

SPOTLIGHT

Each day we highlight a member of our Review Crew.
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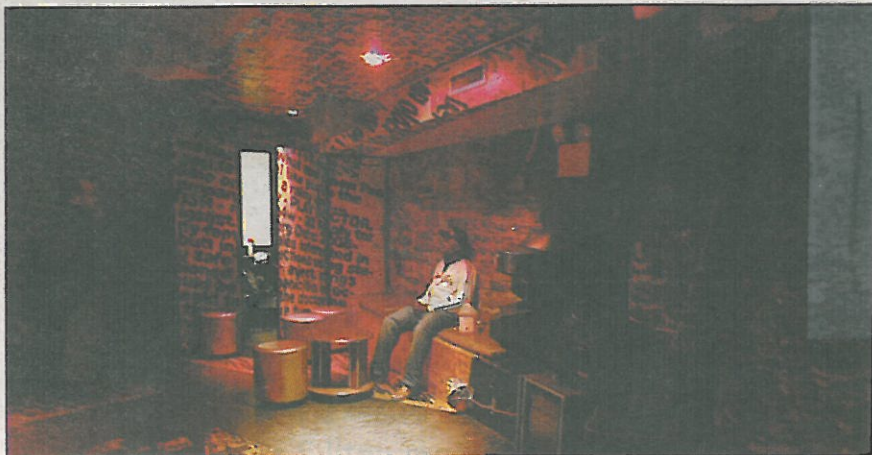
Tasha, Westbury
What magazine would be most likely to put you on the cover? Essence
Oscar or Grammy? Oscar

TV show that never should've been canceled: "Soul Food"

Tasha says: Check your inhibitions at the door at this Lower East Side lounge. Enter through a plastic strip curtain to a '70s-inspired rockfest. Upon entering, I was greeted by the sounds of a live alternative band. The energy of a diverse 20-something crowd was contagious as they yelled, "Encore!" The decor resembles an industrial factory with tinfoiled walls, exposed pipes and vintage leather couches. In the basement, the floors were marked up by craigslist personal ads while a DJ spun disco and techno. It's not your typical upscale lounge, and it's anything but boring.



NEWSDAY PHOTOS / MOISES SAMAN



YOUR REVIEWS: 'HIP HOP IS DEAD'

Nas' rap is old school cool

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Tasha, Westbury

Job: Freelance writer, entrepreneur

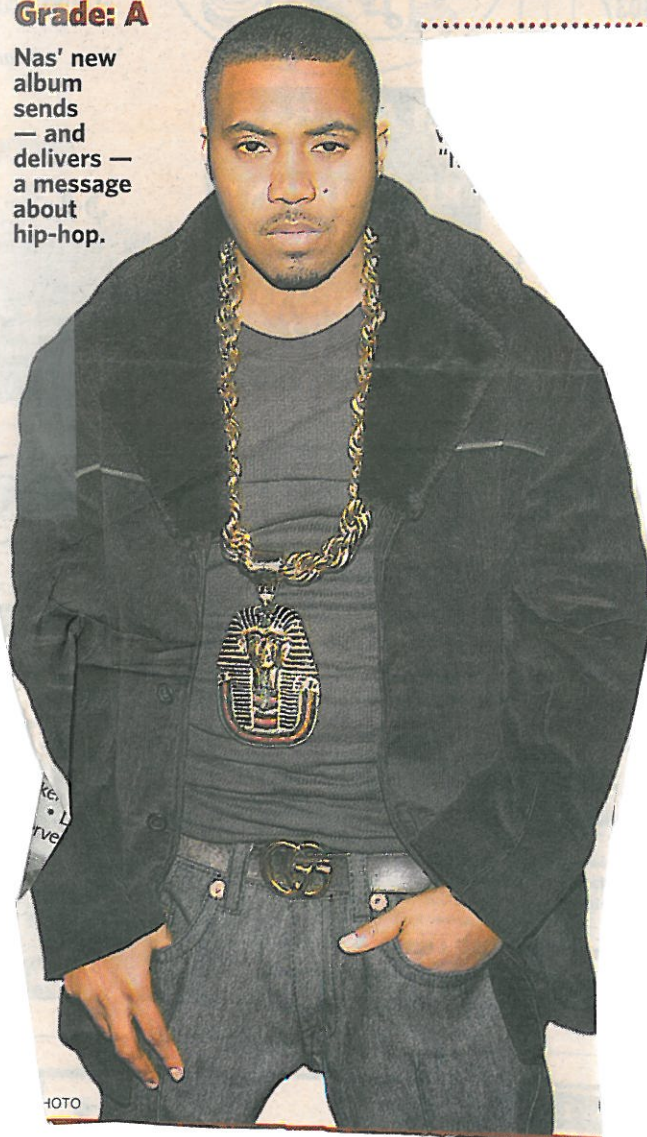
Obsessions: "Sex and The City" reruns and "Dr. 90210"

My favorite quote is: "Life is a movie, live like a star."

Tasha says: Nas narrates a 16-track eulogy to hip-hop on his latest album, "Hip Hop Is Dead." Known for being a lyrical assassin, he successfully resuscitates the state of hip-hop with this compilation. The history of rap music is told with an impeccable delivery. Nas, unlike some other rap artists, keeps it on the positive side with songs like "Hope" and "Where Are They Now," where he pays homage to rap legends before him. Though some tracks were a hit ("Still Dreaming") and some a miss ("Who Killed It"), overall this album is a creative masterpiece.

Grade: A

Nas' new album sends — and delivers — a message about hip-hop.



PHOTO