



FSU films R&B group's video

By Isaac Morgan

Staff Editor

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Platinum selling R&B/Hip-Hop group, Pretty Ricky arrived in town Monday to shoot a music video for their upcoming single, "Say a Command" at Florida State University's Film School. The shoot featured local models, dancers, luxury cars and extras.

FSU Film School students were delighted to be chosen for this music video and worked hard to prepare the sound stage for the scenes.

"Pretty Ricky is a nationally known platinum selling group. I was more than willing to be the producer for the video and appreciative for the opportunity," said Iman Zawahry, FSU Film School alum and producer of the music video. "All the scenes for the music video are on the green screen located on the sound stage."

According to Zawahry, the budget was close to \$10,000. Creativity was a key element in the production of the video and the artistic minds of the directors required many talented crewmembers.

FAMU students were among the crewmembers on set assisting with various tasks and participating in scenes with Pretty Ricky.

Models and dancers from different organizations on campus displayed their skills during the shoot.

"We definitely reached out to individuals or company's skilled in body painting, make-up and costume design to capture the vibrant ideas for the video," said FSU film student and music video director Ade Bajere. "We were excited to have outside help from many students at FAMU and FSU."

"Say a Command" is the second single on the upcoming album titled, "Pretty Ricky" which is set to release in stores on Nov. 17.

Group members Diamond "Baby Blue" Smith, Spectacular Smith, Corey "Slick 'Em" Mathis and Lingerie made an appearance at Down Under apartment complex, located on Old Bainbridge Road before the video shoot to greet fans and promote their album.

"We came to Tallahassee to show love and support to our fans as well as shoot our music video for our single," Spectacular said. "This album is a continuation from our second album and will feature songs that we all can relate to, the clean version will be available in Wal Mart."

The "Mayweather Live Show" was also live at Down Under Apartments hosting the event and filming all the action.

"I have a personal relationship with the group Pretty Ricky. They are all about the fans and we had to show the community love by bringing them here exclusively," said Brashaad Mayweather, host of the "Mayweather Live Show."

"We will also be filming the behind the scenes for the music video shoot," Mayweather said.



Iman Zawahry Special to The Famuan

R&B group Pretty Ricky films their second single on the upcoming album titled "Say a Command" on FSU's campus.

“Building awareness through community action”

By Homer Rice

March 27, 2010

Greetings ladies and gentlemen! First let me say, I am honored to be chosen as the key note speaker for “Lyrical Brawl For The Cause.” I want to give a big thanks to Sean D for the great introduction, and to all the sponsors and everyone sitting here today who made this event possible. The conscious effort of just showing up makes this event a success and memorable. We all are of various ages, gender and ethnicities, but we have one thing in common; we value our lives and our health, or we wouldn't be in this building today. Is everyone eager to see the “rap battle” and excited about the many prominent figures in the building this evening? I know I am. If you would please give me your undivided attention I will keep it brief.

I want to challenge you all to inform at least one person who did not attend this event about things you will learn today, or already know regarding the STD epidemic. Raise your hand if you are well aware of the growing number of STDs in Florida! Ok, thanks. Unfortunately, African Americans between the of ages 15 and 24 have the highest STD rates in America. Many say that this is because of the lack of education and resources due to low income families. Although these stats may be from a credible source, efforts have been made to reduce the number of STD cases in predominantly black communities. A report published a year ago by the National AIDS Council, found lack of insurance and cultural stigma to be some of the many contributing factors of high rates of infection.

Health officials and the Department of Health have helped to fund programs providing free testing and counseling. To all the health professionals here today, I want to challenge you to become more involved in assisting with health fairs, community events raising STD awareness, such as this one, and reaching out to the areas in the community most affected by this epidemic. As students, parents, health professionals and public officials we must all contribute to educating, informing, and participating in decreasing the high rates of STDs. STDs don't care about the color of your skin and your family's wealth. They affect all of us! Community action is a must and will be the only way to decrease these soaring STD rates!

Okay, now I have stressed the importance of “community action” from all the different people in the audience. Let me elaborate upon this idea. For students, the action of safer sex practices and either abstinence or the PROPER use of condoms is what I mean by community action! Also I stress the importance of regularly visiting the clinic for STD testing if you choose to engage in sexual activity. Parents, we must be positive examples for our children to follow and help to counsel them about love and relationships.

If we as parents are not practicing safe sex, our children will be negatively influenced. And for all my health officials and/or professionals, we must be the nucleus. Meaning the educators and continue to do research, find more preventive measures. We must be passionate about our professions, and provide open doors to all ethnic groups regardless of the family's income.

Like I said before, reducing the soaring STD rates among African Americans requires “action” or involvement from all sectors of the local community! Challenge yourself, and participate in one of our many STD forums and health fairs hosted by the Leon County Health Department. Students take advantage of the resources provided to you, parents set good examples, and health professionals play your role as an administrator to the health concerns in the community! But remember this; it takes more than one single person to EDUCATE! Please “pass the word on” to someone who was not in attendance. I want to thank you all once again for your attendance first and foremost; for your attention and time, but most of all for keeping an open mind.

SAMPLE SPEECH WRITTEN BY ISSAC MORGAN

Wanted: FAMU acting students for project

By Isaac Morgan

Correspondent

Published: Wednesday, November 4, 2009

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Interested in acting? Akil DuPont is gearing up for his thesis film, "Underground", by seeking FAMU students who can sing and act.

The auditions are scheduled from 7p.m. to 9p.m. today in the Florida A&M University music recital hall.

DuPont said he is looking for talented individuals that will produce a show that is worthy of praise.

"As a former student at FAMU, I am confident in recruiting young talented students in various areas to bring the film to life and ensure its success," he said.

According to DuPont, he will select a cast that will portray slaves of the 1850s who risk their lives in order to escape the horrors of slavery.

"I can't wait until we start filming 'Underground', said Praheme Ricks, the director of photography of the film. "The story of slavery will never, ever be fully told. But this is our opportunity to bring a small part of it to life."

DuPont is hoping that the cast will feature talented Rattlers who will get as close as possible to capturing the essence of the slave experience.

"I am excited about this week's auditions and very eager to include FAMU students in my thesis film project for FSU Film School," he said. "However, it is not limited to FAMU students."

The main characters in the musical will include four black slaves ranging from five to 70 years old. The entire story will be told through song. Dr. Kawachi Clemons, a professor in the department of music, will direct the music.

DuPont is a current MFA student at Florida State University's Film School, and intends to entertain the audience as well as educate people about the history of slavery.

The idea for the film was manifested through DuPont's college career. During his tenure at FAMU, he discovered a passion for photography and beautiful images, and served as the president of FACES Modeling Troupe.

His position gave him a chance to practice his skills of creativity and color scheming, the same skills that he is using for his film production.

After being accepted to FSU's Graduate Film School in 2008, he knew that a rewarding future was ahead. This opportunity would allow him to combine his love for fashion with the art of film and music.

Ade Bajere, a professional music video director and a former peer of DuPont's in the film school, believes that "Underground" will be a major success.

"Akil is definitely a hard worker who is passionate about the film," Bajere said.

DuPont hopes that "Underground," will be that creative project that he has been waiting for since his early college days.

"It is essential that we recognize our ancestors who have fought for the freedom of African Americans and risked their lives in order to eradicate slavery in the U.S.," DuPont said.

No previous experience is necessary to audition for the film, and participants can either be talented in acting or singing, but both is not required.

For more information and to receive an audition script, email Akil DuPont at skidee@comcast.net.

"The film will be a learning experience and an Oscar award winning thesis project," DuPont said.



Special to The Famuan

Auditions for Akil DuPont's, "Underground" will be held today in the music recital hall from 7 to 9 p.m.



News Release

March 13, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RAP BATTLE TO INCREASE STD AWARENESS

"Lyrical Brawl For The Cause" entertains and educates the local community about STDs

The Florida Department of Health, along with celebrity guests, will come together to inform individuals about the STD epidemic at the "Lyrical Brawl For The Cause." The "rap battle" is an entertaining approach to help bring about STD awareness.

This event will take place at the Tallahassee Community College gymnasium on Saturday, March 27 at 6pm. Special invited guests include: Ernie Sims and Antonio Cromartie, NFL superstars, Lay Low of Lay Low studios, Marco Mall and Tay Dizm of Nappy Boy Entertainment.

To address the STD epidemic affecting African American youth, eight rap artists selected from the auditions will have thirty-second rounds to perform. The content of the lyrics must be relevant to STD awareness. Celebrity judges will determine the winners of each round.

Celebrity judges include: Tay Dizm, Nappy Boy recording artist, Marco Mall, manager of Tay Dizm, Tj Chapman of Tjs DJS music conference, and Lay Low of Lay Low studios.

After the final round, one rap artist will be chosen as the winner and get a chance to compose a jingle for FDOHs STD awareness soap opera, "As The World Burns."

Auditions will be held at FAMUs Jake Gaither gymnasium on Saturday, January 12, 2010. Judges will select participants for the rap tournament. The "Lyrical Brawl For The Cause" rap competition is a seven round elimination tournament determined by the judges.

Tickets will be sold for \$5 at various locations such as Clippers barbershop, Bella Donna, Traffic and Tee's Plus.

For more information, please contact Issac Morgan at (850) 491-3202 or by email at ike-05@hotmail.com.

The Florida Department of Health received a small grant from the Centers for Disease Control to help address the STD epidemic in Florida affecting African American youth between ages 15 to 24. One of the key initiatives is to launch a web site designed for individuals to find information about testing sites and other relevant content. Soap opera, "As the World Burns," will provide a modern day approach to the STD epidemic. Proceeds from the event will go towards the funding of the soap opera.

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Press Releases



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 15, 2009

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(BPRW) MORE BLACK WOMEN GO NATURAL WITH THEIR HAIR

(BLACK PR WIRE/FAMU-TALLAHASSEE) – Hair stylists at local shops have received an increasing number of African American women clients that cut off their hair and chose natural hair styles. Yata Bryant, a licensed hair stylist for Yata's Styles, said "I have noticed an increase in the number of clients wanting to go natural for reasons such as following trends and religious or spiritual beliefs."

According to Bryant, the beginning stage of going natural involves a lot of maintenance and is expensive. "A natural hair style such as interlocks requires a lot of time and materials which makes it very expensive," Bryant said.

The reason for choosing natural hair styles such as afros and locks varies among African American women. Ayanna Martinez, a senior broadcast student at Florida A&M University, chose to cut off all of her hair and go natural because of spiritual beliefs and influence from friends. "For me, natural hair is precious and is an outer expression of an inner change," Martinez said. "Since then, I feel that I have had a chance to get to know myself better."

Audrey Kennedy, a third year public relations student at Florida A&M University, chose to go natural after a stylist at a hair salon in San Francisco, California informed her that her hair was damaged because of chemicals. "When I visited the salon in my hometown, the lady told me I can't leave until I cut off all of my hair," Kennedy said.

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