

# New West Theatre Presents Drama "Great White Hope"

New West Theatre will present the Howard Sackler drama "The Great White Hope" in observance of Black History Month.

Co-sponsored by Summa Corporation and First Interstate Bank, the production is being directed by Brian Strom, featuring David Cousin and Merri O'Neal Contino.

Set design is by Mark Louis Walters.

Presented at the Charleston Heights Arts Center, performances are 8 p.m. on February 7-8 and 11-15 and 2 p.m. Feb. 9 and 16.

The Pulitzer and Tony-

award-winning play is based the story of the first black heavyweight champion of the world, Jack Johnson. Playwright Sackler tells how one man fights his way to the top only to be cheated, degraded and at last brutally beaten.

"The Great White Hope" is a very current play on several levels, dealing with race relations, hero-worship and the impact of the media on sports and sports figures," explains Strom.

"But it also has a special pertinence for Las Vegas with our community's long involve-

ment with boxing and the money that can be made from boxing."

Strom, artistic director of The Rainbow Company, previously directed Community College of Southern Nevada (CCSN) Theatre's award-winning production of "A Lesson From Aloes" an The Rainbow Company's recent production of "MacBeth."

Last season Cousin starred in NWT's production of "Fences" and voiced the plant in "Little Shop of Horrors." He also appeared in the CCSN productions of "A Lesson From Aloes" and "The Boys Next Door."

General admission is \$10 - \$7.50 for students, seniors and handicapped. Group rates are available. Children under 5 are not permitted in the theater.

The Charleston Heights Arts Center is located at 800 S. Brush Street. For further information or reservations, call 876-6972. Reservations are recommended.

New West Theatre is a non-profit theater co-sponsored by the City of Las Vegas, and funded in part by a grant from the Nevada State Council on the Arts, and the National Endowment of the Arts, a Federal agency.



NEW WEST THEATRE "The Great White Hope" David Cousin portrays Jack Jefferson. Based on the life of Jack Johnson, the first Black heavyweight champion of the world.

## FREEZE ARRIVES ON THE SCENE...

...and there is no melting in his future

By W.G. Ramirez

1. Afrika Bambaataa
2. Kool Herc & the Herc-uids

3. Rock Steady Crew

Do these names ring a bell with anyone?

Ask Marc Lemberger, a.k.a Freeze, and he'll tell you that they're the originators of hip-hop.

Incidentally, Freeze is a member of the 1st generation Rock Steady Crew, the infamous breakdancing team.

Born in the birthplace of hip-hop, the South Bronx, Freeze

got his start in the early seventies when hip-hop was a positive street reaction against the elitist disco scene.

Freeze didn't start rapping seriously until he left New York in the mid-eighties. "I had left the Bronx, due to a job offer, and moved to Las Vegas; when I saw all the rappers come out, that weren't from N.Y., claiming they created this thing called hip-hop, it pissed me off and made me want to make an album and show the world what hip-hop really is, through an originator not an imitator," explains

Freeze.

Freeze's desire to set the record straight about the true meaning and origin of hip-hop has led to a self-titled debut album.

"Daryl 'Smooth,' myself and 'Chaz' wrote the lyrics for my album, which contains the ten cuts and brings together the original dance feel of the streets with an updated studio slickness."

Freeze has combined his love for dancing with pop-rap stylings and produced, without a doubt, a gem.

"Voulez-Vous," an upbeat, dance cut, will be the first song, scheduled to be released Feb. 24, off the Lp.

Asked to define his album in one sentence, Freeze responds,

"it's the past, present and future of my life."

Freeze has, literally, been struggling for seven years while trying to put his project together.

"I did 'odds-and end' jobs, like, bus boy/waiter work. I entered local dance contests. My



FREEZE

world abuses hip-hop to be."

Well thanks to his close friends - Buck, Flex, Daryl "Smooth," "Tank" Adrian Mcrae, Bruce Reiner, the local producing team of R.O.B. and Steve "Wiz," Dee-Jay Frankie and last but not least, his best girl, 7 year-old Mini-Yorkshire Terrier "Jasmine" - Freeze has kept his head high and is sending his career in the same direction. "These people have always stood by me and been there for me, and I thank them all."

Freeze hopes to be on tour by April. The hip-hop rapper will take his Zulu Nation concept on the road and will be accompanied by local dancers Kurtis & Ty along with the Rock Steady Crew and, of course, Jasmine.

"I want people to see the style, the look, and the attitude of a real old-school hip-hopper who has grown and matured with time, and, hopefully, I can do that."

Good Luck Freeze and uhh "Take these...BANK-BANK...on the chin!!!" WW

## BILLY ROWE

(Continued from Page 10)

Zavier University of Louisiana; Frederick Humphries, Florida A&M University; Joseph E. Johnson, Talladega College, and Gloria Scott, Bennett College. Someone close to the situation called this scribe and said that while NAFO is on the hot seat now UNCF may be next, as many institutions are not happy with the way UNCF distributes funds to members college.

**END NOTES:**—While we don't know for sure, Drury Pifer's new play, "African Tourist" sounds like it might be interesting. It's scheduled to open at the Woolly Mammoth in DC. Howard Shalwitz directs. A nurse student at Tennessee State University was forced to withdraw from the program because her sex change from male to female was not completed. Although he was undergoing hormone treatment and cosmetic surgery in preparation a switch had to be in the private parts.

According to the school, once that is completed she could be re-admitted to the program. The student has not made up her mind about filing a law suit. What's in a logo? Ask Duke University, as it is not happy with Presidential candidate David Duke's campaign logo which closely resemble the university's bumper sticker. Both spell duke in white letters on a royal blue background. According to Duke University some political cartoonist have already linked the two unrelated Dukes. After a year long survey of major populated African-American communities the writer has concluded that the time is now for the African-American Press to start its own race into the future. An attempt to keep pace with the electronic and daily print media is running on the wrong track. STAY LOOSE..

Billy Rowe is a syndicated columnist.

Asked to define his album in one sentence, Freeze responds,

true friends, such as (DJ) Buck (4) and (B-Boy) Flex also helped me financially. For seven years now, I haven't eaten correctly.

"The reason it has taken so long for myself or any of the creators of hip-hop to get into the mainstream is because of all the misplaced authority in the A&R department. They know nothing about our culture and should all be replaced by true knowledgeable hip-hop critics," adds Freeze.



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