

Wannabe gangsta' rapper is 'Malibu's Most Wanted'

By Kam Williams
Special to Sentinel-Voice

Though his has only become a household name recently, Jamie Kennedy has been around a lot longer than you think. Last year, the 33 year-old funnyman finally made a big splash when he landed his own TV series on the WB network. On *The Jamie Kennedy Experiment*, a *Candid Camera* rip-off, he dons a variety of disguises to stage elaborate ruses to scare the bejesus out of his innocent victims.

Kennedy's career began way before that show, back in 1989 when, as a teenager, he appeared in *Dead Poets Society*. Over the intervening years, he has enjoyed the steady work afforded by minor roles in over 30 movies, including *Romeo + Juliet*, *Boogie Nights*, *As Good As It Gets*, *Enemy of the State*, *Bowfinger*, *Boiler Room*, *Three Kings* and *Dr. Dolittle 2*, though he is best known as Randy Meeks the movie geek in *Scream 1, 2 & 3*.

In *Malibu's Most Wanted*, the chameleon-like comic makes the most of his first starring role as Brad Gluckman, a rich teenager from Malibu who fancies himself a gangsta' rapper. He drops his slave name for B-Rad and hangs out with other



Jamie Kennedy, right, with his girlfriend Regina Hall and 'homey' Damie Wayns in the Warner Brothers film "Malibu's Most Wanted."

well-to-do wannabes, imitating black modes of dress and behaviors they've only seen on MTV and BET. Thus, he wears pants so low that they are prone to fall down at inopportune moments. And he refers to women as "bitches and hos" in order to be down with his homeys.

Problems arise because he's also a source of embarrassment to his parents Bill (Ryan O'Neal) and Bess (Bo Derek), especially since his father is currently campaigning to be Governor of California. They decide to scare their son back to behaving

"white" by hiring a couple of bourgeois black actors, Sean (Taye Diggs) and PJ (Anthony Anderson), to kidnap him. The plan is to dump the "wigga" in the South Central, so that he can see what ghetto life is really like. Of course, the joke is that, as it turns out, B-Rad is more comfortable in the 'hood than his poser captors, and he even falls in love with the bootyful Shondra, (Regina Hall).

Malibu's Most Wanted is a star vehicle in the truest sense of the term. Parodying scenes from *8-Mile*, *Training Day*, *Bulworth* and elsewhere, Mr. Kennedy always remains front and center, as he's the only one allowed to get the good punchlines. So, don't expect to enjoy much of Anderson, Diggs, Damien Wayans, Snoop Dogg, Jeffrey Tambor, Blair

Underwood or the rest of the supporting cast.

I guess the idea was to give Jamie the stage for a modern-day minstrel act, one where he milks that fish-out-of-water theme over and over and over again by resorting to rap parlance in an Eminem accent. I never got tired of watching a white dude in a do-rag and dragging his pants use phrases like, "Off the Hizzook!" and "Don't be hatin'!" while misbehaving in all the ways ordinarily associated with inner-city thugs.

Silly, stupid nonsense, but I couldn't stop laughing. A movie *Eminem* should have made.

Very Good (3 stars). Rated PG-13 for expletives, ethnic slurs, gangsta' violence, sexual humor, and scads of scantily-clad females.



Nina Simone is shown in this 1993 handout file photo. Simone, the jazz great whose rapsy, forceful voice helped define the civil rights movement.

Jazz great Nina Simone dies at 70

NEW YORK (AP) - Nina Simone, whose deep, raspy, forceful voice made her a unique figure in jazz and later helped define the civil rights movement, died Monday at her home in France, according to her personal manager. She was 70.

Clifton Henderson, who was at Simone's bedside at her death, said she died of "natural causes" in her sleep after a long illness. He refused to provide the name of the town where she lived.

"She inspired other singers to do what they believed in," Henderson said, saying the musician would also be remembered for her activism. "She'll definitely be looked at as a civil rights movement leader."

Born Eunice Kathleen Waymon in 1933 in North Carolina, Simone was the sixth of seven children in a poor family. She began playing the piano at age 4.

In the late 1950s Simone recorded her first tracks, including "Plain Gold Ring" and "Don't Smoke In Bed." But she gained fame in 1959 with her recording of "I Loves You Porgy," from the opera "Porgy & Bess."

But she later wove the turbulent times of the 1960s into her music. In 1963, after the church bombing that killed four young black girls in Birmingham, Ala., and the slaying of Medgar Evers, she wrote "Mississippi Goddam," and after the killing of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., she recorded "Why? The King of Love is Dead." One of her most famous songs was the black pride anthem, "To Be Young, Gifted and Black."

Simone enjoyed perhaps her greatest success in the 1960s and 70s, with songs like "I Want A Little Sugar in My Bowl," and "Four Women" — the song with the famous line "they call me PEACHES."

She recorded songs from artists as diverse as Bob Dylan, Leonard Cohen and Bee Gees and made them her own. Perhaps one of her more popular covers was her version of "House of the Rising Sun."

While she had a regal presence onstage, she could often be temperamental; she had a reputation for chewing out audience members who interrupted her performances in clubs with conversation or loud drinking or talking.

Simone spent much of her recent time in France, and in a 1998 interview blamed racism in the United States for her decision to live abroad, saying that as a black person she had "paid a heavy price for fighting the establishment."

She left the United States in 1973 and lived in the Caribbean and Africa before settling in Europe.

Sometimes called "High Priestess of Soul," Simone stole the show at the Nice Jazz Festival in France in 1977 and also performed at the Thessalonica Jazz Festival in

(See Simone, Page 15)

R&B songwriter, guitarist Earl King dies at age 69

NEWORLEANS (AP) — Earl King, the prolific songwriter and guitarist responsible for some of the most enduring and idiosyncratic compositions in the history of R&B, died Thursday from diabetes-related complications, *The Times-Picayune* reported in Saturday's editions. He was 69.

Over his 50-year career, King wrote and recorded hundreds of songs.

His best-known compositions include the Mardi Gras standards "Big Chief" and "Street Parade"; the rollicking "Come On (Let the Good Times Roll)," which both Jimi Hendrix and Stevie Ray Vaughan recorded; and "Trick Bag," the quintessential New Orleans R&B story-song.

"'Come On (Let the Good Times Roll)' might be the one that people know, but I wish the world would hear more of his songs," said Mac "Dr. John" Rebennack, a longtime friend, fan and collaborator of King. "He approached songs from different angles, from different places in life."

In his prime, he was an explosive performer, tearing sinewy solos from his Stratocaster guitar and wearing his hair in an elaborate, upraised coif.

King's songwriting was informed by syncopated New Orleans beats and his interest in a broad range of subjects, from medieval history to the vagaries of the human heart and his own so-called "love syndromes."

"Most people say, 'Well, Earl, you sing the blues,' or however they want to categorize it," King said in a 1993 interview. "I just sing songs. I'm a writer, so whatever gymnastics jump through my head, I write about it."

Born Earl Silas Johnson IV, King described himself as a "nervous energy person" who constantly needed to be engaged in some creative pursuit.

He cut his first singles in the early 1950s, taking on the stage name "Earl King" at the suggestion of a record pro-

(See Earl King, Page 15)

**REWARDING
FINANCIAL CAREERS**

Cosmetology • Hair Design • Manicurist

Specializing In All Hair Textures
Learn The Latest Nail Techniques

**Now Accepting Applications
For Enrollment**

Call For Your Class Date
Flexible Full or Part Time Hours

Financial Assistance
BECOME YOUR OWN BOSS
eXpertise
School of Beauty
Over 50 Years of Teaching Experience
902 West Owens (Nucleus Plaza)
636-8686