

Comedy In The Raw Revue

by Flash

Opening night at the Comedy in the Raw Review was a total success. Muhammad Ali's daughter, MaiMai Ali showed up and was a total smash at the club. Believe me, she will be back!

There were fourteen that performed that night. Out of the Fourteen, we had to pick just two winners. Believe me, it wasn't easy. When all of the smoke cleared, we had two finalists, Jimmy and Joey, better known as "The Hit Men" around the comedy circuit. Together they do about 25 impressions of stars from stage, screen and TV, including a few cartoon characters. They took second place.

Our first place winner just happens to be the brother of the lonely Maytag repairman we've seen on TV. Reeve White is his name and comedy is his game. He came to rock the house and that is exactly what he did.

Other contestants who also stood out were Milton Dunn, who does one of the best impressions of a Grandmother I've ever seen. Milton, by the way, came back just last week and took first place and is now placed in the finals. Also, Little Larry Olsen proved that even though his name is Little Larry Olsen, he could bring up big laughs, and that he did. He's also in the finals.

Others who deserve praise are John and Aber, who did a skit on Japanese pilots; Randy Newman; Frako; and Zip-

pi. Personally, I feel all the comedians deserve praise. Getting up in front of a hundred total strangers makes them all winners in my book and I know they'll be back.

Remember, the reason I'm producing the show is to give new talent an outlet, a place where they can come and try new material or get the feel of being in front of an audience. If you are a comedian looking for a place to get the feel of the business, this show is for you and if you're a fan of stand-up comedy, this show is also for you.

Winners for the week of August 16 were Milton Dunn, Felicia Abrams (Flea), Joe Marino, Little Larry Olsen, Jimmy and Joey (The Hit Men), and Reeve White. Congrats to these people and to all the comedians who were in the show.

Remember, the show is every Wednesday night at 7:30 p.m. inside Doc and Eddie's night club on the corner of Spring Mountain Road and Arville. Admission is only five dollars and that includes a free drink.

Coming August 30 from Los Angeles will be Rory Flynn, who has performed at The Improv, the Comedy Store, The Wiz, Regency West, etc., etc. He'll co-host the show with yours truly, plus I'm still trying to get Redd Foxx to stop by for a minute. Believe me, I won't give up until he does!

Until next time, remember, keep the faith, never bend, be yourself until the end. Click-click.

FOCUS

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Although they have changed one or two vocalists periodically, it has not changed the quality of their music. Their stage presence is excellent. The selection of songs takes you back to their original beginning in 1958; then they merge in sound to the "new" "what's happening" set. Their treatment is stylish, fresh and together. Why not check them out? They will be appearing at the Circle until Aug. 27.

ALCORN VS GRAMBLING

Los Angeles will be hosting this football classic. The rivalry of these two classic teams will face each other on Sept. 3 at the L.A. Coliseum. The town starts buzzing with the many activities planned during the stay of the two popular college teams. Of course, one of the big hi-lites of the game is the exciting half-time show, when the mighty, famous Grambling marching band takes the field. (If you've never seen them in person you're missing one heck of a show). They're fabulous! The Coliseum holds close to 90 thousand and believe it, it will be packed to capacity. The whole town turns out for this event. It's like a Who's Who that will be in attendance - politicians, musicians, athletes and stars of one kind or another. It's like a homecoming, a giant party, and all for a great cause. Alcorn vs Grambling. We'll see you there.

On another note....

Milan Williams, Veteran

an uptempo song and ballad. An accompanist will be provided. They should bring sheet music, a picture, and a resume, if possible. Women should wear flat dance shoes.

The Las Vegas audition is part of a major West Coast audition tour for the production team. Auditions are being held in Seattle (Aug. 16), Portland (Aug. 18) San Francisco (Aug. 21 & 22), Sacramento (Aug. 23), Los Angeles (August 24 & 25), San Diego (Aug. 28), Las Vegas (Aug. 29) and Reno (Aug. 30).

"Cats" only Nevada engagement this summer will be Oct. 3-8 at the Zigfield Theatre at Bally's in Reno. For ticket information for that engagement call 702-789-2285.

Member Of The Commodores Is Ousted From The Group For His Stance Against South Africa

Entertainer Milan Williams, founding member keyboardist for Pop/R&B recording group the Commodores, called a press conference July 26, to disclose the facts surrounding his dismissal from the group after 20 years of service. Williams announced that his expulsion stemmed from the fact that he was the only member to originally oppose the group's planned tour of South Africa.

Clarifying his views on the moral position of Black artists with regard to the cultural boycott against apartheid-ridden South Africa, Williams stated, "I could not, with a clear conscience, climb on the backs of my brothers to make a buck."

It was a painful and emotionally taut moment as Williams continued to unravel the succession of events that led to his removal from the group. Expressing his deep and abiding love for the Commodores, Williams

recalled how the group has always served as role models for the Black community. He admitted being deeply hurt after being informed of the group's unanimous decision to expel him.

Within the past six weeks, the Commodores have been the victims of a public backlash, due to media reports of their plans to perform in South Africa. Pressure was intensified when information became available that Williams was against the group's performance as well. As a result of the media exposure, Williams found himself ostracized from the group.

Though a public statement was eventually issued stating the Commodores had cancelled their performance plans, Williams was expelled from the singing organization as of July 14, 1989. The dismissal followed a letter his attorney wrote the group on June 23, 1989, stating that Williams "as a result of his moral opposition to the performance, would not participate and refused to share revenues."

Williams will make an announcement regarding his plans for the future, in the upcoming month.

This is the month of our Natal Day. Needless to say, we have celebrated all month, but would like to wish "Happy Birthday" to other Leos that we know. That includes Whitney Houston/vocalist, Verdine White/Earth, Wind and Fire, Donald Trump, Merv Griffin, Shelly Winters, Roseanne Barr/Actress, Walter Payton, Jackie Onassis, Kareem and Magic Johnson. But to all Leos, Happy Birthday!

Until next time...LOVE.



Broadway Musical "Cats" To Hold Las Vegas Audition August 29

The Broadway musical "Cats" will be holding an open (Equity and Non-Equity) audition in Las Vegas for replacements in the Broadway and touring companies. The audition will be held on Tuesday, August 29 at the Las Vegas Dance Theatre Studios in North Las Vegas (3248 Civic Center Drive at Cheyene Ave.) at 10:00 a.m. for men and 2:00 for women.

The audition will be conducted by the production team responsible for keeping both the Broadway and touring companies of "Cats", the most successful musical in history, in tip top shape. They are: Jeff Lee, Production Supervisor; Richard Stafford, Production Dance Supervisor; and Jack Gaughan, Associate Production Musical Director. They

will be joined by Andy Zerman of Johnson-Liff and Zerman Casting Associates.

According to Jeff Lee, a majority of the recently-hired members of the "Cats" companies have been found outside of the New York area from auditions in Pittsburgh, Los Angeles, Houston, Dallas, San Francisco, Miami and Chicago.

"Cats" is looking for strong jazz/ballet dancers between the ages of 17 and 32 who also sign. Prior professional experience is not necessary. There are several male roles and one female role which require acrobatics. The cast is entirely interracial.

Those wishing to audition should be warmed up and in dance cloths at the hour the audition begins. They are asked to be prepared to sing

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