

ENTERTAINMENT



Sentinel-Voice photo by Kimberly Howard

Ginuwine sang several tunes from his new album 100% Ginuwine.

Young star has vet's savvy

Jocelyn Scott-Roach
Special to Sentinel-Voice
The Mandalay Bay was the hot spot when the House of Blues hosted Dave Hollister and Ginuwine Tuesday night.

The show began with an electrifying performance from new rap sensation Cha-Cha. Dressed in white leather Cha-Cha entertained the crowd with her sexy dancing and sassy lyrics. Although Cha-Cha poured her heart and soul into the performance, the crowd just wasn't into it yet. "[Cha-Cha] was tight, but the crowd was weak," Steven

Hill, 21. Mr. Hill continued to comment that if Cha-Cha had been performing anywhere else she would have had a better reception from the audience.

Once Cha-Cha was done and the audience endured a brief intermission, they were graced with the soulfulness of Dave Hollister.

Hollister was a former member of the R&B hit makers, BlackStreet. He sang a few hits from BlackStreet days, which seemed to somewhat please the tough crowd. Hollister then described the music he

created with his former group as "weak". Needless to say, that didn't win him any points with that crowd.

Concert-goer Jason Dillard said, "[Hollister] was really good, but he shouldn't have said the BlackStreet music was weak. He is a product of their music."

Before treating the crowd to some of his new stuff like "Favorite Girl," Hollister introduced the audience to his newfound style. According to him, his new album, "Ghetto Hymns," is a reflection of the "thug" in (See *Ginuwine*, Page 9)

'Trippin' entertaining, but suffers from predictability

Tammy D. McMahan
Special to Sentinel-Voice

I have to be honest. The thought of reviewing the film "Trippin" didn't thrill me at first. I had pegged it as a sophomoric teen comedy flavored with hip hop sensibilities. Hadn't everyone seen this before in the House Party movies?

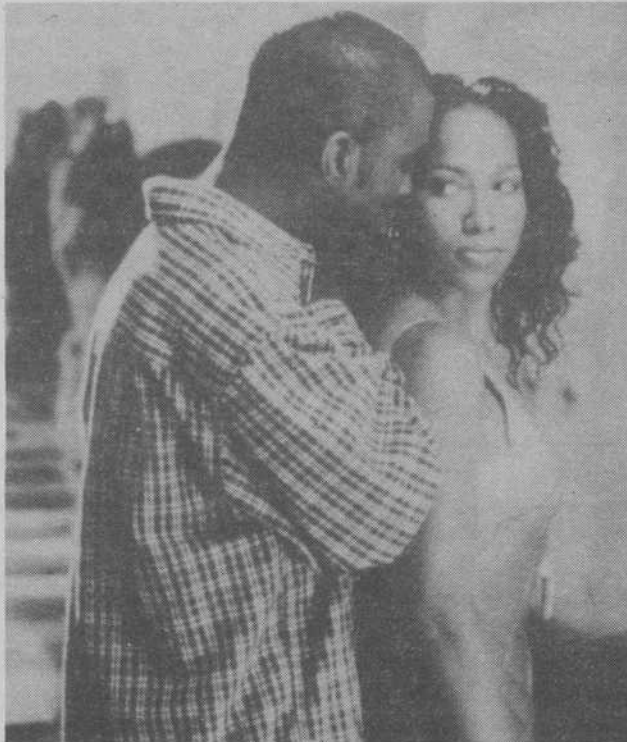
After seeing the film, I still consider it weak, but it had its moments and messages.

Our story begins with Greg Reed (Deon Richmond), a high school senior living in Los Angeles. Reed is prone to daydreaming—anytime, anyplace. In his daydreams he is the richest, most powerful, most desired man on the planet. His daydream life is basically a Puff Daddy video.

In real life, Greg is merely coasting. His senior year is almost over and he's made zero plans for the future. His parents (Harold Sylvester and Aloma Wright) constantly remind him that he has to prepare for college and completing at least one college application might be

a good start. Greg initially ignores their advice and chooses to hang out with friends June (Donald Adeosun Faison) and Fish (Guy Torry). June is the high school ladies' man who has left a trail of broken hearts a mile long. Fish is the class clown with video camera always in tow. The guys mostly check out the ladies and fantasize about the fabulous futures they will have, despite their marginal grades and lack of desire to plan. Greg makes a major change in his life when the object of his affection, Cinny Hawkins (Maia Campbell), slowly takes a shine to the daydreamer. When Greg realizes that he truly loves Cinny, he decides to stop the daydreaming and start "keepin' it real".

This review provides a good opportunity to discuss why I critique films. Some of you may think that film critics are elitist types who simply cannot enjoy a film just for the sake of entertainment. You may think that film critics must see some significant social message in order to give a film four stars.



Deon Richmond and Maia Campbell star in 'Trippin.'

Well, believe it or not, I can enjoy a film that has no great social commentary, but is rich in entertainment. However, I want to encourage you to see films that not only entertain, but enrich your mind by challenging and inspiring you.

I can't give "Trippin" four stars for a number of reasons. First, "Trippin" didn't add

anything new to the predictable plot of the underdog guy who eventually gets the beautiful girl, despite the odds against him.

Second, the acting was not particularly compelling, probably due in part to the tired storyline.

Third, Greg's fantasy sequences and the interaction of the male leads and the

female leads reduced women to sexual objects. Although the film is from the point of view of a perpetually aroused teenaged boy, more insight on the female characters instead of constant appraisal of their bodies would have added a richness to the story.

Fourth, the writers and actors for "Trippin" frequently use the "n" word for comic value. I never cease to be outraged by this indignity that we heap upon ourselves. Despite the above-mentioned, the film has a few incredibly humorous moments and some good messages. "Trippin" does a fair job of combining aspects of African-American middle-class life and urban realities in a comedic manner. Some of the funniest scenes involve

Greg and his friends facing off with a local drug kingpin and his lackeys, one of which wears leg braces. Despite the braces, the lackey exhibits a comic macho bravado that made the audience howl with laughter.

Another uproarious scene was a daydream sequence in which Greg was a Terminator-like character, who in Schwarzenegger style, brings an end to the drug kingpin and Cinny's "perfect" boyfriend Shawn.

Furthermore, the presentations of the positive messages were never imaginative, but the filmmakers made it clear that it was important to aspire to greatness and greatness required planning, not flights of fancy.

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