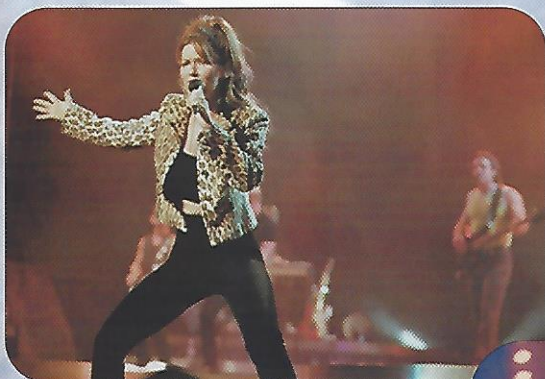


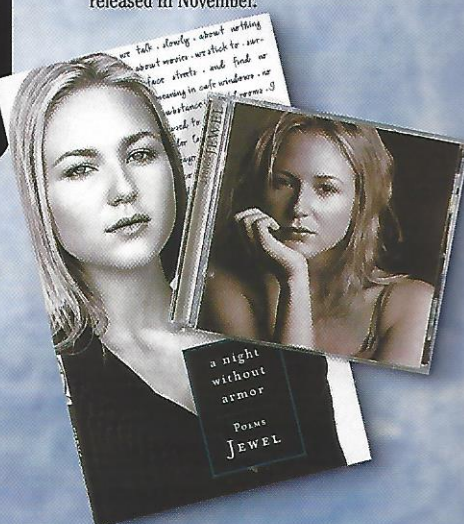
➤ Swing dancing makes a big comeback with the help of music from bands like Cherry Poppin' Daddies (shown) and the Brian Setzer Orchestra.



AP Photo/File



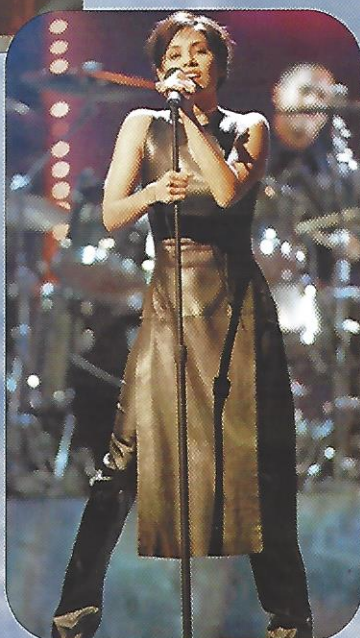
➤ Shania Twain wins the Favorite Female Country Artist award at the American Music Awards and receives six Grammy nominations.



➤ Natalie Imbruglia wins Breakthrough Artist honors at the MTV Video Music Awards in September. Her album, *Left of the Middle*, features hits "Torn" and "Wishing I Was There."

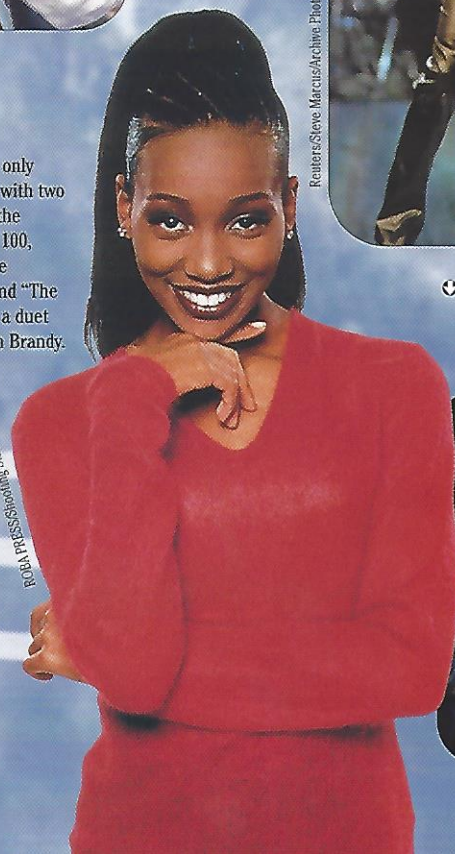


➤ The popularity of Lauryn Hill's album *The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill* leads to 10 Grammy nominations, the most for any female artist in history. Hill kicks off a worldwide tour in January 1999.



Reuters/Sieve Marcus/Archive Photos

➤ Monica is the only artist in 1998 with two No. 1 hits on the *Billboard* Hot 100, including "The First Night" and "The Boy Is Mine," a duet she sings with Brandy.

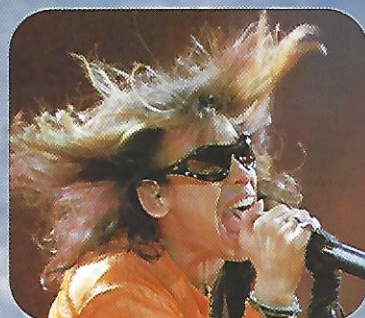


ROBA PRESS/Shooting Star

➤ In November, Garth Brooks' new album *Double Live* enjoys first-day sales of over 500,000 copies, the industry's best one-day tally. Brooks makes special TV and Wal-Mart closed-circuit TV appearances to promote the release.



AP Photo/GB Management, Jenny Yates



AP Photo/The Hamilton Spectator, Scott Gardner

➤ Aerosmith's "I Don't Want to Miss a Thing," from the movie *Armageddon*, becomes the group's first single to hit No. 1 on the *Billboard* Hot 100 charts.

## Flash

Psychologists discover a connection between musical training and verbal memory. Children trained to play a musical instrument grow up to have 16 percent better word memory than other adults.

Movie soundtracks account for nearly half of the Gold and Platinum certification. Some of the top soundtracks include *Titanic* and *Return to Titanic*, *City of Angels*, *Armageddon*, *Hope Floats*, *Dr. Doolittle* and *The Wedding Singer*.

Whitney Houston's *My Love Is Your Love* is her first studio album in eight years. The album includes the hit duet with Mariah Carey entitled "When You Believe."

Actor/rapper Will Smith wins three American Music Awards, including Favorite Pop/Rock Album, Favorite Soul/R&B Album and Favorite Soul/R&B Male Artist.