

ENTERTAINMENT

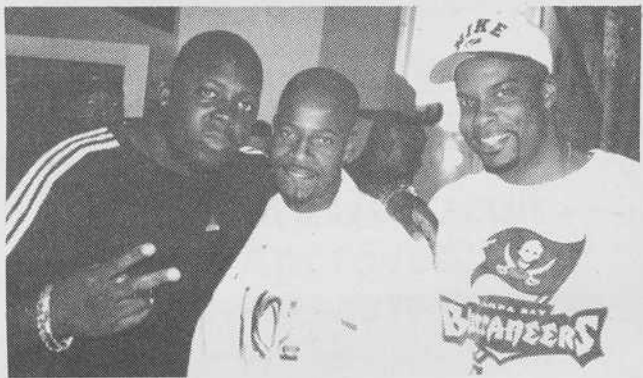
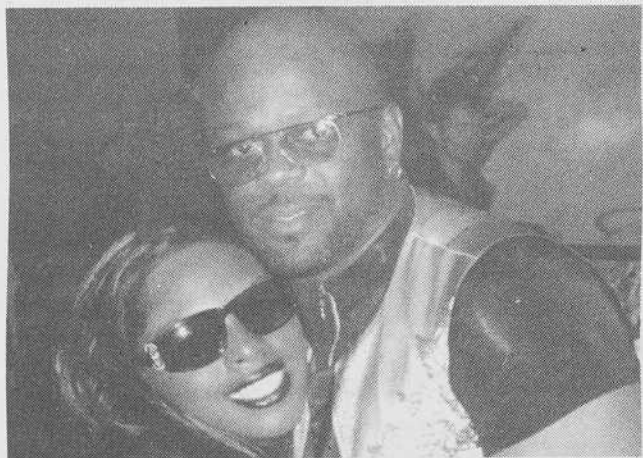


(Above) Drayton (Bill Bellamy) romances another woman as his sister watches.

(Below) Quatez Simpson gets cozy with Foxy Brown at the after party.

(Bottom) From left, the green-eyed bandit, Erick Sermon, of EPMD, cools out with Terry Wade (middle) and Alonza Robertson at the movie premiere.

Sentinel-Voice photos by Ramon Savoy



Def Jam's How to be a Player

By J.L. Broome, Sentinel-Voice

Ready for a movie that's going to make you laugh? Ready to see lots of fly fellas and fine females? Ready for a soundtrack that you'll really want to buy? Ready to learn "How To Be A Player"?

Well Def Jam's new movie, by the same name, is the movie for you. It's all that and a bowl of grits.

The film stars MTV video jockey Bill Bellamy as leading man Drayton Jackson or "Dray." Dray has a good job, a phat wardrobe and way too much game for just one female companion.

At the Las Vegas premiere last week inside the Strip's Showcase theatres, recording artists Foxy Brown, EPMD, Redman and Jayo Felony- who all perform on the soundtrack - mingled with fans in the theater and after the show. The post-movie concert and party at the Utopia, where VIP tickets were priced at \$100, sold out.

Many of the disc jockeys and radio personalities from KCEP FM 88.1 also attended the event despite the last-minute cancellation of a co-promotion of the movie's Las Vegas premiere with Gramercy Pictures.

But it was the movie that had everybody talking.

The story is about a good-natured day on the town with a Southern California player as he checks in with his women, all of whom span the different shades of beauty.

The plot is no more than an urban mix of "Ferris Bueller's Day Off" and Ice Cube and Chris Tucker's "Friday." But it's the performances of Bellamy,

comedian and movie veteran Bernie Mac, Pierre, A.J. Johnson and others that make this film funny.

Like all true macks, Dray is in rare form handling the constant obstacles and traps that any ladies' man faces. He juggles his jigelow lifestyle while trying to avoid getting caught by his main girl Lisa, played by Lark Voorhies. Voorhies starred in the popular NBC sitcom "Saved By The Bell." She has also appeared on daytime dramas and made-for-television movies.

The movie hits on familiar "player" scenarios: your girl checking your answering machine messages, one girl calling while another's already at the crib and making sure you never panic when caught in a guilty situation.

"The music definitely carries (the movie)," said Rory McAlister, director of Record Systems music pool who attended the Las Vegas showing.

"The movie was phat, kid," said Parish Smith of EPMD (Erick Parish Making Dollars). "It stays true to the game in giving you a blueprint on how to be a player."

"I don't know if all (Bellamy's antics in the movie) would work like that in real life," said Las Vegas resident and Luxor employee Valarie Young. "There ain't no way you can have that many people and not get caught," she said.

But, said her husband Sean, "a real player doesn't worry about getting caught."

The debate is sure to continue. Go see the movie for yourself at local theatres now.



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