

## Fat Daddy Records Formed

Written by Westside ID235

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Actress and comedienne Yvette Wilson, known to millions as Andell on UPN's *The Parkers* and *Moesha*, has announced that she has formed a new record company, Fat Daddy Records, with her husband, Jerome Harry. Wilson's extensive entertainment background and her husband's experience working in the music business, were key factors in their decision to start the label. Its first release will be from the Oakland-born rapper, Habitt, who is currently living in Los Angeles. His debut album, *Talk Of The Town*, will be available early next year. Wilson states, "My work has always been rooted in hiphop. To be more direct about it, that goes way beyond my work. Both my husband's and my entire life are rooted in hiphop. Hiphop is 30 years old, so it's been around since we've been around. It's not a choice of genre of music that we picked, it's a lifestyle. We have always lived that lifestyle. It's just evolving. The kids who used to listen to hiphop are now adults that listen to hiphop. My family is what I consider second generation hiphop, my husband, myself and my kids."

Wilson, who has appeared in successful theatrical film releases that include rapper / actor Ice Cube's *Friday* and *Poetic Justice*, starring the late rapper / actor Tupac Shakur and Janet Jackson, says the goals for their music label will be consistent with the philosophy that was brought into their life when she started working as a comedienne with *Def Comedy Jam*. Wilson explains, "Russell Simmons and hiphop brought us new possibilities and a new outlook with that show, which was a hiphop vehicle that exposed us to what dreams and aspirations could be reached. Hiphop is a state of mind that is freedom from a certain type of oppression. We have 'hoods all over the world now. Although we are from the 'hood, it's not really a location, but a place in your heart, and what holds you to a certain place."

Harry affirms, "This is where we are going to get our artists, and we look forward to discovering new talent. We very much want to help other people achieve the lifestyle that we enjoy."

"I learned from my time on *Def Comedy Jam* that not only our music, but also our sense of humor was hiphop," says Wilson.

The couple says they want to be a positive example of a male and female, who are working together with a common bond.

Jerome Harry, who has worked both in music management and as a label consultant, and has guided artist including Knock'Turn'al and 4th Avenue Jones, who respectively record for *Electra* and *Interscope*, affirms, "My wife and I consult on everything, and we are both involved in the decisions. We are very excited about what the future will hold."

Fat Daddy Records will be distributed by *Penalty/Ryko/WEA* Distribution.

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