

Life

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Staff photo by Edward Lea

From left, Ariel Moore, 11, Paris Monroe, 10, and Destinee Monroe, 12 — who make up the vocal group Clique — work with producers at the Monroe home recording studio in Egg Harbor Township. The girls have impressed music-business insiders with their abilities.

These little girls have big dreams

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"In the business, I get thousands of e-mails. People trying to hit me up each week. In the past five years, this is the biggest no-brainer that I have seen," Eddie Galan said.

The Web site for Egg Harbor Township's girl vocal group Clique at cliquefanclub.com features four of their songs and videos of other tunes. They also have a song titled "Lemonade" selling at apple.com/itunes for the Alex's Lemonade Stand charity.

Galan is a Los Angeles-based producer and songwriter who helped the vocal group B5 land songs on the wildly popular "High School Musical" and "Hannah Montana" soundtracks.

The no-brainer: three young girls from Egg Harbor Township who make up the vocal group Clique.

The preteen trio took a step toward their dream of stardom when they spent seven days working in a home recording studio with Galan and his partner, Andrew Lane.

Destinee Monroe, 12, her younger sister, Paris Monroe, 10, and their friend Ariel Moore, 12, recorded nine new songs to go with five already recorded in Los Angeles in September.

"These girls were ready for it for the past two years. They are a triple threat. They sing, dance and act," said Lane, who compared the girls to Judy Garland and Shirley Temple.

Lane and Galan said their success with the "High School Musical" and "Hannah

Montana" projects, both former No. 1 albums, gave them the money and flexibility to work with Clique exclusively for a period of time without payment.

"High School Musical" was the No. 1 selling CD of 2006 with 3.7 million copies sold, and "Hannah Montana" finished the year at No. 8, selling nearly 2 million copies.

On Jan. 4, Lane and Galan flew from Los Angeles into Philadelphia International Airport and headed to the Monroe home. They stayed at the Monroes' house and worked through the night after recording sessions as the preteens and their parents slept. A week later, they flew back to Los Angeles with nine new songs.

The producers plan to record, mix and master an album, which will also feature seven songs produced by the team of Steve "Mr. Mig" Migliore and Kevin DeClue. Lenore Monroe, the mother of two trio members who is also Clique's liaison with the high-powered Wright Entertainment Group, says the group could be signed to a major label by spring and on tour by June.

An audio and technical engineer, Edward Monroe, the father of Destinee and Paris, built the home recording studio a little more than a year ago for Clique, who want to fill a niche as the youngest girl pop group in music history.

The girls act more mature than their years when each enters the booth to record individ-



Producer Eddie Galan (left) and his partner, Andrew Lane (right), are working with the members of Clique. The men have been part of smash Disney albums.

ual vocal parts, but otherwise they resemble any other group of cheerful preteen girls.

Clique sings to pop-rock tracks with guitars unlike most teen girl groups, who strive for a pop-R&B sound.

When Clique rehearses one of Lane's and Galan's songs, Lane sits and operates the recording console containing the music while Galan stands, sings along with the girls and coaches them vocally. Each girl receives a chance to take over lead vocals during a song, much like the 1990s hitmakers En Vogue.

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