

preview: **accenture match play championship**

Tucson Lifestyle

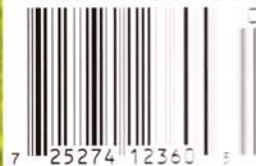
putt-in' on the

Ritz

The new Ritz-Carlton Golf Club, Dove Mountain is the setting for this month's big PGA event.

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FEBRUARY 2009 • \$1.99



Tucson Jazz Society

Jessy J and Marion Meadows in Concert

Feb. 14, 8 p.m.

FOR ANYONE SEEKING a concert with sax appeal, this is it! Charismatic soprano and tenor sax man Marion Meadows joins forces with up-and-coming wind-playing phenom Jessy J for a concert at Loews Ventana Canyon Resort.

Although Jessy is not yet a household name, the pretty and charming singer/songwriter/musician has definitely paid her dues. "Music has been a big part of my life since I was four, when I started playing the piano," she reflects. "Later on I picked up the saxophone, and then the flute. I started working as a musician in my teens, and then hit the road

in my early 20s and I've never stopped. I enjoy what I do ... I really love it."

Her first CD was *Tequila Moon*, which she remarks in some respects is a nod to her heritage. "I'm Mexican American so a lot of the songs have Latin rhythms or samba beats." But along with being influenced by La Banda music, she was a fan of pop artists such as Madonna and Michael Jackson and their mark can be heard, too.

The record also was shaped by working with legendary producer Paul Brown. "You have to be kind of a free spirit, be able to go with the flow, embrace changes in your environment and be

open to other people," Jessy says of being a jazz artist. "Collaborating with Paul Brown has been wonderful. He comes from a different background than me. I grew up listening to Coltrane, Cannonball Adderley and Charlie Parker. I wasn't necessarily Ms. Smooth Jazz. Paul has all that history with Boney James, Al Jarreau and George Benson. He knows exactly how to change a song to fit the format."

Tequila Moon is packed with not only classics like "Besame Mucho" and "Mas Que Nada," but hot originals like "Fiesta Velada" and "PB n' J." Her next album, she promises, will spin off her distinctive style and take it into an even more uptempo, pop-influenced area.

And seeing her in person, with her seductive vocals and poetic sax playing, will be the perfect Valentine's Day gift. "When people come to one of my concerts they often say, 'I didn't know if it was going to be like this. It's so much fun!'" she sums up. "I like to surprise people who've never been to one of my shows." Tucson Jazz Society, 903-1265.

Note: Loews Ventana Canyon Resort is offering a special package Valentine's Day weekend. For more information, check www.loewshotels.com/ventanacanyon and click on "Special Offers," or call 800 234 5117.



Broadway in Tucson

Grease

Feb. 24-March 1

"The beauty of this particular show is the timeless quality of the songs," Taylor Hicks comments about his part as the Teen Angel in the Tucson production of *Grease*. "For me, that's a lot of the reason why I first took the role on Broadway. I know it was great music that stood the test of time."

So far the 2006 *American Idol* winner has proved he can stand the test of time, too. His debut single, "Do I Make You Proud," was certified platinum, and his self-titled first album went platinum. He's currently starring in a famous re-creation of 1950s American high school life, and getting ready to release his next album, *The Distance*, which he says will take listeners on a musical journey.

Growing up in Birmingham, Alabama, the notion of having his name up in lights seemed like a dim possibility. "Never in a million years would I expect to be on Broadway," he says. "But being an entertainer was one of those dreams I had since I was a kid. When I started learning instruments and playing music, it was the path I thought I should take."

That path also has included a memoir published by Random House, and a concert tour in Southeast Asia. "I never thought my music would travel outside the boundaries of the continent," he remarks. "Being able to tour there was one of the greatest moments I've had."

He's elated as well about performing in an iconic musical that started on the Great White Way in 1972, four years before he was even born. "I get to experience me performing a role," he says. "I also will be playing my brand-new single in the show. It's a really interesting way to go across the country and promote not only me as an entertainer but also me as an entertainer playing a part. It's the best of both worlds."

And the pièce de résistance may well be his Teen Angel costume. "You'll have to come see it because one of the first things people say is 'where did you get that?' It's tailor-made."

TCC Music Hall 866-821-BWAY.



Jessy J