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**Akia Uwanda Unveils Debut Jazz Soul Album “Lift” at Jax Jazz Fest 2017**

**Jacksonville, FL** – To culminate her energetic, colorful and stellar performance at the 2017 Jacksonville Jazz Festival, Jazz Soul Vocalist, Akia Uwanda made the astounding announcement about the release of her debut album, the long-awaited, “Lift.” The album was powered and driven by indie musical genius and producer, Larry M. Wilson, who co-arranged and co-produced the album, as well and co-wrote the first single release from the project, “You Seem Familiar.”

Akia revealed that the self-written and produced project was a labor of love that erupted and took just two and a half weeks to complete. Akia reacted to the overwhelming response to her album, *“These originals songs have been in my heart and mind for a while now, so I thought to myself, I can’t just sing covers in the festival. I owe more to my loyal fans. This album is a peek into my life’s experiences, loves, joys and a celebration of the classic songs that are dearest to me.”*

The cd encompasses eleven tracks and her most prominent songs have distinct messages and meanings that lend themselves to a sultry or sassy (a jazz, blues, soul) appeal. ***Skylight***, (a flirty and celebratory song about a lover’s value to the other), ***You Seem Familiar***, (a mysterious investigation into a past encounter with a previous love interest) and ***Don't Have No Time*** (a daring tale of love lost and resisting temptation and advances of an ex-lover).

Less than two weeks after its release, sales of the album have skyrocketed and its fan favorites are seemingly, its title song, “***Lift***, (a jazz/soul rendition of the classic negro national anthem, honoring its historical value, while stirring the spirit), ***Kiss and Tell*** (a fun, upbeat dance groove, reminiscent of the disco era, driven with Latin beats), ***Promise To Love*** (a lullaby-like, bitter-sweet song of heartbreak and regret), and ***Motherless Child*** (an inspirational rendition of the negro spiritual.)

Akia Uwanda’s entire album can be purchased online at: [www.Akiauwanda.com](http://www.Akiauwanda.com) and on traditional electronic music outlets. For more information about tour inquiries and appearances, contact Vaughn Winmond at: [vwinmond@yahoo.com](mailto:vwinmond@yahoo.com), for bookings and events, email Green Tulip Productions at: [greentulipproductions@gmail.com](mailto:greentulipproductions@gmail.com). For interviews and media inquiries, contact: Empyrean PR at: 202-656-9819 or nicole@empyreanpr.com.

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