

# one to watch

## VINIA MOJICA

Me and Vinia first met at St. Rita Roman Catholic School in Long Island City, NY, when we were six. Of course, that's not the reason she's on this page. And even if it is, so? Anyway, Vinia, 24, does session work for *beaucoup* hip-hop and R&B artists. The list includes Heavy D., Mary J. Blige, De La Soul and my personal fave, A Tribe Called Quest. Her first professional job was the Heartbreak Tour with headliners New Edition, Bobby Brown and Al B. Sure. "My friend heard about the auditions for [Al B.'s] new backgrounds," Vinia says. "She asked me to come with her because it was her first. I decided to see what the vibe was about and I got the gig. I was 18." There have since been a whole bunch of other jobs, like singing backup on *MTV Uptown Records Unplugged* and *Saturday Night Live*, making a video appearance in De La Soul's "A Roller Skating Jam Named 'Saturdays,'" and auditioning for Madonna's "Girlie Show" tour. Vinia says Miss Thang was less than nice. What a bitch thou art, Madoody! However, my girl is finally brinking on blowing up-dom. She's negotiating a contract with A Tribe Called Quest's new production company, which has a deal with Eastwest Records America. "I want to put jazz, hip-hop, African and Latin music all together to make melodies that are really dreamy and jazzy," she says. In the meantime she's still making others sound good. You know that new song by Lisa Lisa, "Skip to My Lu," with the cute do-do-do-da-da chorus? Sounds just like Lisa, doesn't it? Well, it ain't. It's Vinia. I always knew she was gonna be big someday. And look, it's happening. Ooh, I've got a severe warm fuzzy. **Diane**