

Playwright touts power of dreaming in show

By Tracy Crittenden
Sentinel-Voice

On Aug. 4, at 7:00 p.m. at the Las Vegas Academy Performing Arts Theatre complex, the Las Vegas Valley will have the chance to witness Dreams of Africa, "The Story of Nandi." Brought to you by the Las Vegas theatrical production team, Dreams of Africa,

This performance was written and directed by Mildred Williams (Mantombi), who is originally from Durban, South Africa.

The story is focused on a young girl named Nandi, played by Amanda Williams, who has a dream of traveling to the United States to win a talent competition in New York City. If she wins the competition, she would have enough money to help her village in South Africa survive a dry season.

Though she has dreams of leaving, someone wants Nandi to stay in the village.

However, through strong belief, she will find help.

Organizer of "I am A Daddy Family Support Group" and also affiliated with 2000 Yen Promotions, Anthony Pollard is produced the performance.

The show is basically a multicultural stage production created to focus on an educational outlook with an African theme and spirit.

In the end, it concludes with an entertaining portion of rock & roll, hip-hop, rap, and salsa featuring, some of Las Vegas' own.

Some of the local artists participating in this wonderful event are Zack Hernandez, a male vocalist; Alice Thomas, who will be impersonating the famous Tina Turner, and Tyree, a rapper from Las



Photo special to Sentinel-Voice

Amanda Williams, middle, plays Nandi, a young girl who dreams of traveling to the United States, in "The Story of Nandi," set to show Saturday at the Las Vegas Performing Arts Academy. Williams is joined by a talented cast.

Vegas. Tyree will be performing his song, "Step on Back."

Children under 10 will be admitted free but must be accompanied by a paid adult.

Ticket prices are \$15, and \$12 for seniors and students, and they can be purchased at local Ticketmasters.

A portion of the proceeds

from the show will be donated to different places that support education about HIV and Homelessness.

Churches and other places

dedicated to teaching and helping our youth will also receive donations.

T-shirts will be given to the first 300 people to arrive.

Osborne symbol of showbiz longevity, timeless cool

By Nyla Pickett
Sentinel-Voice

What a joy to know that though all things must change-some things just have to stay the same! With a full house, Jeffrey Osborne made it all worthwhile last Friday night, taking the Sam's Town Live crowd back a step to the early eighties when we were all singing the same tunes. It makes sense that his style, his songs and his aura all fit neatly into a genre that is the foundation for the balladeers of today.



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Jeffrey Osborne singing to his loving crowd at Sam's Town.

On the wings of love, with finesse and flair, Osborne, with a band of true musicians in tow, "woo-woo-wooded" the baby boomer crowd and made no attempt to hide his musical wisdom. His 5-piece entourage was a mixture of talent that stayed true to the tight musical direction, notwithstanding a backup duo to rival the days when backup was backed-up by ability, as opposed to a mixing board.

A stunning duet with Mary Blije-like songstress Shannon Pierson took couples to the aisles and laid the groundwork for the disco hit, "Back In Love Again." Osborne made sure to let the crowd know that his tunes came from a time when folks talked about love and the true despair of attempting to escape its sultry nature. His smooth sounds opened more than an eye or two to what he established as much more than make-believe.

Osborne comes from a background of legendary

greats- let us not forget his early stint with none other than R&B vets, the O'Jays. Serving time and paying his dues, as the old school crooners did, Osborne truly hit the charts in the early seventies and brought LTD to the main stage as their drummer, then lead singer. During his career as a solo artist, Osborne has visited artists like Whitney and even Aretha with his master lyrics and arrangements.

Honey dripping phrases like "ultra-smooth," "evocative," "provocative" and downright "sexy," describe Osborne in his past, and undoubtedly, live.

Bayou-born Musical Director, Frankie Crawford arranged a set that moved the crowd to a standing ovation. While Osborne spurred Drummer Darryl Wolfer and a fantastic Luc Ponty-sounding keyboard-playing Ming Freeman to "show me what you're working with," Joey Diggs backed up and crooned

a piece from Stevie's "I Wish" album to bring the house to its feet. Time and time again the entertainers re-visited past tunes, while working in everything from a lil' Snoop Dog to a taste of DMX, making the crowd lose their minds (up in there!).

Without a doubt, an artist of this nature seems to cross the lines of time, age and circumstance. Osborne's crew brought out the old and the young- from Grecian formula to baby formula! This

music was/is for the everybody of everywhere- if you let the demographics of the crowd tell the story, crossover only became popular when authenticity became an issue.

The crowd, mixed from a "whole lotta" years young to a charming 3-year-old, gave up due appreciation and seemed to have no trouble remembering the words-enough to "Woo-woo-woo" on cue. It is customary to give back to the fans, and

Osborne let a few get their groove on, chivalrous in his applause of their efforts.

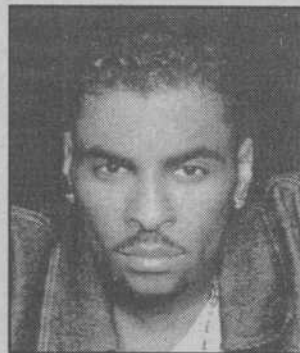
Needless to say, we've missed this gentleman on the music scene of late. A certain "jenais c'est quois" has been lost in the changing of the guard. They say, "A tree without it's roots..." Well, let's just say that a trip down memory lane is due to all that imagine themselves to be new jack crooners. Thankfully, Osborne's music can light the path along the way!

Hip-Hop Tour 2001 arriving at Thomas & Mack

Special to Sentinel-Voice
Seagram's hip-hop tour is coming to Las Vegas, Friday.

Set for the Thomas and Mack Center at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, the concert will feature artists such as Bayou-influenced, staccato-speeched rapper Mystikal, who's likely to perform his hits "Shake Ya Ass" and "Danger."

Also set to perform will be ladies' heartthrob Ginuwine, who's sexy



GINUWINE

songs such as "Pony" along with new tracks from his newly released album, "The Life" should satiate female



MYSTIKAL

fans. Also on the docket is rapper-actor Ja Rule, whose enjoying the celebrity produced by the hits "Between

Me and You" and "Put It On Me."

In addition, talented but oft-troubled rapper Juvenile, most known for his tune "Back That Ass Up," R. Kelly proteges Public Announcement (known for "Mamacita"), newcomers City High (whose hot single "What Would You Do?" is burning up the charts) and Jaheim ("Just In Case") are set to perform. Tickets are \$29.50/\$39.50 and can be purchased at all ticket.com locations around town.

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