

Pick up a copy of this month's *Deadly Vibe* magazine, the one with Shakaya on the cover, and complete the following activities.

READING

READY FOR ANYTHING

Are you ready for Shakaya? 'Cause these sistas are back with a brand new album.

When you meet the girls from Shakaya, it's really quite impossible not to get swept up in their effervescence. When they enter the room, it's as though they've brought a whole entourage of good vibes with them, and everything seems that little bit brighter.

Literally oozing positive energy, Naomi Wenitong (22) and Simone Stacey (27) seem genuinely delighted to talk to you, interspersing their cheery dialogue with regular shouts of laughter. It's certainly infectious, and it would be hard to imagine anyone managing to stay in a bad mood for very long if they spent any time with these cheery songbirds.

"We're always looking for something to joke about," says Simone, nudging Naomi.

"It can make it difficult, actually," Naomi admits, giggling. "When you have to act all sultry-looking in a film clip, and you keep bursting out laughing."

They certainly look sultry in their latest film clip for their new single *Are You Ready?* It's a high-energy RnB party anthem with a killer hook and a beat that you can't help but move to. In the video, Naomi and Simone can be seen cruising on Sydney Harbour before driving a flash black car to a jumping wharf party. They're slick, sexy and very, very cool.

"The whole thing took 18 hours to make," Simone says of the video. "We





spent four hours out on the harbour, and I can tell you, it was a lot rougher than it looked!”

“I have to drive a car in the video,” Naomi adds with a chuckle. “But the thing is I can’t drive! So when they had to take a shot of us driving past the camera they had to get a stand-in who was wearing a wig to drive the car.”

Simone sings the lead vocals in the new single, but the album is definitely a collaborative effort.

“Some songs sound better with Simone singing, and some sound better with me singing,” says Naomi. “There’s no ego involved, it’s all about the music and how we can make it the best it can possibly be.”

“One of the songs I sing on the new album is called *Candy Rain*. It’s an old 80s RnB number that we reworked. It’ll be great for DJs!”

As well as some upbeat tracks, the girls also deal with more serious issues. Simone’s favourite song on the album is called *Broken*, and deals with the issues of low self-esteem and substance abuse.

“Everyone has faced problems at some time in their life,” Simone explains. “Everyone has been broken. This song is about how you don’t need to deal with things by yourself – that you’re not alone.”

Another song that both the girls name as a favourite is called *No Shame*.

“This one’s strictly for the girls,” Naomi says, flashing her luminous smile. “It’s all about believing in yourself and not letting negative people hold you back.”

“I think that it’s especially important for our culture,” Simone says. “The word shame really holds our mob back, so this song is saying: get out there and do what you want, there’s no need to feel shame.”

The new songs reveal a more mature Shakaya, and herald a more definite move in an RnB direction and a truly individual style.

Shakaya’s new album is set for release in August. Are you ready for it?



COMPREHENSION

Answer all questions using full sentences.

✪ What are the names of the two members of Shakaya, and what are their ages?

✪ What is the name of their latest single, and how would you describe it?

✪ What is the title of Simone's favourite track on the album, and what issues does it deal with?

✪ Circle the correct answer to the following statement.

How long did it take to make the film clip to their latest single?

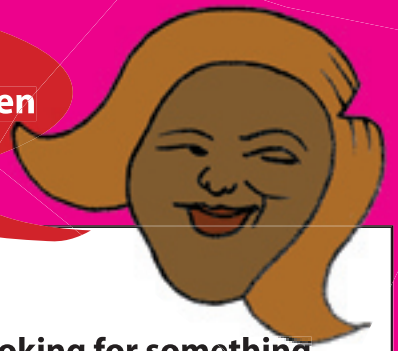
- a. 2 days
- b. 18 hours
- c. 4 hours
- d. 1 day

✪ Answer true (T) or false (F) to the following statement.

The song *No Shame* is about believing in yourself and not letting negative people hold you back. _____



Direct speech is the style of writing which indicates spoken language. It is written in quotation marks.



DIRECT SPEECH

EXAMPLE: Direct speech: "We're always looking for something to joke about," says Simone.

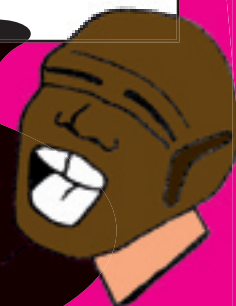
✪ Rewrite the following using direct speech. Check your work against the text.

The whole thing took 18 hours to make, Simone says of the video.

I have to drive a car in the video, Naomi adds with a chuckle.

Everyone has faced problems at some time in their life, Simone explains.

Sometimes when speech is written, the writer will report what has been said without using the exact words spoken. This is called indirect speech. It is usually introduced by the word **THAT** if it is a statement, or **IF** or **WHETHER** if it is a question.



INDIRECT SPEECH

EXAMPLE: Direct speech: "We're always looking for something to joke about," says Simone.

Indirect speech: Simone says that we are always looking for something to joke about.



✦ Rewrite each sentence so it is in indirect speech.

"RnB in Australia has long been dominated by American musicians," Simone says.

"I think that it's especially important for our culture," Simone says.

"There is so much talent out there now," Naomi says.

Contractions are joined words with a letter or letters missing. Apostrophes are used in the place of the missing letter. Contractions are mainly used in spoken language.



CONTRACTIONS

EXAMPLE: WEREN'T is the contraction of WERE NOT.

✦ Write the contractions to the following words.

It is _____ There is _____

We are _____ Do not _____

They are _____ You are _____

Cannot _____ One is _____





✪ Rewrite each sentence, using contractions wherever possible.

We have been out of the scene for a while.

We wanted to come out of that studio feeling happy with what we had done.

They have certainly achieved that.

We want to create a new RnB scene in Australia – a movement that Australia has not seen before.

DICTIONARY WORK

✪ Using a dictionary, find the meaning to the following words.

entourage: _____

dialogue: _____

collaborative: _____



WRITING

No Shame

One of Shakaya's new songs is called *No Shame*. Naomi said that it was about believing in yourself and not letting negative people hold you back. She thinks that it's especially important for our culture as the word shame really holds our mob back. This song says – get out there and do what you want, there's no need to feel shame.

- ✦ **Write a song, rap or poem called *No Shame*. Start by getting some ideas together about people, places or things that can make you shame, and ways to get over your shame, and to encourage others to as well.**
- ✦ **Once you have your ideas together, put pen to paper and get some rhythm to your words.**