

Reggae Sunsplash coming to Hult

S•H•O•W•T•I•M•E

CONCERT: Reggae Sunsplash will be celebrated at the Hult Center tomorrow at 7 p.m. Tickets are available at the EMU Main Desk for \$20.50 or \$22.50 at the door.



Reggae fans can look forward to an orgy of their favorite music when the Reggae Sunsplash Festival hits town tomorrow.

From the traditional reggae beat to hip-hop and rap, this year's tour promises to cover the stylistic spectrum in a four-hour concert with artists such as Maxi Priest, Dennis Brown, Andrew Tosh, Shinehead, Little Lenny and Carlene Davis. Backing the tour is an eight-piece band, the A-Team, and an all female trio, The Burning Brass.

The touring group began seven years ago as an offshoot of Jamaica's Reggae Sunsplash Festival, a weeklong, 24-hour concert party now in its 14th year. Today, it is an annual summer event, a day of celebration in cities throughout Jamaica.

"This is a festival of good reggae music and plenty of good Jamaican jive," said Mark Tunkara, publicist with Entertainment Consultants Inc., the company promoting the festival.

"We hope to unite the world through music and to promote world peace and harmony."

Sunplash artist Shinehead is one of the few reggae singers to receive extensive air play on radio stations in the United States.

Reggae, however, has had an easier time in England. Maxi Priest, one of this year's top stars, got his start as a disc jockey in south London's dance halls, and his recent smash hit "Close to You" was number one on the Billboard pop charts last year.

Sunplash is a career step for Andrew Tosh, son of reggae legend Peter Tosh. Concert organizers approached him in 1989 with an offer to perform. "Where my career was going, this was the right time," said Tosh, who made up his mind after the death of his father in 1987 to carry on where dad left off and released an album titled *Original Man*.

"I'll be playing some quality music at the concert, like the kind my father used to play, but



Maxi Priest is one of the featured artists at this year's Reggae Sunsplash Festival.

only better," he said.

"There are a lot of good messages and good music at this celebration, and I think it's great, definitely fun and people will love it," Tosh said. "Everyone is nice to work with; everyone's professional."

Other reggae greats at the festival include Carlene Davis, who has had a string of hits since beginning her career in England 23 years ago. In 1987, she received the Jamaican music industry's best female vocalist award.

Dennis Brown, whose career also began in the late '60s, is known for his silky vocal style and thoughtful lyrics.

By Ming Rodrigues
Emerald Entertainment Reporter

"Byrthrite" examines clinics vs. hospitals

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PLAY: *Byrthrite* opens tonight at the Arena Theater of Villard Hall, 1109 Old Campus Lane, at 8 p.m. Additional performances are scheduled for May 16-18 and 23-25. Tickets, at \$4 for the general public and \$3 for students and seniors, are available at Robinson Theatre.



When David Mason and his wife were deciding if their child should be born in a birthing clinic or a hospital, they found themselves questioning the extent to which the medical profession and its technology play in such an intimate experience.

"We came into contact with a lot of people who were for the hospital sterilization practice and those who encouraged us to have our baby at home," said Mason, a master's student in theater arts who is directing *Byrthrite*.

"The feelings of what was right and what was wrong, morally and otherwise, were very real for us," he said.

So when Mason was browsing through some recently published books, he stumbled upon Sarah Daniel's complex drama *Byrthrite*, which deals with the traditional roles of men, women and the medical profession in child bearing, and found something he could relate strongly to.

"This is a play that questions the role of the medical profession in the birthing process," Mason said. "It reveals the constant struggle of women to stand up for and make the kind of choices that they believe in."

Byrthrite is set in the 17th century, a time when the medical profession was on the rise and the roles of midwifery and herbalists were becoming outmoded. The play depicts the fight of these midwives and herbalists against what they saw as medicine's technological intrusion into the birthing process.

In their struggle for recognition, some of the women join up with the British Civil War but soon discover that they have been seeking the wrong kind of prestige. They come to realize that real power lies in a sense of solidarity, a strength in conviction for what they believe in.

By Ming Rodrigues
Emerald Entertainment Reporter

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