

RELIGION

"Mainstream Marketability" Of Gospel Music



Men of Standard

Walt 'Baby' Love's Power '98 all star gospel music package -- currently trekking cross-country on a five month, 40 city tour -- is not your typical gospel production.

Rather, says co-promoter Al Wash "it's a sign of the ever-increasing maturity of gospel music -- its performers and its audiences."

Award-winning, best-selling gospel headliner on "Power '98" are Dottie Peoples, Fred Hammond, Hezekiah Walker, Men of Standard, Marvin Sapp, The Williams Brothers, and gospel comedian, Jonathan Slocum.

Love, a major gospel booster with a nationally syndicated radio program, "gospel Traxx," and Wash, head of the Dallas-based

ALW Entertainment, have conceived "Power '98" as a follow-up to last year's smash gospel success, "The Tour of Life." This became the most successful gospel tour ever: nearly 500,000 ticket buyers and visiting 90 U.S. cities.

"But 'Power '98' is designed as a full scale music show, not just a concert," says Love.

"There is a storyline, vignettes and sketches, and comedy... as well as the music."

In fact, the production was so complex that Love and Wash insisted on an extensive and intense rehearsal period before "Power '98" kicked off in January.

"It was an intense period. We had to

set everything up and get everybody in line with the script, which has been written by Fred Hammond, with input from Jonathan Slocum, and the entire concept of the presentation," Wash adds: "When we originally explained that we wanted to do something different from the usual concert package, all the artists became very excited."

The three-hour "Power '98" travels with its own sets and a special concert stage and lighting unit (designed to cover every type of theatre, concert hall and arena into which the production is already booked). Wash adds: "There no reason why rock bands should be the only ones to have this kind of presentation."

"Power '98" includes -- a first for

a gospel show -- non-musical actors.

Explains Love: "It's really the updating of a tradition. In the 1960s when gospel broke through into the mainstream for a period of time, there were shows such as "Black Nativity" that married a gospel narrative to gospel music.

"Power '98" does this in a very modern dress... One sketch involves a TV talk show, a vignette that comes with echoes of Oprah, Sinbad, Montel, etc. within its format. And we are introducing comedy with Jonathan Slocum, one of the funniest new faces on the comedy scene and who works with in the gospel dimension.

A Celebration of Life Charles Darrow

Charles aka "Chuck" Darrow



Charles aka "Chuck" Darrow passed away from cancer on Sunday, April 5, 1998. He was 57. A celebration of life and rosery service will be held at the Willamette National Cemetery on Monday April 13, 1998 at 1:00pm, African dress. He gave the world two children, a son, Timm and a daughter Jennifer, and two little grandsons, Grant and Jordan. He left his mother, Rosemary and his sister Loretta and his half brother Eugene. His niece, Heidi, and nephews, Christopher, Michael and Mark.

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Holocaust Remembrance Day Service to be Held April 22

Portland's annual **Yom Ha-Shoah** service will be held at Congregation Shaarie Torah on Wednesday, **April 22, at 7 pm.** Rabbi Larry Halpern, Executive Director of the American Jewish Committee Oregon Chapter will officiate.

The special guest speaker for the service will be Jacob Boas, author, scholar and immediate past Executive Director of the Oregon Holocaust Resource Center. Music for the service will be provided by local cantors and the MJCC Youth Choir directed

by Amy Shapiro. The service is sponsored by local synagogues, Jewish organizations and the Oregon Holocaust Resource Center.

Jacob Boas was born in Westerbork concentration camp. He was raised in the Netherlands. Mr. Boas has a Ph.D. in modern European history. He is the author of **We Are Witnesses: Five Diaries of Teenager Who Died in the Holocaust.**

Based on excerpts from the wartime writings of five Jewish children-the son of a Polish dairy-

man, a young communist in the Vilna ghetto, and Orthodox Jew in Brussels, a Hungarian girl from a wealthy family and Anne Frank in Amsterdam-**We Are Witnesses** chronicles the disintegration of daily life as ordinary families were persecuted, then murdered, under Hitler's "Final Solution."

For information on the Yom Ha-Shoah service call the Oregon Holocaust Resource Center at 359-2930. Congregation Shaarie Torah is located at 920 NW 25th in Portland.

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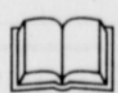
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