

[Welcome Guest](#)
[Sign Up](#) | [Sign In](#)

Sunday, February 25, 2007

11:13:50 PM

[Search The Philadelphia Tribune "Online":](#)

Entertainment

[> Home Page](#) | [Entertainment Section](#)

Singer pays tribute to Houston in AC

By Rita Charleston
Tribune Correspondent

The newest edition of "Legends In Concert," is now being performed in the Superstar Theater at Resorts Atlantic City through March 15. The show pays homage to the likes of Britney Spears, Motown legends The Temptations, the timeless Tom Jones, and dynamic Whitney Houston.

Like Cher, Madonna and others, New York-born entertainer Jazmine prefers to use one name only. Portraying Houston in "Legends" for approximately four years, she says with enough makeup – and practice – she can pull off her impression of the diva.

"Early in my career we used to call what we do impressions. But today people prefer to call us 'Tribute Artists,'" she explains. "And I think that's exactly what we're doing. By watching lots of videos, going over all her albums, picking up Whitney's mannerisms and just a lot of repetition, the character eventually becomes ingrained in you, making it your own."

She goes on to explain that she feels playing the part, "Very liberating. The fact that I can become someone else is something I truly enjoy. I love the idea of stepping into a character and becoming someone else for a few moments. I find entertaining the crowds really indescribable and very fulfilling."

Born in Long Island, Jazmine draws her musical inspiration from her Cuban heritage while speaking and singing in both English and Spanish. Living later in Florida, Jazmine decided to put school on hold and pursue her musical career. Meeting her current manager and husband, the two moved to Europe to start her music scene.

Her tour around Europe was an immediate success, including performances in hundreds of nightclubs, several European Summer Festivals and multiple radio and television appearances.

After signing a one album deal with Finland's K-Tel Records, her first single achieved international success.

Eventually returning to the U.S., Jazmine explains that her role as Houston with the "Legends" tour began by accident. "Nothing was really planned, and I just sort of fell into it. But I'm very happy I did."

Today, although she honestly wishes she could sing as herself, she enjoys doing Whitney.

"When I was younger I always dreamed of stardom and being a solo artist in my own right. But it's not always easy, especially in the music world. In fact, that's quite a sore spot for me because I don't feel as though the music industry has caught up with the rest of the world in that regard. There have been lots of strides in the acting world, which I'm very happy about, but it hasn't tickled down enough to the music industry."

For example, she continues, "it's easier for African-Americans to get acting roles in Hollywood today because of the recent accolades of African-Americans. So now people are a little more open-minded in that regard.

"But the Las Vegas and Broadway shows have very limited roles for African-Americans. Then, if we get the roles, we are usually stereotyped. And if we can sing, they expect us to be of the Motown genre instead of being ourselves. We've come a long way but we still have a long way to go."

And so, she concludes, study, study, study. "That's especially important in light of the fact that the entertainment industry is so fickle. So, please, always have something to fall back on."

For times and ticket information, call (800) 736-1420.

[> Home Page](#) | [Entertainment Section](#)

The Philadelphia Tribune

520 S. 16th Street

Philadelphia, PA 19146

General Email : info@phila-tribune.com

General Phone: 215-893-4050

Philadelphia Tribune is Copyright © 2006 by The Philadelphia Tribune, Co.

To report any broken links, or page errors please [email tech support](#).