

ENTERTAINMENT

# Comedian Hughley delights Memorial weekend crowd

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Sentinel-Voice

Comedian D.L. Hughley drew big crowds and big laughs for his three Memorial Day weekend performances at the Riviera Hotel.

Dugar, a young comic from Oakland, California, opened for the stand-up comedian and television actor.

Hughley's journey to stardom was no easy feat given his past. The 35-year old comedian was expelled from high school in the 10th grade for fighting and later became involved with the Bloods, the infamous L.A. street gang.

However, when a cousin, who was a member of the rival L.A. street gang, the Crips, was shot and killed, Hughley decided to change his life for the better.

He found work with the *Los Angeles Times* and moved up to a management position. At the *Times* he met his future wife LaDonna — the two have been married more than 13 years and have three children.

At the suggestion of friends, Hughley explored stand-up comedy, finding that he loved to perform.

Hughley made the rounds as a stand-up comedian, eventually landing a gig as Black Entertainment Television's first host of *Comic View* which showcases comedic talent.

The entertainment indus-

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try took notice of Hughley's talents.

With Hollywood approval and television experience, he successfully pitched *The Hughleys* to ABC executives.

Dugar entertained the audience prior to Hughley's appearance. Though the young comedian's material wasn't innovative, the audience enjoyed hearing about his observations on life.

The Oakland comic did some "equal opportunity" slamming of blacks, whites, Asians and Hispanics.

Though his good-natured "dissing" added little to the now old-hat "black people do this and white people do that" routine, he was savvy enough to add some diversity to spice things up a bit.

He scored points with the crowd when he poked fun at the institution of marriage, describing it as a hostage situation and elaborating on why some premarital secrets shouldn't be shared and how women "transform" when they get mad.

Then the smartly dressed, cigar-smoking D.L. Hughley hit the stage with rapid-fire delivery of comic lines. Like Dugar's work, Hughley's

material wasn't particularly fresh, but his delivery and occasional additions to standard humor routines made for an enjoyable evening.

Hughley immediately bonded with the audience when he described how black folks handle problems at work. He also voiced clever commentary about Elian Gonzalez, ghetto versions of Halloween costumes, children's clothing and pet care, a mean grandmother, the missteps of wealthy athletes and wacko religious leaders.

Hughley lost steam during the last 30 minutes of his nearly 90-minute set. He occasionally and briefly regained momentum when he heckled audience members, but the crowd's enthusiasm steadily diminished.

The talented Hughley should restructure his act to include a strong finish that leaves the audience begging for more.

Despite the fact that neither Hughley nor Dugar had original routines and Hughley ended on a weak note, the duo succeeded in bringing out the laughs over the Memorial Day holiday.

# Shemar Moore calls mom after winning Emmy Award

NEW YORK (AP) — He was the actor who shouted that Susan Lucci's 18-year losing streak was over and announced that she was the winner of the 1999 Daytime Emmy for leading actress.

This year, Shemar Moore of "The Young and the Restless" carved out another piece of Daytime Emmy history: He brought a cell phone to the stage after winning the award for outstanding supporting actor.

"Oh, my God! Hold on a second," pleaded Moore, holding his cell phone to his ear. "Please answer the phone. Please answer the phone. My lucky charm could not be here tonight. I'm tripping right now. I am calling my mother right now. Answer the phone. She's not answering the phone. Mom?"

"Mom, I won this damn thing," he told her voicemail.

That's right. Voicemail.

Mom didn't pick up the phone.

Backstage at Radio City Music Hall, he told the press: "I spent 20 seconds trying to get hold of her. I'm going to kill her for not answering the phone." Then he laughed. He was sure his mother was watching the show, she just couldn't find the phone.

Moore, who joined the cast of the CBS soap opera in 1994, said he was thrilled to win.

"You're witnessing a dream come true," he said. "Not so much that I won the trophy, but what the trophy represents. The best way to describe my life is in two words: 'Who knew?' This is just proof that I'm doing something right, the hard work is

paying off. When it gets ugly and it gets hard and you get up anyway and you get to the end of the day, this just says, 'I've got to get up tomorrow morning and do it again.'"

Besides his work on "The Young and the Restless," he is the newest host of television's "Soul Train." Prior to launching his acting career, he was a successful print and runway model.

"I really didn't expect to win, but I didn't expect Susan to win last year and that was a great moment," he said. "Not because she didn't deserve it by any means. But what's the difference between 19, 18 (losses), you know?"

He revealed what was going through his mind as he was getting ready to announce the winner. "I'm out there, and I'm just praying that I say everybody's names right."

"When I turned over the card and the first thing I saw was Lucci, the first thing that went through my head was: 'Get the (expletive) out of here!' ... I know I can't say that out loud, so let's come up with something better. This word 'streak' was in my head, and you saw the rest of it."

Lucci, who was the host of this year's ceremonies, said she was "thrilled to see Shemar win." When asked if she would answer her cell phone if daughter Liza Huber ("Passions") called her from the stage of the Daytime Emmys, Lucci replied: "She is a wonderful young actress and I look forward to that day. And if she wants to reach me on the cell phone, I'll be there. Absolutely."

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Dr. Owen W. Justice, Jr.

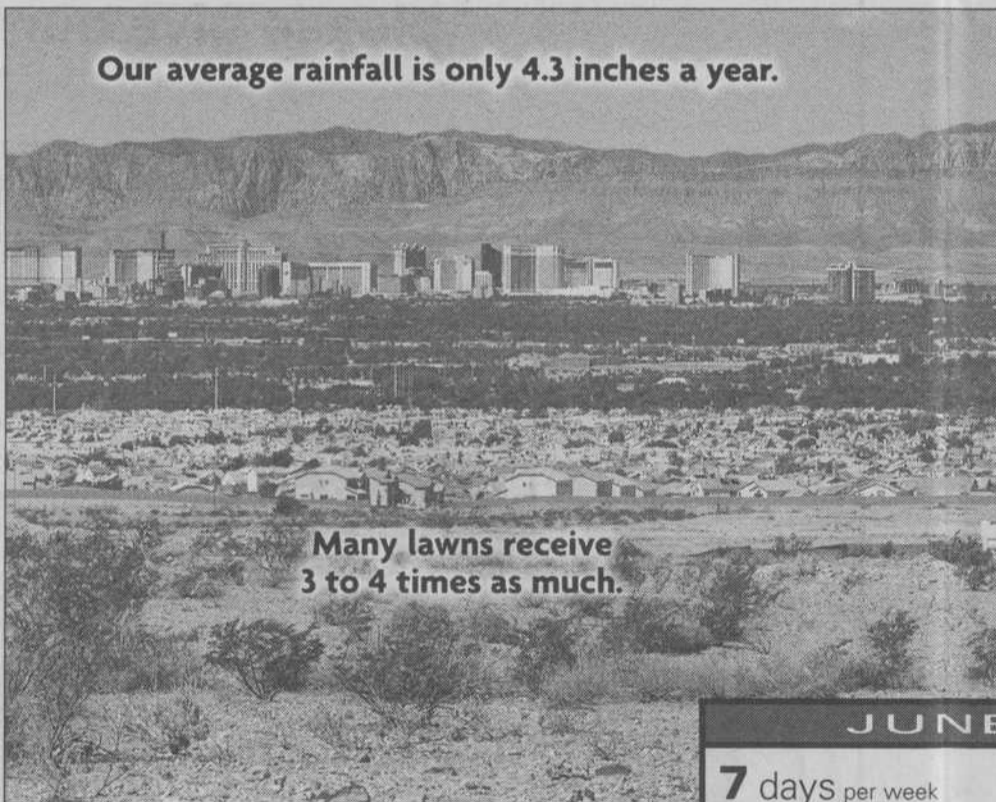
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