

JANELLE MONÁE PRESENTS...

METROPOLIS

SUITE I OF IV: THE CHASE

JANELLE MONÁE SLATED TO RELEASE HIGHLY ANTICIPATED DEBUT CD,
METROPOLIS SUITE I OF IV: THE CHASE

- soulful, sassy, sci-fi-themed debut that busts genres--not to mention stereotypes -

Atlanta, Ga (PR Web) August, 2007 - Renegade, innovator, modernizer, leading light - in such a short amount of time, Janelle Monáe has grown from a singer into a phenomenon. From launching under the tutelage of Diamond certified duo, Andre 3000 and Big Boi -now more than ever, the eyes of the world are on her, and with the Metropolis Suites, Monáe comes out swinging, surpassing the pressures and expectations of needing to be confined within a genre, or for that matter, a moment in time. The Wondaland Arts Society is proud to announce that it is releasing the first of four highly-anticipated album suites on August 24, 2007.

On the concept of the suite release: The concept of the suite release was inspired by the observation that the iPod generation no longer buys or listens to entire albums, they listen to playlists. They grab their favorite three to four songs from a particular album, add those to a playlist, and then discard the rest of the album like yesterday's news. In order to re-excite the public, the label is forced to do guest spots and remixes, additional videos and deluxe CD releases....all in a vain attempt to intrigue the record buyer again. With this in mind, the Wondaland Arts Society has decided to release Janelle Monáe's content in a quarterly "suite" fashion. Like successful serial programs such as *Lost* or *Heroes*, this release schedule allows dynamic artists such as Janelle Monáe to always stay fresh: she will always have a new chapter or musical world to visit, a new song raiding blogs and earbuds. As one can imagine, this suite model continually excites the consumer and music lover, while creating countless opportunities for Ms. Monáe to experiment artistically and grow creatively with her audience. With *Suite I: The Chase*, Janelle Monáe has found a way to innovate with subject matter and sound as well: The suite incorporates elements of electronica, hip hop, rock and soul and concerns an android named Cindi Mayweather, who is struggling for love and freedom in the year 2719. Follow Cindi's journey as she lures you into a world of unforgettable songs and powerful anthems wrapped in a new genre called cybersoul.

Welcome to Metropolis: With *Fader*, *Trace*, *Pop Matters*, *Essence Magazine* and more sounding off praises of the new-age songstress, please be prepared for your world to be invaded by cyborgs, androids, the Wolfmasters, and a host of other beings from the futuristic, magical place called Metropolis.

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JANELLE MONÁE

“I’M AN ALIEN FROM OUTERSPACE...”

Since the publication of *The Wizard of Oz* in September of 1900, citizens throughout the world have come to realize that fantasies can come from the tiniest, nondescript places, and that the most wondrous journeys can begin in your own backyard— especially if your home is located in Greater Kansas City, Kansas. Like Dorothy, the aspiring songstress, producer and actress Janelle Monáe is a native of Kansas. And like Dorothy and other famous fairy tale heroines, Janelle has a big, bright smile and grand ambitions that involve leaps of imagination and different ways of seeing the world.

This imaginative sensibility started early at the age of nine when Janelle Monáe decided that the world should be a different color: “preferably purple.” Thinking back on it now, Janelle says, “I was different. Of course, I did the normal, little-diva-in-training things like running up phone bills by dialing 1-800-Be-A-Star and singing Anita Baker’s ‘Sweet Love’ for anyone that would listen...but I was also on some different stuff...there was a lot of confusion and nonsense where I grew up so I reacted by creating my own little world...I began to see how music could change lives, and I began to dream about a world where every day was like anime and Broadway, where music fell from the sky and anything could happen...”

In pursuit of this world, Janelle moved to New York after high school so that she could attend The American Musical and Dramatics Academy, a musical theatre conservatory program. In this program, she fell in love with the soaring melodies and harmonic possibilities of classical music, as well as labored endlessly onstage and off to perfect her vocal instrument. Deciding to change the world beyond Broadway, she soon headed to Atlanta, the home of progressive soul and hip hop music to start her music career. “Musically, I was ready to do something big, wild and adventurous. And I knew if Atlanta was big enough for the vision of Outkast, it’d be big enough for me.”

Within eight months of arriving in Atlanta, Janelle had met Nate “Rocket” Wonder and Chuck Lightning of Wondaland Productions and begun work on her masterful debut album *Metropolis*. “*Metropolis* is the place I’ve been dreaming about all these years. A city inside your head. It’s an adventure the music brings to life.” Like a daring epic film, the album concerns a cybergirl’s struggle to love in the futuristic city of *Metropolis*. With such innovative subject matter, it is no surprise that *Metropolis* doesn’t sound like your average R & B record. In fact, many of the songs sound simply otherworldly:

“*Violet Stars Happy Hunting*” sounds like a frantic Disney song played by the Sex Pistols; the achingly beautiful, string-laden “*Cindi*” sounds like a moving Broadway classic crafted by Rogers and Hammerstein; “*Many Moons*” sounds like an outtake from a haunted opera, complete with doo-wop sass, Hendrixian guitar, booming drums and stabs of spooky organ; while “*Metropolis*” is a soulful blue waltz through a *Bladerunner*-like world where cyborgs fall in love with humans at their own peril.

Outside of these mind-blowing musical achievements, Janelle has stayed busy: collaborating with Big Boi of Outkast on the celebrated song “*Call the Law*” on the Outkast album *Idlewild*, gracing the cover of *Creative Loafing* and finding new fans through feature stories in *Vibe Magazine*, *Interview Magazine*, *Blag* and *Atlanta Peach*; planning an innovative release of *Metropolis* that will bring its futuristic sounds to the public through four collectible mini-albums or suites; and teaming with her producers and colleagues at Wondaland Productions to found her own record company known as the Wondaland Arts Society. The first suite of *Metropolis* (known as *The Chase*) was released on August 24, 2007, and it quickly became an underground sensation, landing on many best-of-the-year lists and selling 10,000 copies, while also garnering the attention of major artists and producers such as Sean “Diddy” Combs, Dallas Austin, Cee-lo and Pete Wentz (of Fall Out Boy).

However, even with all this success, Janelle is surprisingly grounded and clear-eyed about the future: “I feel so blessed. I have so many people I look up too: Bjork, Outkast, Colonel Sanders, Mick Jagger, James Brown, Madonna...I want to take the things they’ve taught me to the stars....”



JANELLE MONÁE



IN YOUR FACE

BY STEVE L. HARRIS
PHOTOGRAPH BY CHRIS STRAUSS

JANELLE MONAÉ The View from the Top of Metropolis

It's not even a week, and she's already making her mark as the most powerful African American woman in the music industry. In her first year, she's released two albums, won a Grammy, and has a new movie in the works. She's also the first African American woman to be named "Artist of the Year" by *Rolling Stone*.

Monáe has evolved from a wide-eyed girl from Kansas to working alongside André 3000 and Big Boi of OutKast.



JANELLE MONAÉ

"I never wanted to be ghettoized, so I left and came to Atlanta in 2003. I knew this city was defining the direction of music."



She's not just a singer, she's a performer. Her stage shows are a mix of music, theater, and social commentary. She's also a visual artist, creating her own unique aesthetic through her music videos and live performances.

JANELLE MONAÉ

"I just want to be remembered as someone who died trying to change the world through her art."



Her music is a blend of soul, funk, and pop, with a strong emphasis on social and political issues. She's also a vocal advocate for the LGBTQ+ community and has been a prominent figure in the "Black is Beautiful" movement.

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Janelle's First Experience: She's a really confident person. I've seen her perform and she's always been confident. She's also a really hard worker. She's always been a hard worker. She's always been a hard worker.



Recently Scored: The Artist of Lark Hunter. She's a really confident person. I've seen her perform and she's always been confident. She's also a really hard worker. She's always been a hard worker.



Special Preview: Janelle Monáe. She's a really confident person. I've seen her perform and she's always been confident. She's also a really hard worker. She's always been a hard worker.



Music: Janelle Monáe. She's a really confident person. I've seen her perform and she's always been confident. She's also a really hard worker. She's always been a hard worker.



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Cultural: Janelle Monáe. She's a really confident person. I've seen her perform and she's always been confident. She's also a really hard worker. She's always been a hard worker.



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Big Boi's Prigley is Lettin' Go. She's a really confident person. I've seen her perform and she's always been confident. She's also a really hard worker. She's always been a hard worker.



Atlanta's 30 Under 30. She's a really confident person. I've seen her perform and she's always been confident. She's also a really hard worker. She's always been a hard worker.



Off Broadway. She's a really confident person. I've seen her perform and she's always been confident. She's also a really hard worker. She's always been a hard worker.



Off Broadway. She's a really confident person. I've seen her perform and she's always been confident. She's also a really hard worker. She's always been a hard worker.

JANELLE MONÁE

IN THE PRESS...

"Monáe creates this **futuristic world** of hers by synthesizing past inspirations: the operatic pop and hornlike sharpness of **Shirley Bassey**, the energetic funk of **James Brown** and the breezy rock and soul of **OutKast**."

-CREATIVE LOAFING

"SHE'S LIKE A FEMALE VERSION OF **PRINCE**."

-PETE WENTZ "FALLOUT BOY"

"**I THINK I'M IN LOVE.**

SHE'S LIKE THE FEMALE ANDRÉ 3000 OR KOOL KEITH."

-ALLMUSIC.COM

"Ms. Monáe has one of the most **enchanting** voices of our generation."

-ANDRÉ 3000 OF OUTKAST

"Monáe's upcoming album, *Metropolis*, is poised to bring an eclectic, urbane feel to today's R&B."

-VIBE MAGAZINE

"I'M CERTAIN THAT IF I EVER HAVE A DAUGHTER, THIS IS THE TYPE OF ARTIST THAT SHE AND I WILL BOND OVER."

-VIBE.COM, HUMANITY CRITIC

"**HER SOUND IS LIKE NONE OTHER—**
SO FRESH, SO NEW AND AT THE SAME TIME, VERY FAMILIAR."

-CONCRETELOOP.COM

"[Metropolis is...] a soulful, sassy, sci-fi themed debut that **busts genres—not to mention stereotypes**."

-INTERVIEW MAGAZINE

"[JANELLE MONÁE] IS HONING HER COMPLETELY INDIVIDUAL SKILLS AS A **VERY EXCITING SOLO ARTIST**, NOT ONLY IN SOUND BUT VERY MUCH IN STYLE."

-BLAG MAGAZINE

"Janelle's got her own way of making the room glow with her personality and music."

-BIG BOI OF OUTKAST