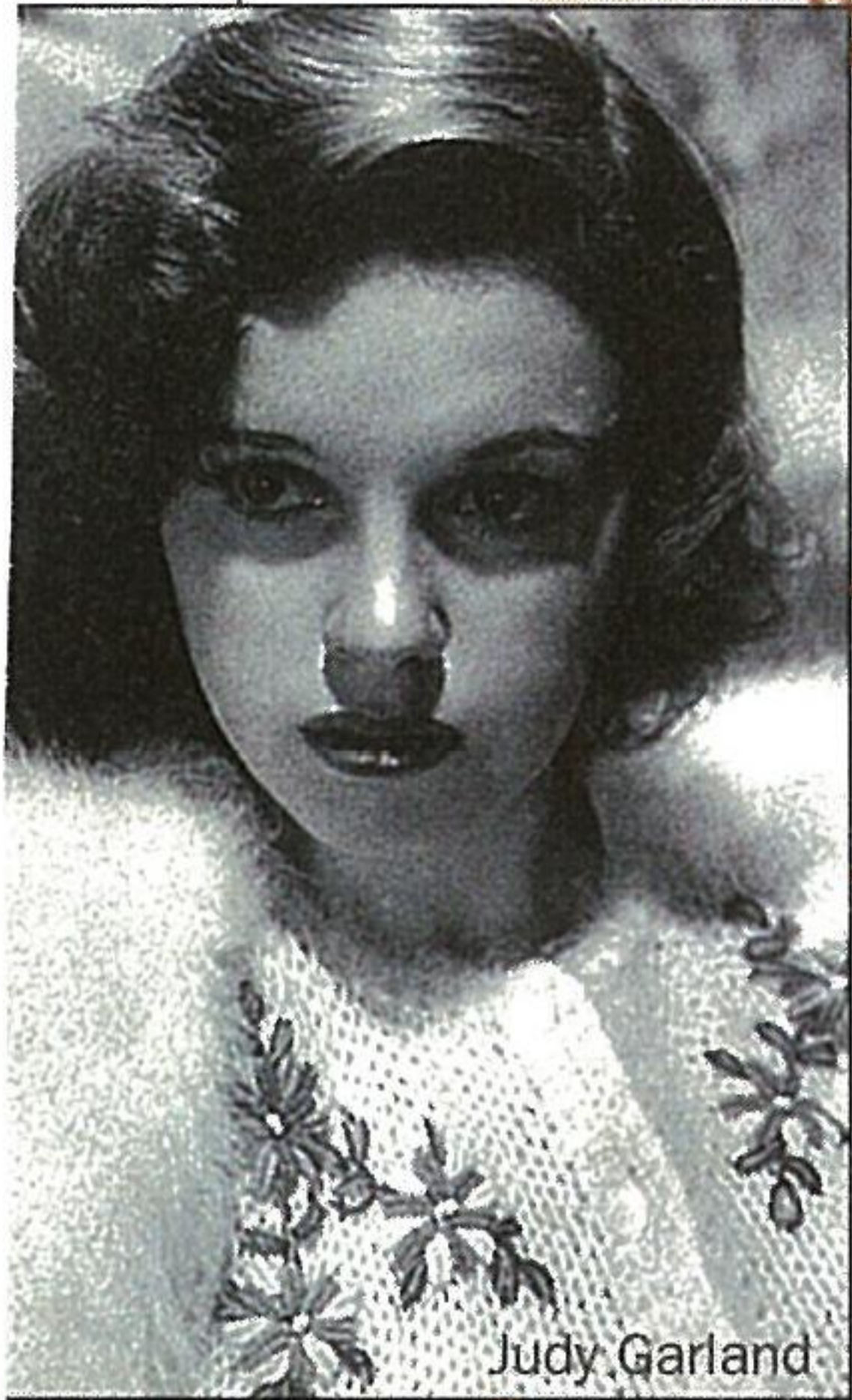


Why is it...

...that beautiful Playboy-bunnies-turned-Miss-Americas frequently go on to successful recording careers, and end up starring in Broadway musicals? Hmm...come to think of it, that doesn't happen much at all. But Vanessa Williams has pulled it off, lately wowing New York audiences with her performance in *Kiss of the Spider Woman*. Watch for the new cast recording on Mercury/Polydor.

...that you lent all those hard-to-get Judy Garland albums to a friend who then packed up and moved to Chicago? Happily, you have a chance now to hear some of that fabulous music again; EMI Music Canada is releasing a 25th-anniversary collection. And with the use of 20-bit mapping technology (whatever that is), it'll sound like Judy's right there in the room singing to you.

...that Michael Jackson had to go and turn into such a freakazola? All the bad press has obscured the undeniable fact that Mr. Lisa Marie Presley makes fine, fine music. Maybe *HIStory*, a forthcoming double-CD collection from Sony will help win back some fans.



Judy Garland



Michael Jackson

Vanessa Williams

hear it

Big Rude Jake

Accomplished, tough and witty, Toronto singer Big Rude Jake might just be the harbinger of a new breed of male sex symbol. A brazen barstool intellectual, he has built a reputation for his irreverent disregard of the social graces, his thundering vocal technique and his quirky yet compelling look.



Musical Style: "Whorehouse jazz"—a mix of slinky, urbane jazz and blues riffs

Personal Style: A maverick: part Al Capone, part James Bond

Favorite Songwriters: Ludwig van Beethoven, Tom Waits, Little Doc Melody

Favorite Foods: Whiskey and smoked salmon

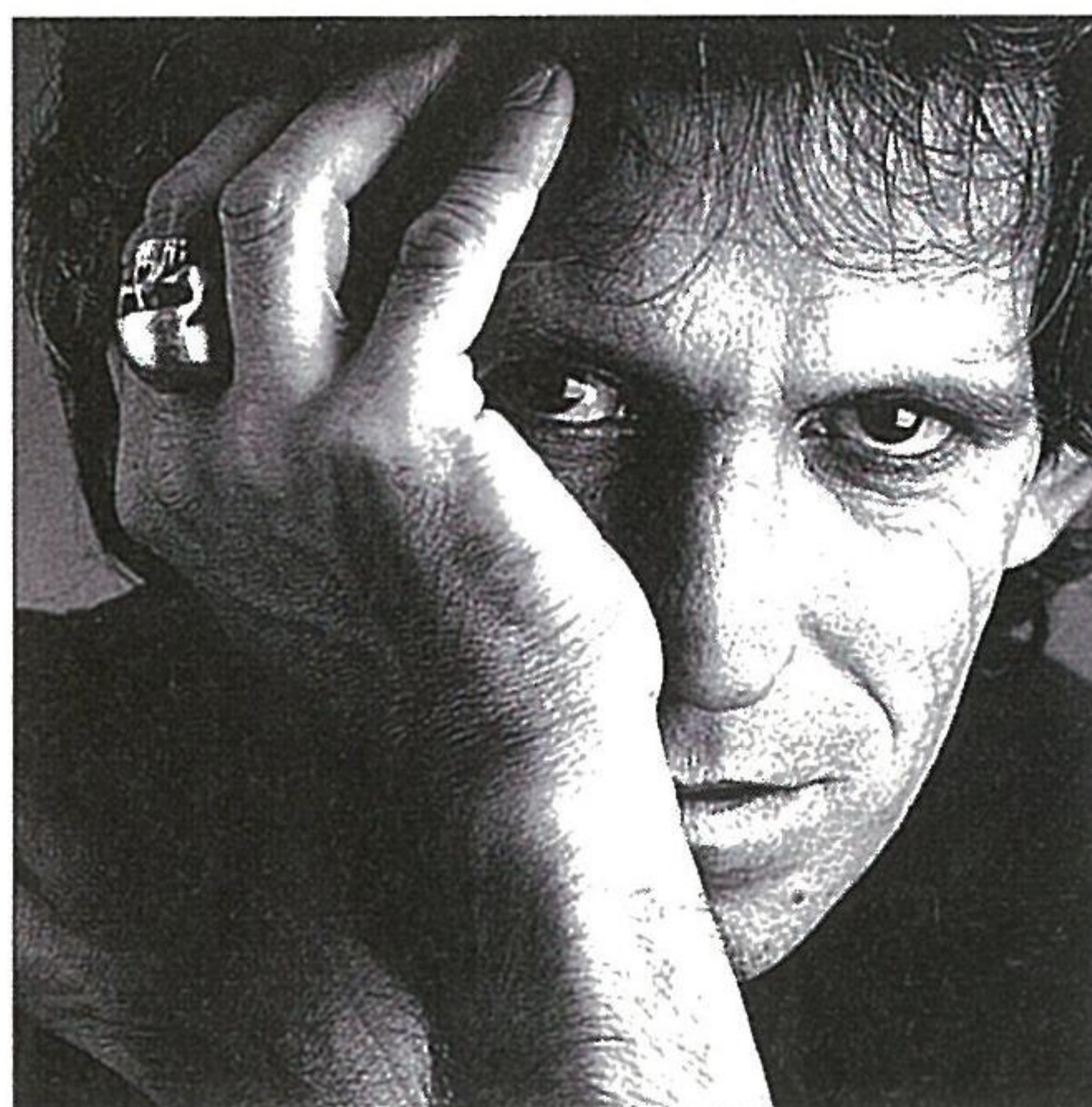
Dream Date: "Wine 'em and dine 'em, then away to the dance floor, baby."

What He's Up To Now: With one successful CD and a new one in the works, Jake and his band, The Gentlemen Players, are on a western Canadian tour.

read it

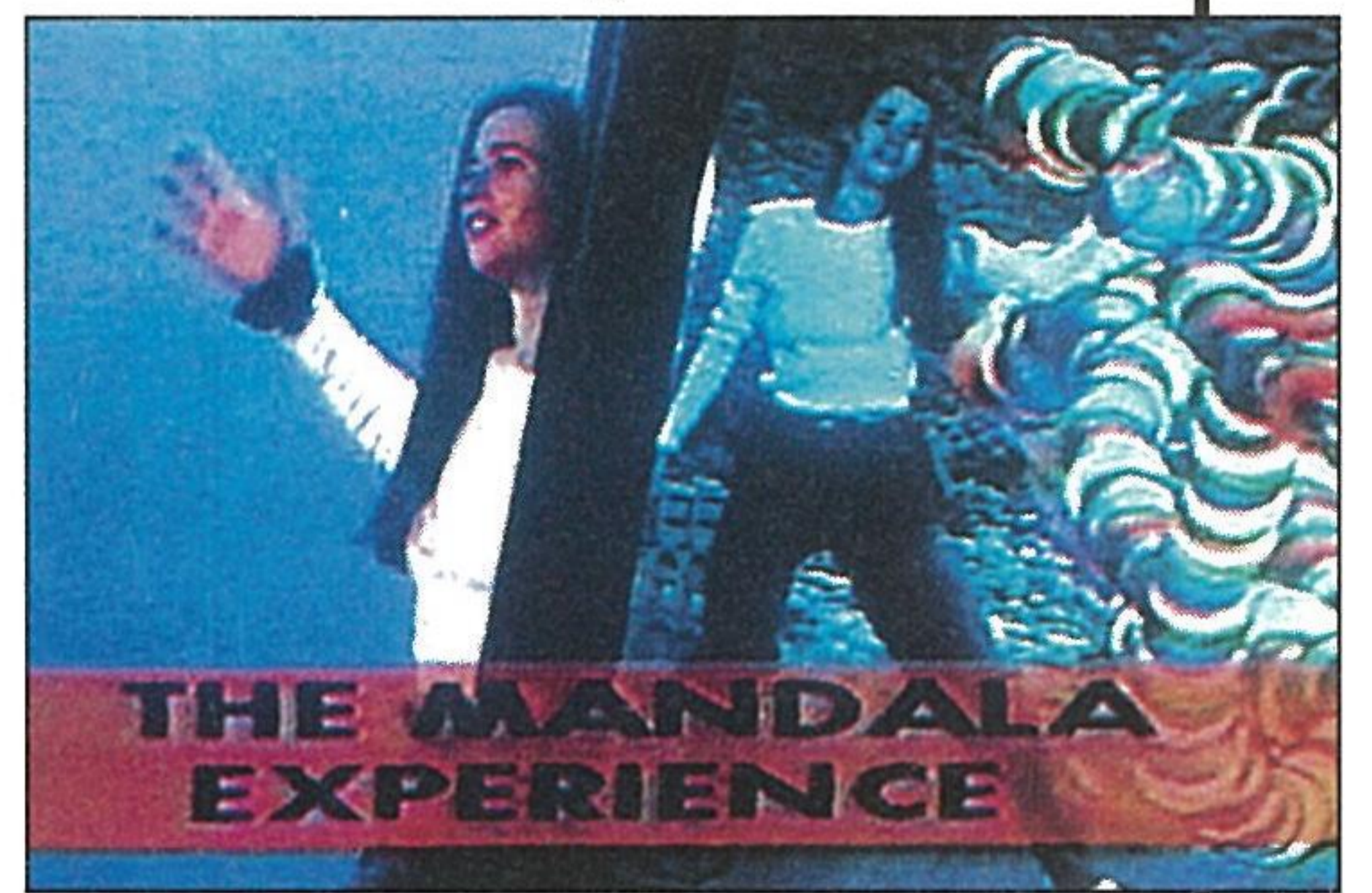
Keith Unplugged

Is Keith Richards still alive? Or is he just chemically preserved? A new book, *Keith: Standing In The Shadows* by Stanley Booth (St. Martin's Press), promises a literary look at the pharmaceutically-inclined Rolling Stones guitarist. Don't expect too much inside dirt—after all, what's left to dish? Keith's debauchery has always been right out in the open, where we can appreciate it.



do it

Virtually There



Imagine sweating your butt off in an aerobics class taught by Arnold Schwarzenegger. ("C'mon, work it now—or I'll be bekk!") The Vivid Group in Toronto, venturers in virtual reality, promise this and more. Their Mandala system uses a motion sensitive video camera to put you into environments that respond as you move; it's possible, for example, to "play" virtual musical instruments just by moving your hands in the air. Enjoy, at the Edmonton Space and Science Centre, the National Museum of Science and Technology in Ottawa or Toronto's CN Tower.