

Xplosion brings hip-hop dance to masses

By Tasha Pope
Sentinel-Voice

The second annual Outrage Hip-Hop Dance Xplosion, presented by the Outrage Dance Troupe, will be held from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. this Saturday inside the Horn Theatre on the Community College of Southern Nevada's Cheyenne Campus, located five miles northeast of downtown Las Vegas.

Sweet Dreamz, Vegas Heat, Black Reign, CK Extream, Street Dreams, LQ's Performing Arts Center, Xplode and Futures are the dance groups that will compete for the prizes which

include 1,000 cash and a first place trophy.

According to Las Vegas Dance Theatre Studio's co-owner and dance Xplosion founder, Barry Yorke, the dance teams, some of which are coming from across the country, are putting their dance skills to the test to gain respect.

"The cash prize doesn't mean anything to them; it's all about the respect," Yorke explained.

Yorke, who has been dancing for 12 years, created this event as a fundraiser to benefit the Outreach Dance Foundation, which is an organization that offers free

performance and educational dance lessons for underprivileged children. These classes, which are held at the Las Vegas Dance Theatre Studios, are designed to give at-risk youth an outlet and the opportunity to learn a positive and fun activity. The Xplosion is strictly a "hip-hop" dance competition, according to coordinators.

"Straight hip-hop [that's] what this show is about. No groups will be intertwining salsa or anything like that. Hip-hop [represents] freedom of self. [Hip-hop] is the way you move to the beat. You become the rhythm, you become the base, your body

is the speakers," Yorke explained.

He said he decided to make this a hip-hop dance competition because there are no other shows like it in Vegas. "[Las Vegas] has done dance competitions in the past, [but this one is] for people who understand hip-hop."

Guests can come out and enjoy it, Yorke said.

Last year over 650 people came out to support the Xplosion dance competition.

"We had people outside waiting to come in the theater," Yorke explained.

He was very pleased with the attendance last year and

hopes for the same turnout this year.

During the competition, there are no judges. Nobody will tally points and cast official votes. Instead, the audience, by its approval — or disapproval — will help decide who winners of the prizes are through audible voting. "[We will have] Apollo style [judging]. At the end of the competition the audience will judge by their response," Yorke said.

Yorke said dance helped change his life, and he felt it was necessary to create opportunities to help other youth find a way to a brighter future.

"Growing up, I had anger issues. My mother put me in dance classes, and [dance] changed me into the man I am today," Yorke explained.

In addition to the competition dances, the night will include performances by the Outrage Dance Troupe and reggae artist J-LUV.

The Outrage Dance Troupe, a group of profes-

sional dancers have performed for entertainers including Brandy and B2K. These performers also teach the classes at the Las Vegas Dance Theatre Studio's. J-LUV, a local reggae artist, will also perform and sign autographs at the end of the show. Neither of these acts will be participating in the competition.

Registration for this event is closed and all the dance performers have been selected. Tickets for are \$10, and children under three years of age are admitted free. No food or drinks will be provided during this event.

Yorke said everyone just needs to "come prepared to scream," Yorke said.

Yorke hopes the Xplosion competition will grow and expand worldwide in the future.

"I want everything to be international," Yorke said.

For more information, call 858-5965 or visit www.outragedance.com.

Orange and black back for Impulse celebration

LOS ANGELES -For many, orange and black are the hues of jazz. Those were the distinctive colors on the spines of LPs issued by Impulse Records, the label that midwived some of the most important new jazz of the '60s and '70s.

The orange and the black will be back in a big way in June. Universal's Verve Music Group, which controls the Impulse catalog, will mount a celebration of the label's 45th anniversary that will see the release of a comprehensive Impulse history, a four-CD historical overview, 10

compilations of the label's best-known artists, a one-hour syndicated public radio show and the start of a tour featuring keyboardist McCoy Tyner, one of Impulse's central '60s performers, playing selections from the label's repertoire.

The book and four-CD set bear the same title: "The House That Trane Built," reflecting saxophone visionary John Coltrane's role in Impulse's development. The book, published by W.W. Norton, is by music journalist and radio essayist Ashley Kahn; it's an outgrowth of his

2002 work about the making of Coltrane's "A Love Supreme," the seminal 1965 work that became the label's bestselling title.

Kahn says that as he researched the Coltrane album, "The stories I was discovering (about Impulse) were too good to be true — a Hollywood screenplay couldn't have made it better."

The writer takes a detailed look at both artistic and commercial evolution at Impulse, which was founded in 1961 by the communications giant ABC-Paramount. Under the direction of Creed Taylor

(who went on to found CTI Records) and then Bob Thiele, Impulse developed a glossy, upscale look for its records, and ranged widely through the jazz of the day.

Revolutionary talents like Coltrane, his wife Alice, Charles Mingus, Archie Shepp, Pharoah Sanders, Albert Ayler and Charlie Haden cut keystone sides there, but so did jazz classicists like Duke Ellington, Earl Hines, Coleman Hawkins and Pee Wee Russell. Impulse's first big hit was "Genius + Soul = Jazz," an instrumental album by Ray Charles.

Juneteenth

(Continued from Page 2)

Union soldiers arrived in Galveston — finally — delivering the news about emancipation of the enslaved population of Blacks in the U.S. His arrival came more than 2 1/2 years after Presi-

dent Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation took effect on January 1, 1863.

Because of the migration to other cities by newly freed Blacks, the idea behind the celebration traveled across the U.S., and the many other cities began celebrating this date. Juneteenth is often referred to as African-American Independence Day.

There have been efforts around the nation to make it a national holiday. Juneteenth is one of America's fastest growing celebrations, as the number of cities recognizing it grows each year.

The Juneteenth celebration won't just be focused on food and entertainment, but The Pollard foundation will also select two high school seniors and award them college scholarships.

"Two graduating high school seniors will be selected, and they'll receive \$500 scholarships," Pollard said.

The scholarship recipients have not yet been selected and registration is open until May 31.

Students must write an essay and meet other requirements in order to be considered as a candidate for the competition.

For more information, call 255-6659 during business hours and ask for Kathy.

OH MYA

Mya Collins, below, models clothing from the Epperson fashion line during "Fashion Trip," an April 8 event that was part of the fourth Trunk Show at the Four Seasons inside Mandalay Bay. Though she didn't see her daughter stroll the catwalk, Collins' mother, Mya Lake Reyes, picked the same Epperson outfit. Nancy Justice (not pictured), chief executive officer of A Link to Fashion, organized the show.

Sentinel-Voice photos by Ramon Savoy

