnson



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MID AMERICA TALENT
PRESENTS
THE JESSE JOHNSON BAND
AT
7TH STREET ENTRY

The Jesse Johnson Band, an electrifying, high-powered rock trio will tear the house down at the **7th Street Entry**, 701 1st Avenue North, Minneapolis, MN on Saturday, May 28, 1994. **Jesse's** show will begin at 11:00 PM, and the cover charge is \$6.00. Opening acts will be **Janis Figure** and **Nixon Pupils**, beginning at 9:00 PM.

Best known for his work with **The Time**, **Jesse's** new musical direction provides him with the freedom to explore new realms of music. His new songs, new band and blazing guitar capture the explosive energy that was prevalent in the mid 60's and early 70's rock groups. Taking his inspiration from artists such as **Muddy Waters**, **Humble Pie**, **Jimi Hendrix**, **Aerosmith** and **Led Zeppelin**, **Jesse** has taken these diverse influences and catapulted them into the 90's. These songs are an incredible representation of his vision and artistry and were recorded live, allowing one to experience the spontaneity imperfections of a live band.

Jesse's new band is comprised of veteran Chicago bassist, **Joe Thomas**, and drummer extraordinaire **Brian Edwards**. Individually and collectively, these two musicians have toured and/or recorded with **Buddy Miles**, **Herbie Hancock**, **Alexander O'Neal**, **Buddy Guy**, **The Neville Brothers** and **Peter Tosh**.

Included with this press release is a complete press kit with additional information. **The Jesse Johnson Band** will be available for interviews, either in person or by telephone. If you require any additional information, please contact me at (612) 339-5117.

"BRAND NEW DAY"

Jesse Johnson--guitarist, singer, songwriter and producer--certainly an impressive set of credentials. With accomplishments including four solo LPs on A&M, four LPs with The Time, numerous Gold and Platinum LPs, numerous performances and recordings with top artists around the world, Jesse is an established artist.

Jesse was born in Rock Island, Illinois and was raised in East St. Louis, Missouri. He started playing guitar when he was 17. He taught himself to play by listening to recordings of B.B. King, Lightnin' Hopkins, Muddy Waters, Jimi Hendrix, Cream, Mountain, Led Zeppelin, and Aerosmith to name a few.

Jesse became the guitarist in a band called Dealer, the house band of a biker hang out in Rock Island called the Yankee Clipper, where he was spotted by Morris Day who asked him to come to Minneapolis. There Morris introduced him to Prince. Jesse's style of playing enticed Prince into starting an R&B band with rock & roll overtones. The Time was born.

Playing guitar in The Time allowed Jesse the opportunity to perform in front of audiences worldwide. It was during this time that he started developing his song writing abilities. Many of his songs were too rock flavored to fit into The Time genre, although he did prove himself early on to be a hit song writer by penning two of the Times biggest songs: "Jungle Love" and "The Bird."

Jesse left The Time after finishing "Purple Rain" and The Time's "Ice Cream Castles" LP to pursue a solo career. He dove into producing and writing his first solo LP for A&M Records, as well as producing for numerous artists and movie soundtracks. Now, after exploring the full realm of musical expression, Jesse returns to his roots.

Jesse's true direction provides him the freedom to explore and conquer new depths in the realms of music. These songs are an incredible representation of his vision and artistry. The songs, newly written and recorded, encompass Jesse's dreams, pains, passions, joys, and fears. These songs were recorded spontaneously, allowing one to experience the imperfections of a band creating live (the way it should be!). They capture the energy that was prevalent in the mid 60's and early 70's rock groups.

Commenting on his new songs: "'Brand New Day' is about just what it says...It's about sunshine. It's not happy It's not sad It's about coping an attitude. What changes the world is people changing themselves. This is a brand new day, so don't ask me to play any of my old music." He laughs...

"'War Babies' is a child abuse song, It's kind of like my life but more about mental abuse. Like when people leave their kids by themselves or say things that mess with their self-esteem when they're just babies. It's the kind of stuff that I went through and it's a reminder for me so that I don't make the same mistakes with my babies."

Jesse hopes to accomplish a worldwide embrace of his music and his dynamic guitar playing. "The listener's biggest faux pas will be attempting to label my music. It comes from the Blues, well, basically it's a mish-mash of contradictory styles."

...SO LISTEN AND EXPERIENCE!!!!!!...

JESSE'S BAND

Bassist-Joe Thomas hails from the windy city of Chicago. He sports a broad palate of bass stylings. Joe has performed and jammed with artists of the highest caliber. He's shared stages with the likes of Buddy Miles (M.S.T.), Slash, Herbie Hancock, Sun Ra, Neville Brothers, Lefty Dizz, Junior Wells, Buddy Guy, Peter Tosh, Kinsey Report, Muddy Waters, and many more. It's just that kind of experience that has molded him into a "bassist's bass player". Joe has toured Europe several times with a variety of these artists. Many of his musical influences mirror Jesse's. His bass communicates and understands the language that Jesse's guitar and music speaks.

Drummer-Brian Edwards hails from Pittsburgh, PA. Brian's musical interest was established by the early age of 6, influenced by his father, Motown Alumni Craig Edwards (original bassist on Temptation's hit "My Girl" & others). He played in a number of local bands while attending Pittsburgh School of Performing Arts and Duquesne University. He's also studied with the likes of Max Roach (Miles Davis, Dizzy Gillespie & Charlie Parker) and Peter Erskine (drummer of Weather Report) among others. He has toured Europe several times performing with De Barge ('88/'89), Cherelle ('90), Alexander O'Neal ('90/'91), and Ingrid Chavez ('91/'92), etc. His influences range from Mitch Mitchell to John Bonham to Harvey Mason, just to name a few. His drum stylings and arrangements bring a whole new dimension to Jesse's compositions. With his experience with Reggae to Rock and everything in between, Brian is an essential part of the language Jesse's music speaks!!!

JESSE JOHNSON

GUITARIST ♦ SINGER ♦ SONGWRITER & PRODUCER



- 1981 - Warner Brothers Records, *The Time*
 - Performed
- 1982 - Warner Brothers Records, *What Time Is It?*
 - Performed
- 1982 - Warner Brothers Records, *Vanity 6*
 - Wrote & performed: *Bite The Beat*
- 1984 - Warner Brothers Records, *Ice Cream Castle*
 - Wrote & performed: *Jungle Love, Ice Cream Castles & The Bird*
- 1985 - A&M Records, *Jesse Johnson's Revue (debut solo album)*
 - Performed, written and produced by Jesse Johnson
- 1985 - A&M Records, *The Breakfast Club Soundtrack*
 - Wrote & performed: *Heart Too Hot To Hold*
- 1985 - A&M Records, Janet Jackson, *Dream Street*
 - Wrote, produced & performed: *Pretty Boy & Fast Girls*
- 1985 - Ta Mara & the Seen
 - Wrote, produced & performed
- 1986 - A&M Records, *Pretty In Pink Soundtrack*
 - Wrote, performed & produced: *Get To Know Ya*
- 1986 - A&M Records, *Shockadelica*
 - Solo LP performed, written & produced
- 1987 - Original Motion Picture Soundtrack, *Action Jackson*
 - Wrote & produced: *Faraway Eyes* for Vanity
- 1988 - Virgin Records, Paula Abdul, *Forever Your Girl*
 - Wrote & produced: *I Need You*
- 1988 - A&M Records, *Every Shade of Love*
 - Solo Lp performed, written & produced
- 1988 - Capital Records, *da Krash*
 - Co-wrote & produced
- 1988 - MCA Records, Sue Ann, *Blue Velvet*
 - Produced & wrote five songs

● Gold Records

■ Platinum Records

(cont.)

1988 - CBS Records, Clarence Clemens

- Produced: *Shot Gun*

● **1989 - Virgin Records (France), Les Rita Mitsouko: *marc & robert***

- Produced LP & mixed first American release of *Andy*

1989 - Columbia Records, Wendy & Lisa, *Fruit at the Bottom*

- Wrote & co-produced: *Satisfaction*

1989 - Virgin Records, Cheryl Lynn

- Co-wrote & produced four songs

● **1990 - Paisley Park Records, *Graffiti Bridge* Soundtrack**

- Performed on LP

● **1990 - Another 48 Hours, Soundtrack**

- Co-produced & performed: *The Boys are Back*

● **1990 - Paisley Park Records, The Time, *Pandemonium***

- Co-wrote & co-produced: *Pandemonium*, *Blondie*, *Skillet*

1990 - Capitol Records, Debbie Allen, *Special Look*

- Wrote: *Sexy Ways*

1991 - Original Motion Picture Soundtrack, *The Five Heartbeats*

- Wrote & produced: *Nights Like This*

1992 - Interscope Records, Three Shades Brown, *Stronger than Strong*

- Co-wrote, co-produced & performed

1992 - Original Motion Picture Soundtrack, *White Men Can't Jump*

- Wrote, produced & performed: *Jump For It*

JESSE JOHNSON

TOP TEN SINGLES

1984

Jungle Love

- Written & performed by Jesse Johnson of The Time

Ice Cream Castles

- Written & performed by Jesse Johnson of The Time

The Bird

- Written & performed by Jesse Johnson of The Time

1985

Be Your Man

- Performed, written & produced by Jesse Johnson

Can You Help Me

- Performed, written & produced by Jesse Johnson

I Want My Girl

- Performed, written & produced by Jesse Johnson

Everybody Dance

- Written & produced for Ta Mara & the Seen

1986

Crazay

- Performed, written & produced by Jesse Johnson

Baby Let's Kiss

- Performed, written & produced by Jesse Johnson

1988

Love Struck

- Performed, written & produced by Jesse Johnson

Wasn't I Good To Ya?

- Performed, written & produced by Jesse Johnson

1991

Nights Like This

- Performed, written & produced by Jesse Johnson
- Also awarded: Most Performed Song from a Motion Picture, *The Five Heartbeats*

SOME OF THE VENUES PLAYED BY JESSE JOHNSON

U.S.A.:

Roxy, L.A.
Forum, L.A.
Madison Square Gardens, N.Y.
Omni, Atlanta
Fox, Atlanta
Beverly Theater, L.A.
The Ritz, N.Y.
Fox, St. Louis, Missouri
Kiel Auditorium, St. Louis, Missouri
Fox Theater, Detroit
Joe Lewis Arena, Detroit
Masonic Temple, Detroit
The Troubador, L.A.
The Orpheum, Minneapolis, MN
The Palace, L.A.
St. Paul Civic Center, St. Paul, MN
Met Center, Bloomington, MN
Piccadilly, Indianapolis
The Palladium, Chicago
Reunion Arena, Dallas
The Spectrum Theater, Philadelphia
Arie Crown Auditorium, Chicago

Outside of the U.S.A.:

Amsterdam, Holland
Milan, Italy
St. Vicente, Italy
Verona, Italy
Paris, France
London, England
Munich, Germany
Hamburg, Germany
Frankfurt, Germany
Tokyo, Japan