



Relaxing at home, Anita Baker discusses her skyrocketing career.

## ANITA BAKER: At Home With Newest Music Crossover Queen

Anita works on new tune at piano for LP to be released in the fall.



56

When Anita Baker first signed with Elektra Records to record her current smash album, *Rapture*, the first thing she bought with her advance royalty check was a piano. That simple investment has proven to be her lucky charm.

On a recent afternoon, she sat down at the piano in her Los Angeles apartment and started playing her first hit from the *Rapture* album, *Watch Your Step*.

"This is the country and western version of the song," she jokes as she plays. She plays much like she sings—smooth and effortlessly. She says she writes most of her material at the piano. "*Sweet Love* came off that piano," she muses. "And *Been So Long* came off that piano. It was the best investment I ever made in my life."

The talented songstress and songwriter has also penned tunes for new recording artist Durrell Coleman, who is her opening act on her current U.S. tour as well as the new jazz/pop group Perri, who do backup vocals on her tour.

The sultry songstress who turned 29 on January 26, is indeed hot these days. She is the latest music crossover queen joining songbirds Whitney Houston and Sade. She credits, "the Whitney Houstons, and the Sades for opening up the marketplace for singing. It's getting real exciting."

*Rapture* has gone double platinum after selling two million copies. She has won the coveted NAACP Image Awards for Best Female Vocalist and Best Album of the Year.

Her current national tour has

Copyrighted material



Anita displays gold and platinum albums and stuffed animal gifts.

been sold out in every city several months in advance. Promoters have been forced to add additional shows to satisfy the growing demand.

Her *Caught Up in the Rapture* single has zoomed to the top of the charts and the *Rapture* video is a favorite on video channels. She is currently taping her *Same Ole Love* video which is her latest hit single.

When she is at home, which is seldom these days, she says she likes to just kick back and relax. "Home is just a time to do nothing," she says. "When I'm at home, I'm just home. A lot of days, I'll just sit and catch up on

my reading. I'll get the Sunday paper and sit in the middle of the floor, watch TV, read the paper, talk on the telephone and just do that all day," she says. "Or I'll just sleep all day if I want to. Or sometimes, if I want to, I'll go swimming, rollerskating or horseback riding."

Though the money is pouring in, she has maintained a down-to-earth and practical attitude about spending. "I'm not very materialistic. I don't like to shop in haste. I have a week off this week, what am I going to do go out and buy a Jaguar? When am I going to learn how to drive it?" She reveals that she does not know how to drive and usually

At home, Anita enjoys a rousing game of ping pong.



Copyrighted material





Resting outside the exclusive apartment building where she lives, Anita says she appreciates the public's approval of her music.

### Good Personal Life Is Success For Anita Baker

gets around Los Angeles in a cab or hires a car and driver. "I don't call for a limousine, when I'm home, I'll call for a sedan, because I don't want to go to the grocery store in a limousine," she laughs.

Observing her phenomenal popularity, she shared her philosophy of success: "Success to me, doesn't necessarily mean riding the wave in trying to sustain success. I like to ride the tide. The tide washes in and it washes out. I don't like to try to make the waves be on the shore for as long as I want them to. I want to ride this wave and let it flow as it will."

The alluring songstress, who recently became engaged to her

boyfriend in Detroit, added, "The flow for me is having something outside of a successful music career, which is a personal life. That is what success means."

She stresses that she is grateful for her success and the public's acceptance of her music. "Approval is always good. What I do is not really tangible until it's on wax and it's been distributed. When I look at these things, I say, 'Well, there are two million people somewhere who think you're OK.' So everything else is obsolete. And you need that pat on the back every now and then."

-Text by CLARENCE WALDRON  
-Photos by ISAAC SUTTON

Copyrighted material

### 'Angel' Heart Is Rated X; Likely To Be Edited For R

The steamy love scene in the movie *Angel Heart*, which features Lisa Bonet of "The Cosby Show" and Mickey Rourke, appears headed for the cutting room floor as Tri-Star Pictures lost its final appeal with the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) to have the rating changed from X to R.

The X rating means no one under 17 may see the picture. *Angel Heart* reportedly was given the harsh rating because of its mixture of sex and violence. Tri-Star officials told *Jet* that under no circumstances will they release an X rated movie.

"We're having discussions with the director Alan Parker to see what can be done," said spokesman Shauna Reininger. Editing, she said, appears inevitable.

Although the film has no genital nudity, the love scene does include blood and a satanic-type ritual. Recently, the MPAA sided with Tri-Star in a 6-5 vote (*Jet* March 2). However, a two-thirds majority was required. Because the vote was so close, the final hearing was held.

### Sly Stone Arrested On No-Show Court Charge

Singer-musician Sly Stone, whose music group Sly and the Family Stone rose to stardom in the 1960s, was recently arrested in Los Angeles on California and Florida warrants charging him with failure to appear in court.

Stone, 43, was wanted on a warrant issued in Fort Meyers, Fla.,

### Little Richard Sues Over Ownership Of New Hit Song

Little Richard Penniman recently filed a lawsuit in Los Angeles Superior Court charging he and singer/songwriter Billy Preston



wrote the song *It's a Matter of Time* (*Great Gosh Almighty*), a tune featured in the hit movie *Down And Out In Beverly Hills*. Penniman also appeared in that film.

Named as defendants in the suit were the writing team of Sylvia Smith and John Schuller, who maintain that the song is a "derivative" of a composition they wrote.

Currently, MCA Records, which recorded the soundtrack on which the song appears, and Broadcast Music Inc., the organization that oversees the distribution of royalty payments, are holding on to the money until the situation is cleared up.

Penniman performed the song in the movie. The suit states Preston "performed on the soundtrack recording of the composition, and in consideration of that performance, and of the contribution of the phrase 'great gosh mighty' to the composition, Little Richard agreed to grant Preston co-writer and co-publisher rights in the composition."

alleging he violated probation after a 1983 cocaine-related arrest, police said.

Copyrighted material



