

# LIFESTYLE

The StarPhoenix Thursday, June 17, 2004

Features Editor Joanne Paulson Phone 657-6243 Fax 657-6437 **B1**

## Show Biz

### COMBS BACK ON STAGE

Sean Combs was expected to return Thursday to the hit Broadway revival of Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun*, five days after he was stricken with a severe stomach ailment. Combs took an additional day of rest Wednesday on the advice of his doctor, a spokesperson for the show said. He missed the matinee and evening performances. The hip-hop mogul left the production during intermission of the Saturday matinee and has been out of the show since. During his absence, the role of Walter Lee Younger was played by understudy, Billy Eugene Jones. Combs's absence hasn't dented the box-office gross. Even with Combs out for 21/2 performances last week, *Raisin* grossed about \$604,000 U.S. its highest take since opening in late April at the Royale Theatre and the highest gross for any play on Broadway.

### RAPPER'S EX ARRESTED



Mathers

The ex-wife of rapper Eminem, wanted by authorities after skipping out on a court-ordered drug treatment program, was arrested in a hotel, police said Wednesday. Police arrested Kimberly Mathers in an Ann Arbor hotel room Tuesday afternoon after

## Project thrusts 'closet-writer' in spotlight

By Cam Fuller  
of The StarPhoenix

It was only a matter of time before you read about Morning Pages in the morning pages.

Local musician Kim Fontaine will be getting her share of ink with the release of her debut album.

"It feels great. It's exciting. It's something I've wanted to do for a long time," Fontaine said this week.

In the past, Fontaine never saw herself as a lead performer, but her interest in songwriting forced her hand.

"I'm a bass player, a bass player and a back-up singer who likes writing songs," she insists.

A self-described "closet-songwriter," Fontaine found herself calling her friends asking them to sing the songs she was writing. Eventually, she was told she should do it herself.

"I never liked the sound of my own voice. It's the answering-machine syndrome."

■ CONT'D: Please see Fontaine/B3

**KIM FONTAINE**  
Morning Pages CD release  
with special guests  
Dave Taylor and Mayfly  
Tonight at Lydia's



## Old-school R&B show a bargain

Wil has

yourself to whenever the inspiration strikes." Martin adds that the Sofia Mini is portable, chills quickly and doesn't require any precious flutes or cork wrestling.

Francis Ford Coppola, who has been in the wine business for more than 20 years, launched the Sofia Blanc de Blancs sparkling wine in a traditional bottle four years ago.

The Pinot Blanc mix is described as having pear, honeysuckle and passion fruit aromas, as well as the

process to a halt.

So Canadians may not be able to crack open a can of bubbly, but Cieszkowski says we should appreciate the cork and bottle while it's still around.

"As much as traditional sommelier training teaches you to open a bottle of champagne without fizz or a big bang," he says, "there's a certain appeal to being in a restaurant and hearing that pop."

(NATIONAL POST)



The Sofia Mini Blanc de Blancs — not just for special occasions

ing forced from power in 1986 and an estimated \$5 billion from the ruling.

Joan Cruz, a marketing office Manila distributor United Pictures tional, said the film didn't cast by a bad light and tried to strike a with interviews of her critics a supporters and relatives.

## Fontaine: Local writer a self-conscious singer

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Shawn Verreault, who started producing Morning Pages before he moved to Vancouver, and engineer Neil Meckelborg, just kind of rolled their eyes when Fontaine complained about her voice, telling her to get over it. And she did.

"That was good. That helped me start to get more comfortable about doing it."

Regina producer David Taylor took over the project after Verreault left and work proceeded quickly to the conclusion.

"He figured out what I was looking for pretty fast."

Fontaine is particularly grateful for the stellar work done by the studio musicians. Without charts or even hearing the songs first, they came up with parts

*"It was almost like they instinctively knew what the song needed. I really have to commend all the players who came in."*

— Kim Fontaine

for instruments like dobro and violin and trumpet that fit perfectly.

"It was almost like they instinctively knew what the song needed. I really have to commend all the players who came in."

The title Morning Pages refers to a daily ritual used by writers to clean out the cobwebs, scribbling absolutely anything on paper for their eyes only.

Fontaine used the trick even before she learned how many other songwriters were doing it, and she can

testify to its effectiveness.

She says it's not easy making her private emotions public in her songs, "but I didn't think anyone was going to hear it!"

Having spent the last couple of years performing solo, Fontaine is more comfortable in the spotlight — a good thing, because the songs aren't going to stop coming.

"I love writing. I think I'll do it for ever and ever. I love how it makes me feel when I do it."

## American Idol

host agrees

Don't Miss It! West Side

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