

# REEL

## SOUNDZ OF SPIRIT

With hip-hop now a hot commodity in the realm of the pop music industry, the whole world has jumped on the urban music bandwagon. This has both its ups and downs. On one hand, more and more people have come to appreciate one of the more prevalent musical art forms and subcultures to stem directly from the inner city. On the other hand, the hip-hop that has generally found its way into the pop world is a poor representation of what the culture actually is. Filmmaker Joslyn Rose has been touring the nation with her documentary, *Soundz of Spirit*, with hopes of enlightening those who enjoy the music, but are not familiar with the art and culture of hip-hop.

Rose's documentary delves deep into the heart of hip-hop, using mostly the west coast underground scene as her subject. Amongst a line-up that consists of west coast notables Jurassic 5, Blackalicious, Dilated Peoples, Aceyalone and Del the Funky Homosapien, she also interviews east coast legend KRS-One and Talib Kweli. And Outkast's eclectic Andre 3000 represents the "dirty south." Throughout the documentary, she captures these artists as they partake in the creative process. They scribble lyrics, bounce ideas off their producers and DJs, and mesmerize live crowds. *Soundz of Spirit* is not just about the rapper, however, which is how this documentary separates itself from the mainstream. It stresses that hip-hop is not just about rapping and making money. Along the way, we're introduced to alternate methods of expression that are typically found in the sublevel of hip-hop culture. Famed breakdancer Crazy Legs uses the dancefloor as a way to vent emotions, graffiti artists use paint to express themselves, DJ Q-bert and Cut Chemist prefer turntables as their instrument of choice, and spoken-word poetry is performed by teens, The Last Poets, and Saul Williams.

The documentary opts for a less flashy approach than one would expect from a project covering hip-hop. There are no exaggerated, MTV-styled quick cuts or graphics, rather, each artist is allowed a pure, unadulterated moment to speak their mind. With so many negative images of hip-hop in mainstream media – whether it's violence or over-the-top materialism – it is highly recommended to anyone that enjoys or has a pessimistic opinion of the music to seek out this documentary. Rose has intimately captured the culture's true colors and positive messages concerning community, ethnicity, racism, creativity, spirituality and activism.



## Platinum Comedy Series: D.L. Hughley Live

D.L. Hughley joins the ranks of Steve Harvey, Cedric the Entertainer and Dave Chappelle with Urbanworks Entertainment's latest *Platinum Comedy Series* release on DVD. Like most fellow comedians, a large number of Hughley's current fans may not have been introduced to his hilarious antics

through his stand-up act, but through his film and television appearances. His big break came when he was chosen as the first host of BET's popular *Comic View*. However, it was his network sitcom *The Hughleys* that would literally make the comedian a household name. Now, as he lends his comic wit to movies such as *The Brothers*, *Chasing Papi* and *Scary Movie 3*, his popularity is sure to continue growing as his audience broadens.

*The Platinum Comedy Series* is perfect for fans old and new. Directed by Leslie Small, *D.L. Hughley Live* was filmed in front of a live (obviously), sold-out audience and presents D.L. at his finest: on stage, lettin' the jokes rip. He keeps the audience roaring with laughter as he tackles everything from dating and marriage, to politicians, and what would happen if sharks attacked his children. For those who are totally new to D.L., this serves as a great introduction and should be quickly followed up with Spike Lee's *Original Kings of Comedy*. Hardcore fans should also hunt down a copy of his spectacular 1999 HBO special, *Goin' Home*. For collectors of stand-up comedy, Urbanworks has outdone itself by releasing this series of top-notch comedians on the DVD format.



# DEAL

## Scary Movie 3

## Honey

2003 has been quite the year for horrifying movies. With flicks such as *28 Days Later*, *Freddy vs. Jason*, *Cabin Fever* and *Legally Blonde 2* having made it to the big screen this year, it should come as no surprise that the *Scary Movie* franchise has returned to cash in by once again spoofing Hollywood's trends.

The movie series that ridiculed the *Scream* Trilogy is back and ready to poke fun at a brand new generation of films. However, gone are the Wayans Brothers and in Keenan's place as director is the godfather of the gag-minute parody, David Zucker.

Whereas *Scary Movie 2* was nothing more than a half-hearted sequel cashing in on the unanticipated success of the first, this third installment is set to return the franchise to form, if not altogether improve on it. The director of *Airplane!* and the *Naked Gun* movies knows how to expertly handle lowbrow gags, silly spoofs and a list of cameos that may even put MTV award shows to shame. Along for the ride are Charlie Sheen, Eddie Griffin, Queen Latifah, Wu Tang Clan, George Carlin, Ja Rule, Fat Joe and what seems like several thousand others.

With a healthy dose of irreverent humor that roasts, amongst others, *8 Mile*, *The Ring* and *Matrix: Reloaded*, and features at least one celebrity favorite for all moviegoers, the latest *Scary Movie* completes what will now rank amongst one of the most groundbreaking trilogies of all time. Well, maybe not, but it does feature Leslie Nielsen once again teaming up with Zucker. The forever blundering Nielsen accurately portrays the President of the United States of America, which makes this writer wonder if Zucker was indeed going for a hilarious parody, or a relevant and telling biopic.



Queen Latifah grips her husband Orpheus (Eddie Griffin) by the ankles for a bullet-time beatin'.



Macy Gray sings the praises of David Zucker's last film, *My Boss' Daughter*, to co-star Anthony Anderson.

It has been some time since Jessica Alba has tasted the spotlight. As her first major project since the sci-fi television epic *Dark Angel*, Alba definitely has something to prove in Universal Studios' *Honey*. She stars as the struggling dancer and choreographer Honey Daniels, a young woman who wants her one big break and eventually gets it. However, everything isn't just chardonnay and pâté de foie gras for a beautiful performer.

*Honey* follows Alba as her dreams and successes are affectionately humbled by the exuberant energy of a group of neighborhood kids that remind her of the sheer joy of just bustin' moves out on the dance floor. Along the way, she befriends Benny (played by the young rap sensation, Lil' Romeo), a neighborhood kid who needs a break more than Honey could have ever imagined. The movie also stars Mekhi Phifer (*8 Mile*), as well as cameo appearances from some of the hottest acts in hip-hop/R&B: Missy Elliot, Ginuwine, Jadakiss and Sheek of The LOX, to name a few.

The film marks the full-length feature debut of music video director Billie Woodruff, who's directed videos for Usher, Britney Spears and Toni Braxton. Alba is sure to make jaws drop as she not only returns to star in a feature of her own, but also proves that she's got some hot moves on the dance floor.



Benny tells his little brother that he can't hang out with his crew and needs to go home.



Benny finally agrees to join Honey's neighborhood dance program.

Honey gives little Raymond (Zachary Williams) the love and attention he's looking for.



Lil' Romeo takes a break from filming to plug his new show on Nick and give big ups to No Limit.

