



Strength of a Woman: The Phyllis Hyman Story

By Jason A. Michael

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The story of singer Phyllis Hyman is brought to light in the powerful new biography *Strength Of A Woman: The Phyllis Hyman Story* by Jason A. Michael. Hyman's 20-year career, which included the release of eight albums as well as a Tony nomination and Theater World Award for her Broadway turn in *Sophisticated Ladies*, was brought to a tragic end by her suicide June 30, 1995, just hours before she was due to take the stage at the legendary Apollo Theatre. In the spotlight, Hyman's breathtaking voice and stunning beauty shone brightly. But off stage, after the applause and the laughter produced by her bawdy humor had faded, Hyman spent her days and nights engaged in an exhausting battle against bipolar disorder. Complicating its crippling effects was Hyman's addiction to drugs and alcohol, which she tried repeatedly to kick, and the demands and constraints of being a female African-American entrepreneur in an industry controlled by white men. But though she ultimately chose to extricate herself from the pain, she did so not before leaving a legacy of beautiful music that will last and live on forever as a true testament to the 'strength of a woman.'

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Editorial Review

Review

As riveting and poignant as it is unsettling and revealing. --The New York Amsterdam News

Candid and multi-layered. --The Philadelphia Tribune

Riveting and no-holds-barred. --Sister 2 Sister

About the Author

Essence best selling author Jason A. Michael, a native Detroit and, in fact, a Spirit of Detroit award winner, earned his bachelors degree in journalism from Wayne State University. His work has appeared in the anthologies Journeys Across The Rainbow: Inspirational Stories for the Human Race (Rainbow Pride Press) and America Now (Bedford/St. Martin's Press). Jason has a passion for urban music and spent a decade in the employ of Grammy-award-winning songwriter and soul diva Betty Wright. As an entertainment writer he has interviewed everyone from Motown legends Martha Reeves and Mary Wilson to Dionne Warwick and Patti LaBelle. Outside of the urban genre, he has interviewed such wide ranging celebrities as Dolly Parton, Melissa Etheridge and even Boy George. Told by a laundry list of publishing houses that no one remembered Phyllis and that there was no market for a book about her, Jason formed his own imprint, JAM Books, on which to release her story.

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Brandy Greenawalt:

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