

Culture, music displayed at international drum festival

By John T. Stephens III
Sentinel-Voice

Performances, storytelling, commentary and drums will be featured at a cultural festival presented by the West Las Vegas Arts Center, in conjunction with the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District. The International Drum Festival will be held on Nov. 17, from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m., at the West Las Vegas Library Theatre, 951 West Lake Mead Blvd.

A day of lectures and demonstrations by Master Drummer Hasani Palacio, and live performances by other master percussionists, performing artists, local entertainers and culture vendors, comes just in time for the holidays. "Within the percussion world there is a culture and a language, which is universal," said Eric Price, a drummer and percussionist,

who explains that he can meet someone from a foreign culture and they can talk to each other through percussion. "I appreciate that—it's something unique," he said.

Commentary for the event will be provided by local comedian "Sweet Lou" Collins, with a performance by percussion ensemble, Soundstream. The Art Center, next door to the West Las Vegas Library, will host a master African drum and dance workshop at 2 p.m.

"It's very different to play Latin conga, compared to an African Djembe or an Irish Bodhran," said Price, who is a construction contractor and also holds a B.S. in chemistry. "Play the same type of rhythm, but may have a different type of voice," he said.

The festival is free to the public. For more information, call 647-8169.



Sentinel-Voice photos by Ramon Savoy

MONEY WELL SPENT

A who's who of African-American dignitaries gathered Oct. 25 at the Venetian Hotel-Casino for the Frederick Douglass Educational Fund 8th Annual Gala Dinner & Awards Banquet. Proceeds from the banquet provide scholarships to needy students, according to organizers. (Top photo from left to right) Larry Mosley, president of the Las Vegas Chapter 100 Black Men, keynote speaker Tony Brown, actor Zakes Mokae and producer Walter Mason discuss some topics discussed in Brown's speech. (Bottom left photo) Dr. Carol Foster congratulates Deborah Harris, left, community facilitator for Matt Kelly Elementary and Linda Gibson, right, principal of Kit Carson Elementary School for their educational contributions. The two schools were awarded educational scholarships. (Bottom right photo) Mistress of ceremony and City Councilwoman Lynette Boggs McDonald embraces Madelyn Mokae, wife of Zakes.

Tyrese satisfies with looks, music

By Dianna Saffold
Sentinel-Voice

Pulling into the Mandalay Bay Wednesday was different from any other night. It was Halloween, of course, but security was tighter than I've ever seen it. Like a blanket of thick smoke, the fear of terrorism lay uncomfortably over Anywhere USA, but good old Las Vegas did not miss a beat. Not a beat, not a grind, not a hip roll. To that I can testify because I was at the Tyrese concert.

With an uncanny knack for bringing diversity in its purest form, the House of Blues introduced its audience to yet another upcoming group of future stars—opening act: Somobe, some young local cats who were about their business, which included great stage presentation, a jazzy hip hop sound, and a well chosen musical lineup that included popular classics and a few of their original works.

Though society was strictly warned to leave the trick out of trick-or-treat, the House of Blues got away with just one, that was the young lady who followed Somobe, comedienne, Clara Brown—opening act number two.

When I first peeped her with stockings and slides, I immediately assumed we were in store for that Moms Mabley brand of comedy, or Sanford & Son's LaWanda Page twenty-five years ago. Instead, I think she was pulled from the audience and told to tell a few jokes until Tyrese came on. Over a steady murmur of conversation, and a little touch of booing, the young lady asked the crowd to "give a girl a break." That is when she put on a huge pair of drawers.

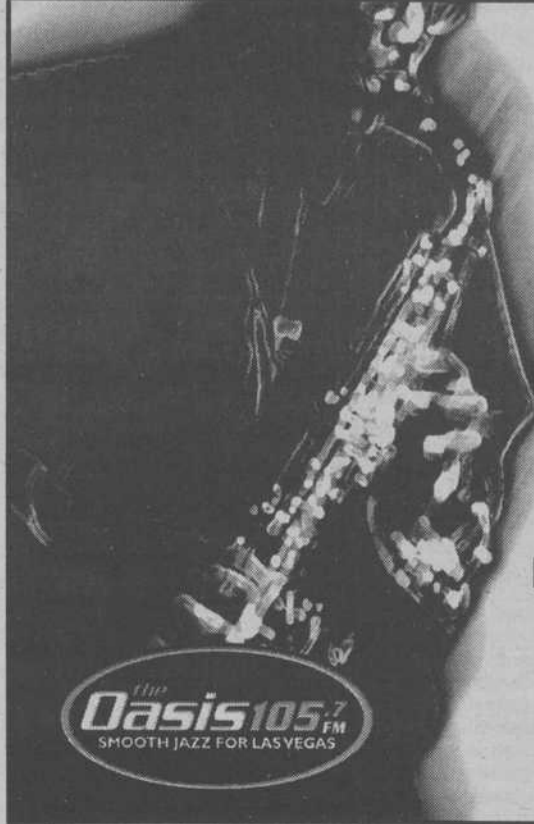
I was confused. Some found it funny, but local radio personality and comedian, Jo Koy, bailed her out. Like the seasoned pro he is (most recently opening for

comedian David Chappelle), he took control of the stage and the audience came with it. After completing damage control, he was joined on stage by co-host, Billy T, Music Director of urban contemporary station, KCEP-FM, 88.1.

Bringing the under-500 crowd to its peak of anticipation, the pair introduced actor, model and soulful singer, Tyrese.

Born Tyrese Gibson, in Watts, South Central Los Angeles, all ages would recognize him from his popular appearance in the Coke commercial, in which he sang on a city bus while listening to his headphones. This commercial not only showcased his vocal ability, but also established him as a sought-after model and acting upstart.

To my dismay, he came on stage all covered up—wearing a scarf and covered by a (See Tyrese, Page 14)



the Oasis 105.7 FM

SMOOTH JAZZ FOR LAS VEGAS

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