

ENTERTAINMENT

Hinds says writing, hip-hop source of energy

Special to Sentinel-Voice
NEW YORK (AP) — He graduated from Princeton University and worked for a year as an intern at *The Village Voice*, where he was "steeped in that high-art, cultural-critique kind of thing."

He never intended to get deeply involved with "the glossies," those publications that often focus on pop culture — fashion, celebrities and music, says Selwyn Seyfu Hinds. He planned to write solely for publications similar to *The Village Voice*. Then he had a change in attitude.

"I realized that was kind of limiting, economically and otherwise," says Hinds, 27. "So I really made this big push to let editors know I was willing to write, and *The Source* called me and asked me to do a cover story."

That was in the summer of 1995. By September, Hinds was music editor. Two years later, he became the executive editor. Now he's editor-in-chief.

The Source, a magazine that focuses on hip-hop culture, was born 10 years ago when founder/publisher Dave Mays started it as a newsletter for his radio listeners. Mays was working as a disc jockey while attending Harvard University as a government major.

While the focus of *The Source* is hip-hop culture, articles in the magazine also

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— Selwyn Seyfu Hinds

cover political and legal issues. Columnists are as likely to choose the Internet or sports for their topics as they are to write about the newest music releases and hottest artists.

"There's going to be politics in *The Source*, there's going to be leading issues," Hinds says. "The *Source* is not going to pigeonhole itself. I think our coverage is diversified, and I think our coverage is sophisticated, and I think our coverage is smart."

Q: You're already editor in chief of a national magazine and you're only 27. How do you top that? Any worries about where you'll be at 35?

Hinds: I don't know what I want to be doing beyond 35. I do know that I still want to be here in this company by 30. As a company, we're growing in a lot of ways. ... We're moving into having other titles here. ... Maybe at 35, I'll want to be lead editor at *The Source* or maybe I'll edit our version of *GQ* or whatever.

Q: What is your vision of how The Source should cover hip-hop?

Hinds: For me, *The Source* is a survival guide for this generation. ... I think the difference between *The Source* and any other magazine out there that covers this sector is that for us, it's about covering the world through hip-hop's lens. It's about being a diverse magazine.

Q: Why not just focus on artists and music?

Hinds: I think the attention span of readers in general is getting shorter, so if my magazine is going to be the one magazine that they're going to read, I want to make sure that they have as complete and thorough a representation of the world as they can get.

Q: Any concerns about competition from new hip-hop magazines coming out?

Hinds: We've always weathered the Johnny-come-lately. We've spent a good 10 years cultivating the kind of

market and readership loyalty that we have now and that's not something we're going to lose easily. Personally, I like to see new magazines in the category pop up because that means more attention is being paid. As an editor, it keeps me on my toes, doesn't allow me any complacency.

Q: What do you want to see happen in hip-hop's future?

Hinds: I hope that hip-hop goes back to some of its roots. I hope that it returns to lyricism. I hope that it becomes fun again. I think it has been moving in both of those directions.

Q: Is it hard to appreciate hip-hop when you spend so much time in the industry?

Hinds: It's not hard to be a fan because I still love the stuff that's good. ... It's difficult to listen to the music for 24 hours and be immersed in it the way I was when I was 22, 23. I don't know how much of that is a part of my total immersion in the professional sense or my getting older. But the good thing about hip-hop is that it is so dynamic. ... There's no challenge to my love for the music, there's no challenge to my respect for the culture.

Tinseltown topics

By Lanier

Special to Sentinel-Voice

The piece that Ed Bradley did on CBS-TV's "60 Minutes" Sunday with internationally renowned writer Toni Morrison and the interview Katie Couric conducted with Angela Bassett on "Good Morning America" sure helped get the advance promotion of the motion picture "How Stella Got Her Groove Back" off to a flying start. "Stella's Groove" is the second novel by the Lorraine, Ohio, native to become a big screen production. It's also the second time around that actress Angela Bassett has been called on to play the starring role in a Morrison scripted flick. Her first outing in a Morrison book-turned-movie was "Waiting To Exhale."

According to advance information, there's a new child star in the making whom theater audiences will see in the feature film "How Stella Got Her Groove Back." The talented fast rising young actor answers to the name of Michael J. Pagan and reports have it this thirteen year old actor and athlete adds new meaning to the words "child star." His accomplishments in the world of entertainment seemingly are boundless. He is not only a talented youthful actor, playing a role in "How Stella Got Her Groove Back," with Angela Bassett and Whoopi Goldberg, he is also a gifted athlete, with some 90 medals and trophies attesting to his accomplishments in track and field, football and basketball. The amazing youngster is also a self taught magician who can levitate inches off the ground before your very eyes. His acting debut was made in the Warner Brothers film "Fallen," when he was cast to play the role of Denzel Washington's nephew.

Unfortunately, the magic of his smile did not attract or provide enough numbers in the ratings wars to keep the Magic Johnson late night 'Magic Hour' on the air.

Until the next time, Lanier.

Movie about Selma to be filmed in Georgia

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — A Disney movie based on the book, "Selma, Lord, Selma," about two black schoolgirls growing up in Selma during 1960s racial turmoil, will be filmed mostly in Georgia.

The Atlanta-based filmmakers said it was cheaper to film in Griffin, Ga., where shooting will begin Sept. 7. But crews will be in Selma the weekend of Sept. 19 to film one segment: a reenactment of the 1965 march over the Edmund Pettus Bridge, where voting rights demonstrators were attacked.

"We're hopeful that, by using Selma for this part of the movie, something might come along in the future that can be made in Alabama," said Alabama Film Office Director Michael Boyer.

The book, authored by Birmingham News reporter Frank Sikora, has had various prospective producers in the past decade.

"At one time it was going to be a major feature film," Boyer said. "Then it was going to be a network TV film, and then another time it was going to be a cable movie. So it's really changed hands quite a few times."

The movie is expected to air in January on The Wonderful World of Disney.

Sikora said he told producer Julian Fowles he could take whatever liberties he wished with the book.

"I'm sure there will be a few variations from the book, but I guess that's how movies are," he said.

Blade

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vampires must die. The vampires led by Frost verbally retaliate with "Vampires will rule."

The acting is laughable at times. During the film's "quiet" moments, Snipes simply stands, looking buff and sullen. N'Bushe Wright's acting is anemic before the vampire bite. Stephen Dorff is on autopilot in a "punk with ambition" attitude complete with ever-present sneer.

Although you may laugh at

the plot and the acting, "Blade" is your movie if you're in the mood for a late summer action explosion.

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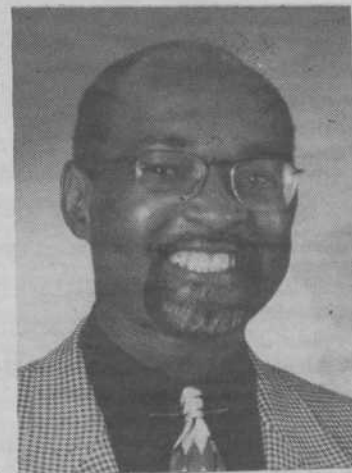
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