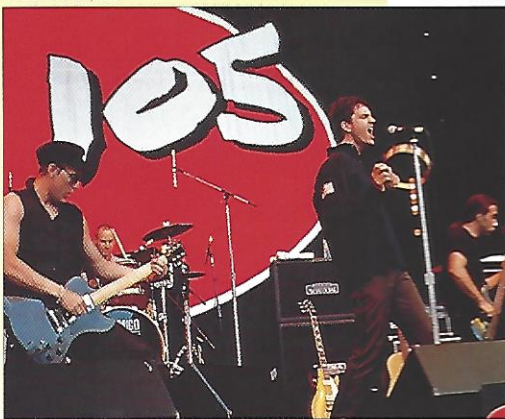


British pop phenomenon, the Spice Girls, makes millions with mega-hits such as "Wannabe" and sells 14 million albums and 10 million singles.

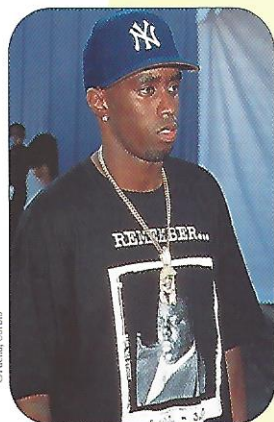
Ron Davis, Shooting Star



©Tim Mosenfelder, Corbis



Adam Yauch of the Beastie Boys engineers the second Tibetan Freedom Concert, held in June in New York, offering 27 music acts and a free-Tibet political message.



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The album *No Way Out* by Puff Daddy & the Family goes multiplatinum. Puffy's single "I'll Be Missing You," an elegy to his friend the Notorious B.I.G., also tops the charts.



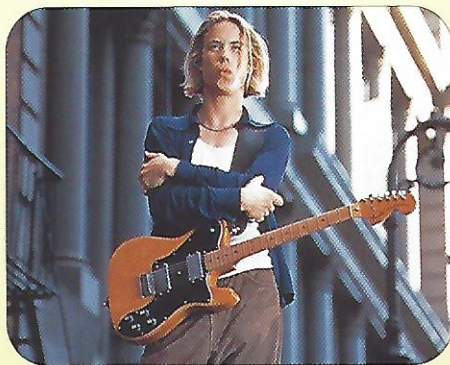
©Steve Jennings, Corbis

Third Eye Blind, after several years in San Francisco's underground music scene, goes big time in 1997. Their song "Semi-Charmed Life" is listed as the top-selling modern rock single for 1997 in *Billboard* magazine.

AP/Wide World



Sixteen-year-old R&B phenom Jonny Lang opens for the Rolling Stones' fall tour and spends 16 weeks at No. 1 on *Billboard's* blues chart with his album *Lie to Me*.



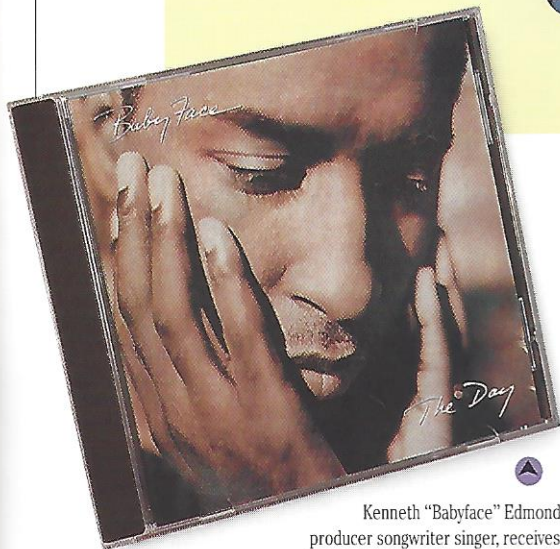
©David Corio, Retna

flash

Metallica releases a seventh album, *Re-Load*, that confirms its position as the premier heavy-metal band in the music world.

Radiohead is *Spin* magazine's Band of the Year. Critics praise Radiohead's album *OK Computer*, variously described as haunting, revolting, inscrutable, stunning and gorgeous. The album receives a 1998 Grammy nomination for Rock/Pop Album of the Year.

At 15, country music sensation LeAnn Rimes sells more than 12.5 million recordings in the U.S. in 1997 and is named *Billboard* Music Awards Artist of the Year. Her single "How Do I Live" is one of the year's best sellers.



Kenneth "Babyface" Edmonds, superstar producer songwriter singer, receives more 1998 Grammy nominations than any other artist, including one for his album *The Day*. Edmonds and wife Tracey also produce the film *Soul Food* in 1997.