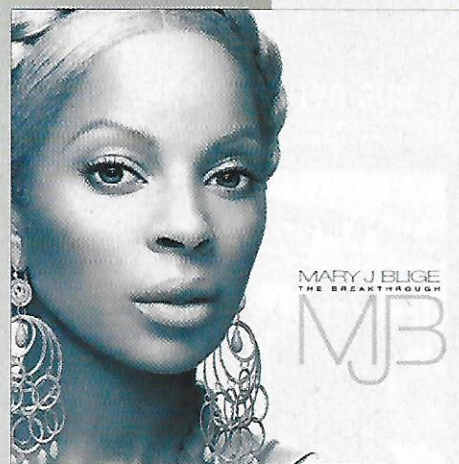




MARY J. BLIGE
THE BREAKTHROUGH
(Geffen)



The Queen of Hip-Hop Soul returns. Mary J. has always spoken her mind, be it heartache or hope. Now, with her seventh studio album *Breakthrough*, Ms. Blige puts a lot of pressure in her past ("No More Drama," anyone?) and focuses on peace. This is the heart of the true Mary J. Blige, someone who has lived and loved through so much, and stands unafraid, unashamed... just a woman and her words. And the words speak right to the heart and uplift the spirit. Of course, she also got some help from friends. Look for collaborations with The Game and U2's Bono, and also some extra hands helming the mixing boards, from Black Eyed Peas' Will.i.Am to Rodney Jerkins. Her first single, "Be Without You," is amped and ready for chart domination. With a heart and plenty of soul like Mary's, the lady deserves it.