

"Double Trouble" Star Keeps Kids Out Of Trouble!

Michael Roberts, co-star of NBC's prime time series "Double Trouble," recently received a proclamation from Mayor Tom Bradley of Los Angeles for his work as a celebrity helping young people get off drugs.

Roberts, best known for his continuing role as Rooster on the popular long running TV series Baretta, is now playing Mr. Arrechia on the "Double Trouble" series. In addition to his many credits as a TV and film actor, Roberts has spent 8 years leading a campaign against drug abuse called Right Track.

Roberts was cited by Bradley, joining with Councilwoman Pat Russell, on behalf of L.A.'s citizens, for his "outstanding contributions to the community and the city in promoting and encouraging youth to resist drugs."

Right Track's unique approach is to use "celebrity pressure" to encourage youth to resist the "peer pressure" to take drugs, and to furnish re-



MICHAEL ROBERTS

...Noted TV actor

sponsible, ethical, successful role models for them to relate to and emulate. Right Track — with

Michael as Chairman of the Board — has recruited many celebrities who agree with Michael's anti-drug stand. The Right Track program provides these celebrities as guest speakers at schools and offers kids help in communicating their feelings and problems to parents and teachers, rather than withdrawing through drugs.

"Right Track has always viewed drugs," according to Mayor Bradley's proclamation, "not as the problem — but as the wrong solution to the problems faced by our young and has provided answers to these problems by giving youngsters alternative ways to solve their situations and by inspiring them to rise to greater achievements in their lives."

Michael himself is one of those role models. He admits that he himself was a drug user in the 60's. Then he found out about Dianetics, the self-help technology developed by L. Ron Hubbard, and the

classic bestseller DIANETICS: THE MODERN SCIENCE OF MENTAL HEALTH.

"With the assistance of DIANETICS I was able to see clearly for the first time in my life exactly what drugs had done to my life. This made it possible for me to inaugurate a program which prevents others from falling into the 'black pit of oblivion' called drug prestige. ('We're all cool because we're getting our heads smashed...') DIANETICS woke me up to this fact," Roberts said. With the help of DIANETICS, Michael is continuing to achieve his goals as a performer and contributing to his community.

Michael studied drama in high school in Los Angeles, and later at the California Institute of the Arts and the School of Performing Arts in San Diego, and with instructors Jeff Corey and Mana Tupu. He made his feature film debut in "Heartbreakers" and starred in "Ice Pirates" for which he was

nominated for a NAACP Black Image Award as best supporting actor.

He has guest-starred in episodes of "Jigsaw John," "Medical Center," "The Hulk," "B.J. and the Bear," and has had the rare opportunity of working with Richard Burton in an episode of "The Fall Guy."

His versatility as an actor and refusal to be type-cast, playing such diverse roles as the street-smart Rooster and the impeccable Professor Arrechia, is matched only by his genuine concern to provide role models for today's young people, and to enable them to live a better life.

Top Ballets Premiere At CPCC

Two new ballets created especially for Dance Central premiere at Central Piedmont Community College in March.

"Birthright" and "Reverie" were created by CPCC guest choreographer and instructor James DeBolt, formerly first dancer of the Norwegian National Ballet and soloist and principal of the New York City Ballet and the Joffrey Ballet.

Dance Central is CPCC's dance company.

In addition, Dance Central's winter performance will include a dance by renowned American dancer and choreographer Doris Humphrey. CPCC dance instructor Michele Allen has written a score of movements in the dance.

"This make us a part of dance history. We're lucky to be able to do this," said Mary Ann Mee, advisor of Dance Central and CPCC modern dance instructor. "This is a dance classic."

Also on the program will be "The Fragmenting," a psychological drama in dance choreographed by Katharyn Horne, and "Spring Sketches," choreographed by Michele Allen to the music of Mozart.

Performances will be in Taylor Hall on the CPCC campus on March 17 at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.; on March 16 and 23 at 8 p.m.; and on March 22 at 1 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Performances are free, but tickets are necessary as space is limited. For details, call 373-6436 from 8 a.m.-9 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays or 8 a.m.-3 p.m. on Fridays.

McCray: Practice Is Key Element To Success

By Loretta Manago
Entertainment Editor

Behind one of the doors of one of the rooms in the Little Children's Theatre, multi-positioned on the hardwood floor, practicing everything from a head spin to a hand spin were Juan, "Boogaloo", "Redman", Michael and "Lil' J." while posed leader of the group, Audrey McCray, alisa "Dj Ice Luv" gave instructions: "I want to see everybody dance for a full minute, non-stop." In the background, the music of the Fat Boys and Nolan Thomas blasted away.

This scene has become the weekly routine of the newly formed breaking and rapping group, DJ and the NC Breakers. In their initial phase of the aggregation, practice has become the center of concentration.

"We've been together since the end of November and we had been practicing daily up until January, then we went to a weekly schedule," commented Ms. McCray. Realizing that practice is a key element to a successful group Ms. McCray stressed that practices are taken very seriously. "In order for members to remain in the group, they have to meet a certain number of practices."

With such commitment, DJ and the NC Breakers are sure to be ready for their first public appearance. Although



DJ AND THE NC BREAKERS

...Take a short break

specific dates have not been set, Ms. McCray is looking forward to an upcoming engagement at the Bethlehem Center, sponsored by John James Production. "It's going to be like the Fresh Festival. There will be other breakers and rappers included on the program."

As a matter of fact it was the Fresh Festival that gave Ms. McCray the idea to form DJ and the NC Breakers. "When the Fresh Festival came to the Coliseum last year, the first thing I noticed was that there wasn't any female rappers. After that concert I began to develop

my rapping routine and added the idea of having some breakdancers. In the future I hope we can add some girl breakers to the act," explained Ms. McCray.

While Ms. McCray continued to relate the origins of the group, she added that most of the members reside in North Charlotte. "Coming up with the idea of DJ and the NC Breakers, I thought it would be a good way to give some young boys something constructive to do. And if we're good enough something worthwhile may come out of it. Besides, there's no sense in New

York having all the glory."

Because the group possesses creativity in choreography, an innate ability in dancing and a singlemindedness in their purpose, New York will have to share the abill of having the best dancers and rappers with DJ and the NC Breakers.

Juan Westbrook, an 11 year old student at Windsor Park has been breakdancing for about two years. DJ and the NC Breakers is the first group he has danced with. Although in love with every aspect of breakdancing his favorite move is popping.

Nathan "Redman" Fraizer at age 11 is a veteran to breakdancing. Having danced for three years, Fraizer has performed with Gypsy Breakers and the Jr. Revolutions. He is a student at Windsor Park and is fond of both poppin' and breakin'.

Michael Westbrook, age 13, a student at Windsor Park, has gotten other offers from people to join their group, but DJ and the NC Breakers is the first one he joined. What he enjoys best about this group is that they stick together. "My favorite dance movement in breakin' is the windmill."

Raymond "Boogaloo" Davis age 15, a student at Eastway Junior High has been breakdancing for two years. Having performed with the Smurf Patrol he likes the NC Breakers best because everyone knows how to dance. He considers himself to be the best popper there is.

Only 12 years old, Steven "Lil' J" Donaldson has been breakdancing for one year. He attends Plaza Rd. Elementary School and was once affiliated with the group, Tic Toc of Planet Rock. For him, the dance step he does best is the windmill. Also a member of the group is Shawn McCray.