

Doolittle sequel funny as first

By Kam Williams
Special to Sentinel-Voice

Eddie Murphy has established himself lately as 'The King of the Kiddie Movie' in much the same way that Fred MacMurray did for Baby Boomers a couple of generations ago. Mr. Murphy's sassy voicework on Mulan and Shrek helped catapult those animated features to the top of the box-office charts.

Eddie's entertaining remakes of The Nutty Professor and Dr. Doolittle have actually eclipsed the originals, enabling the fab funnyman to establish a couple of franchises in the process.

So Dr. Doolittle 2, his review-proof current offering, ought to be a big box-office hit just based on that built-in audience which rushes out to any Eddie Murphy movie. And I am happy to report that the sequel is silly enough for the more discriminating comedy fan.

Dr. Doolittle, just to remind you, is an eccentric vet who can talk to the animals. And, here, director Steve Carr (Next Friday) decided to up the ante by adding considerably more creatures to the cast, totaling over 250. This works because most of the humor comes from the snappy repartee among the beasts.

The seasoned, off-camera talent lending their voices to the wisecracking animals includes Saturday Night Live alum Norm MacDonald, Cedric the Entertainer (Kingdom Come), Lisa Kudrow (of TV's Friends), Michael Rapaport (Bamboozled), Issac Hayes (South Park), Joey Lauren Davis (Big Daddy), stand-up comedian John Witherspoon, Andy Dick (of TV's News Radio) and Phil Proctor (of Firesign Theater).

In front of the camera it's mostly Murphy, despite stellar support from character actor Kevin Pollak (The Wedding Planner) and Jeffrey Jones, unforgettable as the exasperated principal in Ferris Bueller's Day Off. The Doolittle family is intact with Kristen Wilson (Girl 6) reprising her role as Lisa, Dr. Doolittle's wife, the almost-grown Raven-Symone (of TV's The Cosby Show) returning as Charisse, the doctor's dating-age daughter, while Kyla Pratt (Love & Basketball) is also back as her sister, Maya.

For some reason, probably having to do with profits, every African-American cast has to have a rap star nowadays. Doctor Doolittle's is rapper Lil' Zane (Finding Forrester) who appears, as Charisse's inappropriate love interest. Nonetheless, this movie revolves around the evil developers who want to flatten the forest and pave the Earth. The animals approach Dr. Doolittle who concocts a plan to save the critters.

Thanks to the latest generation of computer-generated special effects, the animals' anthropomorphic acting and lip-synching appear seamless. Taking that for granted, we're easily able to immerse ourselves in the kid-friendly storyline.

Sporting an assortment of colorful, ethnic accents and matching mannerisms, this peaceable kingdom of bears, weasels, dogs, tortoises, raccoons, possums, beavers, rats, squirrels, monkeys, possums, beavers, crocodiles and more help the good Doctor squash the plans of the money-grubbing land-grabbers.

Very Good (3 stars). Rated PG for slapstick violence, which might scare only the youngest of viewers.

Five comics set for Def Comedy Jam event at Sam's Town Live

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Russell Simmon's "Def Comedy Jam," a popular black comedy circuit in the early and mid 90s, has resurrected itself at Sam's Town Live!, the 1,100 seat multi-use facility at 5111 Boulder Highway.

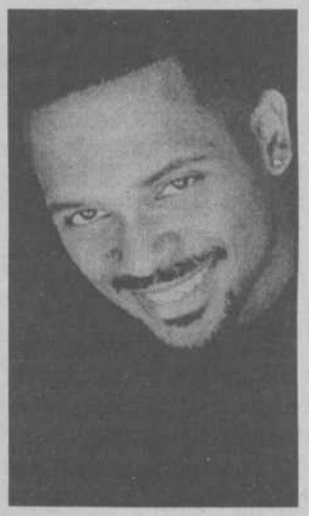
On Saturday, July 7, at 8 p.m., five hilarious comedians will take to the stage for a night of big laughs.

The line-up for the Comedy Jam is: Mike Epps, Ricky Harris, Melanie Comarcho, Rudy Rush and Honest John.

Mike Epps is a two-time performer on Def Comedy Jam and played Ice Cube's cousin in the film "Next Friday." Ricky Harris is billed as a comedian, actor, writer and director who has created characters and skits for Snoop Doggy Dog, Warren G, Montell Jordan



MELANIE COMARCHO and Cypress Hill.



MIKE EPPS

Former "Soul Train" host, Melanie Comarcho, has toured with the Queens of Comedy, Maxwell Live '99 and Chris Tucker.

Honest John, the only white, middle-aged man among them, is a big hit with African-American audiences across the country. Last, but

certainly not least, is Randy Rush, winner of Ricki Lake's "Talented Sons" episode and the current host of "It's Showtime at the Apollo."

Ticket prices begin at \$39.95. For more information call 456-7777 or visit their website at www.samstowntown.com.

Duo

(Continued from Page 8) go downtown?"

The night wasn't devoted entirely to "sex me" songs. "Get On Up," a dance groove, brought the three backup singers out front. They provided the harmonic blend that fit the duo like a

glove. Their up-tempo sound brought to mind Al Green and Teddy Pendergrass, with a dash of gospel.

KC & JoJo worked the stage with a confident ease. They took the energized crowd down memory lane, through their days of Jodeci

into their days of duo success. Their soul/R&B/hip hop blend was enjoyable, but even after all the hip rolling, butt pumping and tongue licking, I'm just not sure about them as sex symbols, but then, one man's treasure, another man's...

Gospel

(Continued from Page 7) ers, composers and producers. At 12:15 p.m. Kim Russell of the International House of Blues Foundation will begin with "Careers in the Entertainment Field for Non-entertainers." At 1:30 p.m. Sherman Rutledge will begin with "So You Want To Be A Star In Las Vegas." Finally at 2:45 p.m. Carlton Malone will finish off with part II of his workshop.

The workshops are for everyone. There is no particular person that it is labeled for.

Midnight Darkness is the last event to be held during this 3-day event. This play was composed by Mary-Etta Sayles Clinton. Clinton says her theme for the play is to let people know that, "There is a God, there is hope, and there is a God who cares no matter what your going through."

The setting of the play is



Las Vegas Councilwoman Lynette Boggs McDonald will appear as a special guest artist on Sunday, July 1.

the 1950's. Clinton was inspired to write this play a few years ago. "Everything you want, pray for. It's no good unless you know God's purpose for you in life," said Clinton.

The cast of the play is a very unique one. There is Carrie Sayles who is a young

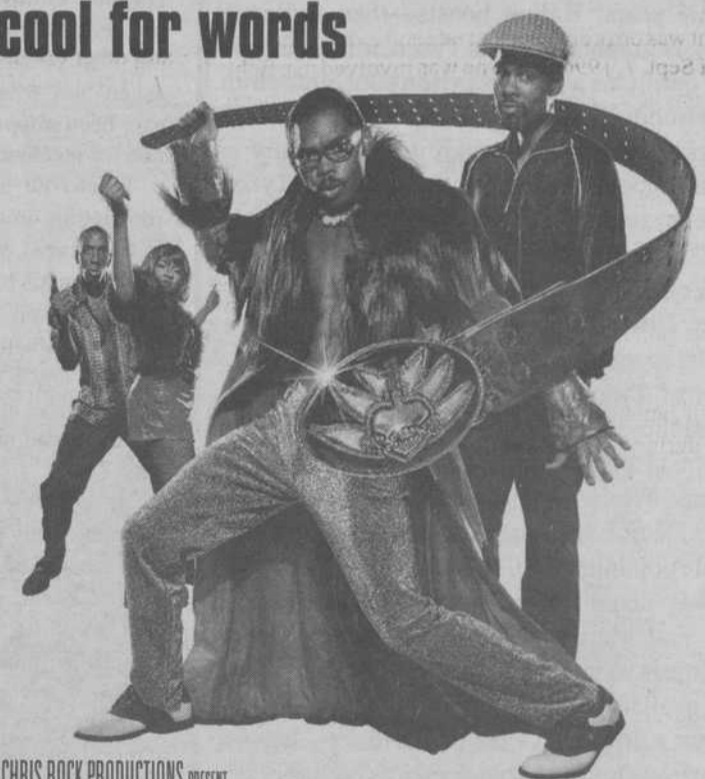
lady with many family problems, but with a dream. Minister Joe Syles. Rhea Watson is a steadfast believer. Alfredo Davidson is a disable brother to Alexis, but loves the Lord in all. Carmen Brady, Johnnie Hortas, Altherstine Hargtobe is a singing soloist, Evelyn Sawyer plays a praying mother, Jarrell Roberts plays "Evil." Ronn L. Williams is a standby.

The play is intended to discourage people from doing unpleasing things in life. To look at the play and decide whom you would want to be and wouldn't you want to be. The play is for people who enjoy gospel singing, and music. "It's entertainment with a message, no preaching," said Clinton.

The Las Vegas Black Gospel Theatre presents this to the community in hopes that people will take advantage of a glorious event.

LANCE CROUTER WANDA SYKES and CHRIS ROCK

Too cool for words



MTV FILMS AND CHRIS ROCK PRODUCTIONS PRESENT

Pootie Tang

PARAMOUNT PICTURES PRESENTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH MTV FILMS AND CHRIS ROCK PRODUCTIONS
AN ALPHAVILLE/3 ARTS PRODUCTION IN ASSOCIATION WITH HBO DOWNTOWN PRODUCTIONS "POOTIE TANG" LANCE CROUTER
JENNIFER COOLIDGE WANDA SYKES WITH ROBERT VAUGHN AND CHRIS ROCK MUSIC BY DD3 ADDITIONAL MUSIC BY PRINCE PAUL
WRITTEN BY MICHAEL McQUARN EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS VAN TOFFLER SEAN DANIEL MICHAEL ROTENBERG AND DAVE BECKY
PRODUCED BY COTTY CHUBB CHRIS ROCK DAVID GALE AND ALI LEROI WRITTEN BY LOUIS C.K. DIRECTED BY LOUIS C.K.

PG-13 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED
Some Material May Be Inappropriate for Children Under 13
SEX RELATED MATERIAL, LANGUAGE & DRUG CONTENT.
For rating reasons, go to www.filmratings.com.

www.pootietang.com
SOUNDTRACK ALBUM AVAILABLE ON HOLLYWOOD RECORDS

STARTS FRIDAY, JUNE 29TH!

CENTURY ORLEANS 12 Citeaux Hotel, Inglewood & Arville 227-3456	REGAL CINEMAS TEXAS STATION 221-2283	STADIUM 16 RANCHO SANTA FE Rancho Rd. & N. Rainbow Blvd. 645-5518	CENTURY SUNCOAST 16 9090 Alibi Drive 341-5555	REGAL CINEMAS BOULDER STATION 221-2283
--	--	---	---	--