

Tuesday 29th May, 2007

## STARTrack

with Ivan Alvis

**NICK CARTER**  
UN's Special Ambassador



Backstreet Boys star Nick Carter has signed up to become the latest celebrity United Nations Special Ambassador.

**NICK CARTER:** Has the advantage of reaching multiple generations.

The pop star admits Bono and Nicole Kidman have inspired him to put his celebrity to good use.

He says, "I have the advantage of reaching multiple generations to make a difference."

"But Carter won't be spearheading a crusade for the world's troubled humans - he'll be behind a new environmental push for sea creatures.

The singer will represent the United Nations Environment Programme, the Convention on Migratory Species, and the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society.

Carter adds, "I am really excited, but also a little nervous about this much responsibility. There are responsibilities and commitments that I must make to be the voice of dolphins, whales and conservation issues, and the expectations are quite large."

When the Backstreet Boys were at their peak, Nick Carter had a huge following of fans in Sri Lanka.

The girls, especially, considered him to be their No. 1 idol... and boyfriend, too!

He tried his hand as a solo artiste, but didn't find success coming his way.

## Marlon's THE BOSS

If you are a chart fan, you would have noticed a song called 'Stop Me', performed by Mark Ronson featuring D. Merriweather, peaking at No. 2 in the British charts.

It couldn't make it to the top spot because of Beyonce and Shakira and their "Beautiful Liar".

"Stop Me" is a cover of the Smiths song. It didn't get my attention 'cos there wasn't anything unusual about it. Lots of artistes do cover versions, so it was no big deal. And, moreover, Mark Ronson and D. Merriweather are not big names in the scene here.

But... yes, I'm seeing things differently now! Daniel Merriweather is a rising Melbourne-born soul artiste and his record label is Marlin Records. And Marlin Records belong to Marlon Goonewardana who now resides in Australia.

Of course, the name sounds familiar 'cos Marlon is the son of Christine Goonewardana, a well-known singer in the local scene.

And with Merriweather's chart success in the UK, Marlin Records is emerging as a power player in Australia.

It was Marlon who discovered Daniel Merriweather and naturally he's excited with Daniel's success.

"From the start, Marlin Records ethic was about taking it worldwide," said Marlon in a phone chat with "Star Track". And he now seems to be heading in the right direction.

Marlon got to know Mark Ronson, a celebrity DJ and producer, in New York a few years ago. And when Mark decided to put together a covers album, he roped in some of his star friends, including Amy Winehouse, Robbie Williams and Lily Allen.

Because of his association with Marlon Goonewardana, Mark Ronson also added Daniel Merriweather.

The self-funded album is called "Version" and Daniel's "Stop Me" was the very first release.

The singer is shocked however, at getting a UK hit because the track was pegged as a bit of fun.

But it came at a tragic time. The day before Daniel recorded the vocal, his younger brother, Ben, was in a car accident and had the lower half of a leg amputated.

"I was reading through the lyrics of the song and there's a line: 'Friday night in outpatients'," Merriweather says.

"It was so crazy because it was a Friday I was sitting in hospital with my brother. It was this emotional connection to the song. It really rings true."

"City Rules" and "She's Got Me" are two of Daniel's Australia-released cuts which have brought him fame Down Under.

Marlin Records have with them five Australian artistes, with Daniel taking on the global scene.

Says Marlon: "It took three superstars to block Daniel's shot at No. 1. But this is just the beginning."

• You could check out the lyrics of "Stop Me" in "Show Vision" in the Sunday Island of June 3rd.



UK hit for record label owned by Sri Lankan

MARLON GOONEWARDANA: Boss of Marlin Records in Australia.

## Changing scene for AQUARIUS



Aquarius with their Filipino line-up

to accommodate around 2500 dance enthusiasts.

Aquarius had for company a Filipino band, Mocha, and a Filipina DJ.

It was a memorable experience for the group, playing at such a large venue, said Benji.

Aquarius took on a new look for this particular assignment - from a five-piece outfit, they expanded to nine. The addition were four female singers from the Philippines.

The new set-up worked perfectly 'cos it was a blend of experience and youth, said Benji.

While Aquarius tackled the old stuff, slow rock and dance music, the girls went into top gear with R'n'B and the rock stuff.

The scene has now changed for Aquarius. After a seven-month stint at The Qube, they have been asked to provide music at a new outlet at the Ramada Plaza.

It's a nightclub and it's called The Orion, catering to the sounds of the 60s, 70s, 80s and 90s. But Aquarius won't

be having the services of the four Filipinas for this particular contract.

The management wants them to be totally Sri Lankan and Benji is scouting around for a local female singer. They are scheduled to return to Doha shortly for a further three months before coming home again - for the Ramazan vacation.

Aquarius have completed almost 10 years, performing in the Middle East. They started out at The Avari in Dubai and have also played dates in Oman.

The group now comprises Benji (bass), Shiran (drums), Gavin (sax), Rafi (keyboards) and Danushka (guitar).

In the meanwhile, the band Mocha who played with Aquarius at The Qube in Doha, are keen to check out the scene in Colombo and Benji is trying to work out a contract for them.

They are seven-piece, with three girls upfront, and, according to Benji, they are dynamic on stage.

### Pen Pals

- **Name:** Mohana Prabath.
- **Age:** 30.
- **Sex:** Male.
- **Address:** 9, 4th Cross Lane, Jayamawatha, Ratmalana.
- **Hobbies/Interests:** Travelling, exercising, reading, music and driving.
- Wanna make friends with readers of this page? Very simple. Send us your name, age, sex, address and hobbies/interests and we'll do the needful.
- Write to: Ivan Alvis, C/o "Star Track", The Island, 223, Bloemendhal Road, Colombo 13.

### Seen 'n' Heard

HEARD... it's hotting up, with the wrongdoers trying desperately to defend themselves with puny excuses.

Talking about jealousy is all bunkum. All they need to do is to get their act straight and perform ABSOLUTELY LIVE at stage shows.

If that's not possible, then they should confine themselves to being ONLY recording artistes.

Let the public enjoy their recordings of enhanced, synthesized and computerised music and vocals!

### TOTP POPSHOT CHART

1. Umbrella - Rihanna feat. Jay-Z
2. Makes Me Wonder - Maroon 5
3. Beautiful Liar - Beyonce & Shakira
4. Signal Fire - Snow Patrol
5. Here (in Your Arms) - Hellogoodbye
6. Cupid's Chokehold - Gym Class Heroes
7. Don't Matter - Akon
8. Flying The Flag (For You) - Scooch
9. Give It To Me - Timbaland/Furtado/Timberlake
10. Shine - Booty Luv

### United World Chart

1. Makes Me Wonder - Maroon 5
2. Girlfriend - Avril Lavigne
3. Beautiful Liar - Beyonce & Shakira
4. Give It To Me - Timbaland feat. Nelly Furtado & Justin T.
5. The Sweet Escape - Gwen Stefani feat. Akon
6. Say It Right - Nelly Furtado,
7. What I've Done - Linkin Park
8. Grace Kelly - Mika
9. What Goes Around... Comes Around - Justin Timberlake
10. Because Of You - NeYo
11. Cupid's Chokehold - Gym Class Heroes feat. Patrick Stump
12. Don't Matter - Akon
13. Glamorous - Fergie
14. Umbrella - Rihanna feat. Jay-Z
15. Buy U A Drank (Shawty Snappin') - T-Pain feat. Yung Joc
16. Last Night - Diddy feat. Keyshia Cole
17. Candyman - Christina Aguilera
18. All Good Things (Come To An End) - Nelly Furtado
19. U+Ur Hands - Pink
20. How To Save A Life - The Fray

### Star Track Album

## Take Control

Hey wait a minute, hey

I said, baby  
I love the way that you hold me  
And you touch me like you know me  
See I don't want nobody else  
And I, I'm bout'to offer all I can give him  
'Cause I'm a slave to his rhythm  
I said I just can't help myself

'Cause baby I love ya'  
And I trust ya'  
You don't have to worry about nothing  
Oh I'm alive right now, look at me  
And I want ya'  
No I need ya.'  
And I'll do anything to please ya'  
I just want you to take control of me (take control)

[Chorus]

I said hey! (hey)  
Show me how you want it now  
(Do you) Like it when I take it down  
I got everything  
And anything you need, I wanna bring it to you, baby  
Hey! (hey)  
Come a little closer now  
(Don't stop) wanna go another

round  
You got everything  
And anything I need, want you to bring it to me, baby

• Take Control of Me (take control of me)  
Take Control of Me (take control of me)  
Take Control of Me (take control of me)  
Take Control

I said baby  
I got to tell you how much I love it  
The way you kiss my neck in public  
I try my best not to blush  
Even when an argument comes around  
You take the time to break it down  
And you're never ever in a rush  
(Never never never, ever never heve-er!)

And I'm scared, and I'm nervous  
Trying is always worth it  
Oh I'm alive right now, look at me  
And I want him, I need him  
I'll find him, I'll forgive him, I'll feed him  
(Oh) I just want you to take control of me (take control)

(Repeat Chorus)

(Repeat Verse •)

Now if you feel, what I feel, come and take control of me  
Don't you mind how you feelin' just take control of me  
'Cause you got my soul on fire, and I feel just fine  
You got what I need  
Na na na na  
(Na na na na, hey hey hey) hey hey hey!  
(Na na na na, hey hey hey)

(Repeat Chorus)

Take Control of Me (take control of me)  
Take Control of Me (lost to me)  
Take Control of Me (take control of me)  
Why don't you come a little closer?

• Sent by: Kylie (Pretty Girl) of Colombo



Amerie