THOMAS McCLARY "Thomas McClary" (Motown)

The Commodores were one of! pop history's most successful soul groups in the 70's. After their founder, Thomas McClary, a native of Orlando, Florida, had teamed up with fellow Tuskegee Institute student Lionel Richle to form the group, the record world was ready to welcome such hits as "Machine Gun," "Brick House" and "Three Times A Lady" into the history of rock and roll.

After more than a decade in the business, Mr. McClary finally steps out on his own with his . first solo LP, titled "Thomas McClary."

McClary had played guitar and sung on many a Commodores hit. It's been quite a while since The Commodores as a group have had a hit single in the top ten, although Lionel Richie has lately been burning up both the singles and album charts, with such a ballad like "Marianne." releases as "Hello" and "Penny Lover" from his "Can't Slow Down" LP.

McClary says he writes songs about "experiences I've, or that people close to me have had." Will McClary's first solo effort match the success of Richie's debut solo effort?



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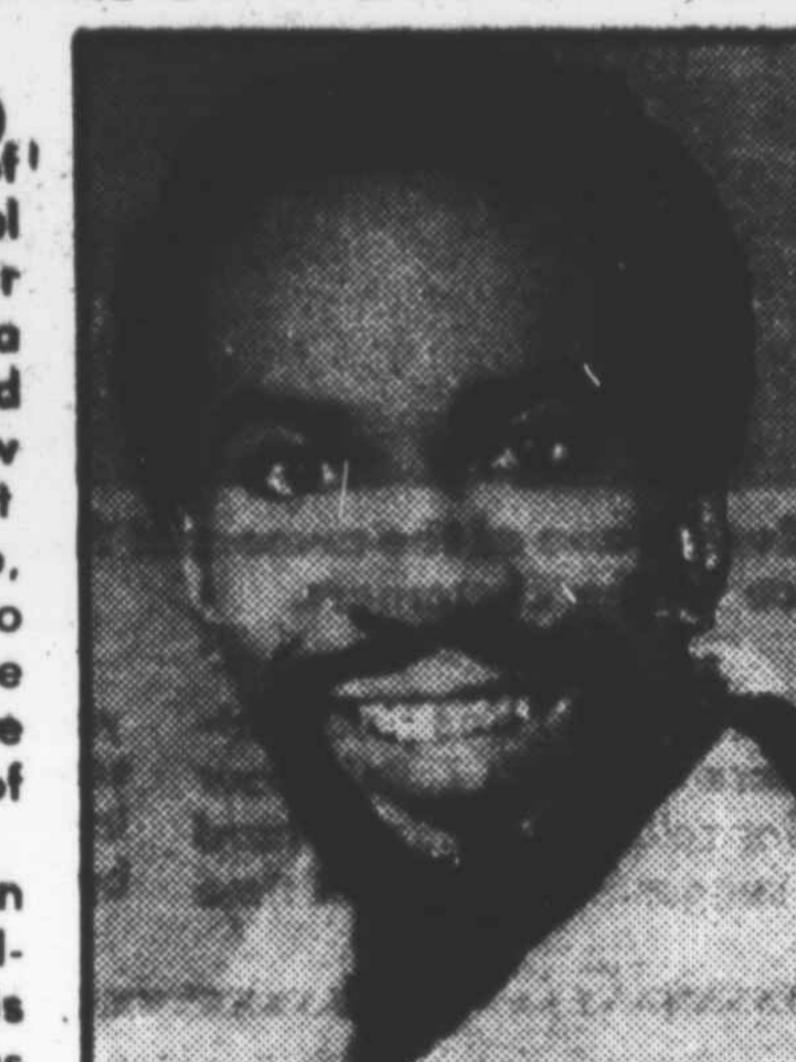
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Thomas McClary

"Thin Walls," his initial single release, is a romantic, pleasant piece of pop, and seems wellsuited for some chart action.

The difference between Richie and McClary is very apparent i McClary's baritone may become an instantly recognizable sound some day, but even if it doesn't for now it is quite sufficient to express the kind of emotions McClary expresses in the

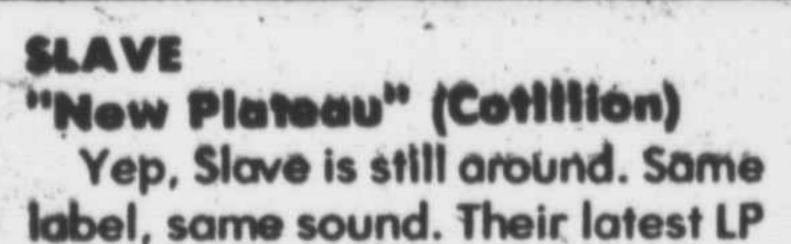
"Marianne" lyrics. Produced and arranged with the expected Motown professionalism and gloss, McClary's modores or Lionel Richie. sounds like Thomas McClary

## The Showcase Theater

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works that bring familiar to audiences and may be of their famillarity, but a surplus of such plays in a community will not give that particular group

brief 2 year existence seems to be avoiding the above pitfalls. A quality continues, the group will



is titled "New Plateau." The band started hit the charts single being "Slide." This tune hit

both the pop and R&B charts. Over the years, this group has also hit with "Watching You," "Just A Touch Of Love," "Snap Shot," and "Wait For Me."

Their last single, "Ooohh," was a top-50 R&B single. It, along with their new single "The Word Is Out," is included in their latest maine Stewart hit of the same

teresting cuts like "Stellar Fungk" were left out.

Their sound hasn't changed all that much. "The Word Is Out" now has to compete with the Jer- cliches, while the unexciting rap "Forever Mine," "Motorway."

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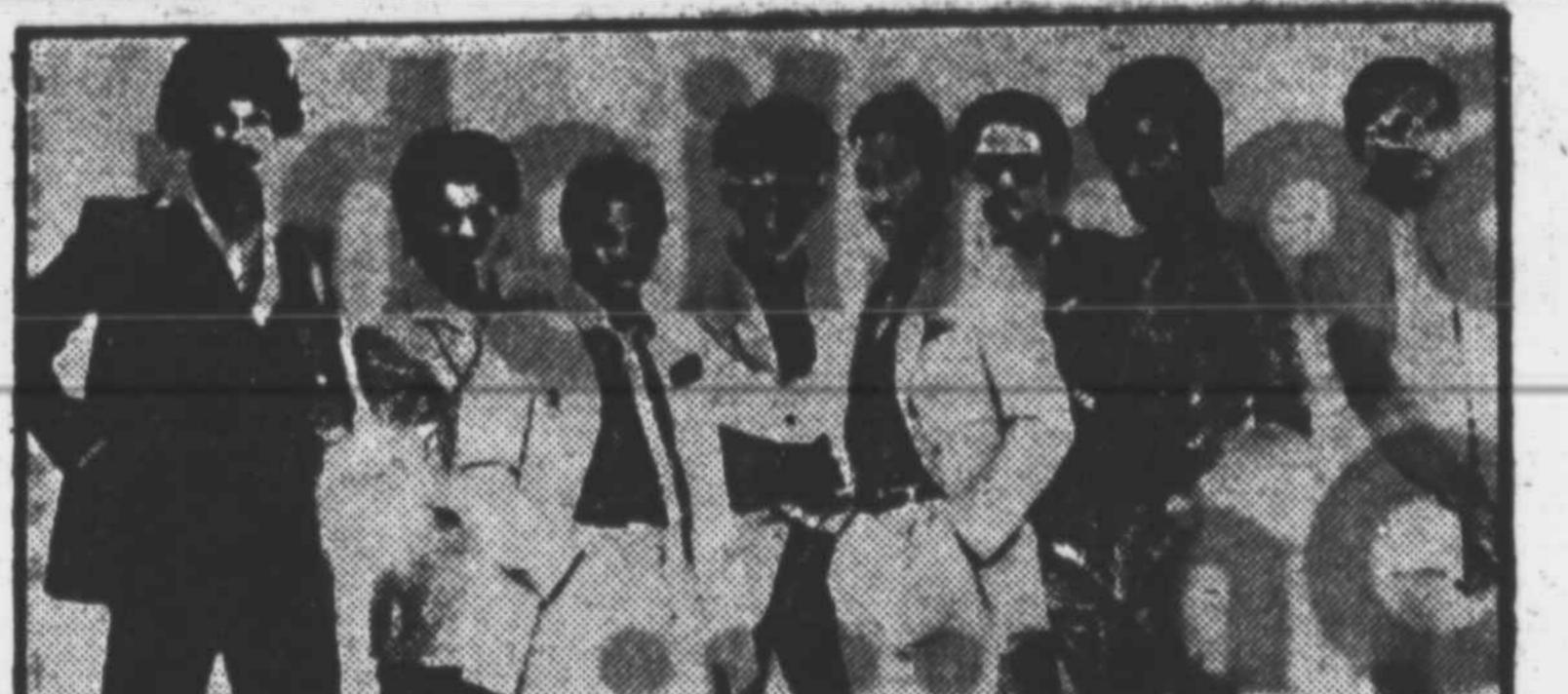
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name. Both songs are quite good Slave," disappointed me because "The Word Is Out" is a typical some of the cuts did not appear Slave song: a relatively simple in their full-length versions, and structure with a pattern of because some of Slave's more in- sameness throughout the tune.

This would be a fine party album if only some of these songs didn't sound so tired. "E.Z. Lovin' U" is mostly funk

on "K.O.G." is more suitable for putting this record reviewer to Their last album, 'The Best Of If you're Into dancing. Slave's sleep. And "Ooohh" is about as' interesting as its title.

All of this, mind you, was digitally recorded, mixed, edited

This album was produced by Jimmy Douglas. Other cuts: "Jungle Dance (The Dance Bass)," "Share Your "(L.O.V.E.),"

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## The Showcase Theater: An Amateur But Not Amateurish Company

In theatre language, amateur mounted by thesplans who work amateurish. for a living, but tread the stage for love.

craft enough, who have not been. allawed concerns other than professional status." quality of performance to undermine their show.

The Showcase Theater, located theater is not necessarily in the Randall Center at First and amateurish. Amateur theater is 1 Sts. in Washington, D.C. is a usually community or college relatively new drama company based dramatic productions which is amateur but not

According to executive director Gary Hyatt, "We strive to Amateurish implies a dramatic have the highest standards of production that exhibits the professionalism." Indeed in their omissions and errors of per- statement of purpose they formers who have not studied the declare that one of their intenconscientious enough about what local performing artists to make they have studied or who have the transition from amateur to

A performer will find that transition difficult or even impossible



Broadway show deman

tage, namely a preponderance of is very perceptive. actors who have been involved in experience comes in poorly "Ceremonies in Dark Old Men"

A perusal of same of the pronumerous productions before. ductions that the group has put Unfortunately, stage experience on such as "Don't Bother Me I is not always beneficial if thiat Can't Cope," "Steal Away,"

and the effervescent "One Monkey Dan't Stop No Show," ex-

One of the great weaknesses of many black community theater groups is that they rely too much on the classics by black dramatists or even white ones while ignoring the black

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