



**TEENA MARIE CELEBRATES 30TH ANNIVERSARY WITH *CONGO SQUARE*,
HER FIRST COLLECTION FOR LEGENDARY STAX RECORDS ON JUNE
9TH**

Groundbreaking R&B artist's 13th career album features special guests Faith Evans, Howard Hewett, George Duke, MC Lyte, Pastor Shirley Murdock, Terri Lyne Carrington and Teena's daughter, Rose LeBeau

Los Angeles, CA — Internationally-renowned singer, songwriter, producer and multi-instrumentalist, Teena Marie, will release her thirteenth album and Stax Records debut *CONGO SQUARE* on June 9, 2009. The collection marks a deeply personal milestone for the iconic soul music star and Rhythm & Blues Awards Lifetime Achievement recipient. In addition, *CONGO SQUARE* continues "Lady Tee's" penchant for sublime musical eclecticism while still delivering the hits that have made her a consistent presence for 30 years.

CONGO SQUARE, like most of Teena Marie's classic albums, is a largely autobiographical journey that cruises smoothly from southern soul and smoky jazz to dance floor funk. Along for the party are special guests **Faith Evans** (on the first single "Can't Last a Day"), **Howard Hewett** (on the steamy duet "Lovers Lane"), **MC Lyte** (on the sexy opener "The Pressure"), **Pastor Shirley Murdock** (featured on the track "Soldier"), the jazz trio of pianist **George Duke** (on the title track "Congo Square"), drummer/co-composer **Terri Lyne Carrington** and bassist **Brian Bromberg** (on the cinematic ballad "The Rose n' Thorn,") and Teena's daughter **Rose LeBeau** (on the soul salute "Milk & Honey").

Teena penned and produced all sixteen tracks on *CONGO SQUARE*, the title of which is a reference to the sacred area of The French Quarter in New Orleans where slaves were allowed to dance and sing in the wardrobe of their mother country on Sundays. Teena penned the songs during a period of extended personal darkness that somehow manifested positive and loving art.

"I've been through quite a few trials and tribulations over the last two years," Teena shares regarding the time between her acclaimed 2007 release, *Sapphire*, and now. "I spent many of those hours in prayer and felt like God was putting his arms around me. I started thinking about the music I grew up on – how *inspired* it was. Each song I was coming up with began to sound like the style of some favorite artist of mine from the past... Curtis Mayfield and Marvin Gaye, Billie Holliday, the old Chicago soul of The Emotions and the new Chicago vibe of Kanye' West... Ice Cube's bumpin' in the trunk vibe and of course, Rick James. It's all in there."

Teena Marie's career has been nothing short of a sensation. Making her debut on Motown Records in 1979, she swiftly earned a hallowed and singular place in the hearts of R&B purists with her soulful singing and poetic songwriting. The fact that this new record will be released by the other most revered soul label of all

time, Stax; is poetic justice. *CONGO SQUARE* is a nod to all that came before and to the ones who will follow in her footsteps, firmly reiterating the obvious: there is only one Teena Marie.

TRACK LISTING:

1. Pressure (f/ MC Lyte)
2. Can't Last a Day (duet w/ Faith Evans)
3. Baby, I Love You
4. Ear Candy 101
5. Lover's Lane (duet w/ Howard Hewett)
6. Marry Me
7. You Baby
8. Milk n' Honey (f/ Rose LeBeau)
9. What U Got 4 Me
10. Rovletta's Jass (interlude)
11. Congo Square
12. Harlem Blues
13. Black Cool (interlude)
14. Ms. Coretta
15. Soldier
16. The Rose n' Thorn

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