

The Spice Girls also proved that they could deliver live when their long-awaited SPICEWORLD world tour kicked off at the Point in Dublin in February 1998. The tour was a complete sell-out; with most countries selling out on the day the tickets went on sale. In Holland the first show at the Gelredome in Amhem (30,000 capacity) sold out within 15 minutes, breaking records previously held by rock giants U2 and Bruce Springsteen. The tour trail-blazed its way around Europe before taking the group to America and Canada. When the tickets for the Madison Square Garden gig in New York went on sale, 14,500 tickets sold out in a record 12 minutes! By the end of the tour in September, the band had completed 103 shows – not missing a single one, even though half of the group were pregnant!

The girls then returned to the UK to satisfy their thousands of fans by playing sold-out gigs: two at Don Valley Sheffield and two at Wembley Stadium. These shows alone entertained over 190,000 people! In December the girls kicked off their highly anticipated Christmas tour entitled "Ringside With The Spice Girls." Their Earls Court concert on the December 14th was broadcast live on Sky and on the Spice Girls web site.

Since the completion of the world tour in 1998, the Girls have been extremely busy, both on their current third album and with their own solo projects. In October 1998, Melanie B went to Number One in the UK when she released her collaboration with Missy Elliot "I Want You Back." Her new single "Tell Me" will be released on September 25th this year and will be followed by the album *Hot* this October. Melanie C's double platinum selling album *Northern Star* was released in October last year giving her four top five hits – two of which have been Number One. The album still nestles in the UK Top Five nearly a year after its release. Emma Bunton provided lead vocals on Tin Tin Out's version of the Edie Brickell hit "What I Am" which went to Number Two in the UK charts last October. On August 14th, The True Steppers featuring Dane and Victoria released their single "Out Of Your Mind" which went into the charts at Number Two amidst scenes of media frenzy. Victoria had a taste of television presenting last year too when she filmed a program for England's Channel 4 entitled "Victoria's Secrets." The show, which featured interviews with Sir Elton John, Ruby Wax, Michael Parkinson and Vinnie Jones, saw Victoria in the role of the interviewer and not the interviewee! The program was praised by critics who described Victoria as "feisty, funny and refreshingly down-to-earth."

"We are stronger after being apart for a while and we're very happy to have been back together in the studio", Melanie C said of their upcoming release. "This strength will show on this new album, which I think is our best yet."

Standby for the next instalment in Spiceworld.....and the next!

9/00

For further information please contact the Virgin Records Publicity Department or Elizabeth Freund at 212/864-8091:

New York
Los Angeles

Suzanne Macnary
Yon Elvira

212/253-3069
310/288-2419