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COVER BIOGRAPHY

**PHIL HURTT**

CO-PRODUCED:  
Jackie Moore  
Sister Sledge  
Vivian Reed  
Diane Steinberg  
Chi-Lites  
Checkmates

Phil Hurtt has been known in the business as one of those very successful "behind the scenes" musicians. His name has quietly appeared in the composer or producer credits on recordings of nearly 100 successful artists. His writing credits, for example, include songs like "I'll Be Around" for the Spinners, "Sunshine" for the O'Jays, and "Best Disco In Town" for the Ritchie Family, to name only a few.

Phil grew up in the Philadelphia area and by the age of 12, with his brother Al and cousin Sarah Williams, he was singing in clubs around New York's Harlem. "I was tall for my age and passed for eighteen," Phil recalls. "To say the least, Harlem, even just on weekends, was an experience. I met Frankie Lymon, Little Willie John, the Cadillacs, Sam Cooke, the Chantells, the Five Satins, the Coasters...."

When Sarah married, Al formed another group which signed a recording contract with King Records. Phil was 15 when his first record "Frankenstein's Party" was released.

After a stint in the Air Force, Phil returned to Philadelphia and began to actively pursue his songwriting career. A high school buddy, Thom Bell (see our August 1977 Vol. 2 No. 8 issue) was then working at Cameo Records. "Tommy was always giving someone nicknames, and he gave me that 'PH Factor' for Phil Hurtt."

At about the same time, Phil met Leon Huff, Leroy Lovett and Kenny Gamble. In the years that followed, Phil became involved with Gamble and Huff. Although not under contract to them, at least forty of his tunes were recorded by such Gamble and Huff artists as the O'Jays, Billy Paul, Bunny Sigler, O.C. Smith and the list goes on.

In 1972, LeBaron Taylor took a position at Atlantic Records and hired Phil as a writer-producer. While at Atlantic, Phil wrote and co-produced a number of hits including "Sweet Charles Babe" by Jackie Moore, "Some Guys Have All the Luck" by the Persuaders and Clyde Brown's "You Called Me Back." Phil was also responsible for signing Sister Sledge to the label.

Phil later went on to co-produce, write and arrange for a number of major artists with his current musical partner, Richie Rome. Their joint credits include, among others, the Checkmates, the Chi-Lites and the Village People album (which was entirely written by Phil Hurtt). Recently, Phil has also produced his own debut album called "Giving It Back" on Fantasy Records, with musical arrangements by Rome.

Phil Hurtt is now in the process of organizing a new production company, tentatively called Deadly Three Productions. This should definitely be a company worth watching for!