

D Section

A & E

FOR SISTERS ONLY

Author bares soul of men



By Cheris F. Hodges

Charlotte author David Sparks has finally admitted something that women thought was true for years: "Man Has Lost His Damned Mind."

Sparks authored the book following his divorce, he said. "The book is about man, the social life of man. Manhood is in a crisis now. Man is losing his mind and now he's losing his place in society," Sparks said.

And, he added, it's because of the stupid things that men do. "Men are full of intentions but we lack the drive to see it through," he said.

Even though Sparks is black, he said the book is for all men and women.

"This book will give women some insight into why men act the way they do, but it doesn't excuse them," he said.

Sparks said men often hide behind their pride. "We are a messed up species," he said.

The book covers topics such as men's misconceptions to understanding weakness. It also covers the territory from when a boy becomes a man to a man becoming emotionally intelligent.

Sparks self-published the book. Please see SPARKS/2D



PHOTO/RCA RECORDS

Heather Headley will perform on April 9th with Charlotte native Anthony Hamilton at Ovens.

Always on stage

Actor/singer Headley comfortable with performance

By Cheris F. Hodges

Talking to Heather Headley is much like listening to her album - you can identify with her. She's like that sista girlfriend that you can share your man trouble and shoes with. Her music is smooth and like reading the pages of her diary (or yours).

"I don't want to sing about things I don't know about," said Headley, who will be in concert at Ovens Auditorium April 9 with Charlotte's Anthony Hamilton. "What you hear

on this album is not only me, but my willingness to take you places even I've never been before."

Billboard magazine describes Headley as one of the "greatest entertainers of the day on record and onstage." When her first album debuted in 2002, the recording studio was where the Broadway diva had never been.

"I think at first I was a little naive," she said about recording her album. "On Broadway if you can't sing, you get kicked out but in the music world you can go

back and fix things."

Headley said when she went into the studio she had to learn how to sing on a different type of microphone and it was more work intensive than she'd initially thought. But the work paid off and "This Is Who I Am" earned the Tony award winner two Soul Train Awards and a pair of Grammy nominations.

With "In My Mind" Headley reached the top 10 in the first week of its release. When asked if she had to choose between

recording and Broadway, Headley said she'd choose live performances every time.

"I like being on stage," she said. "Whether it's acting or singing."

Headley said being in the Broadway musical "Aida" was everything that she could have asked for in a show. She did eight shows a week, but her tour schedule with Hamilton won't be nearly that intense, with some all-important "Me Time" included.

"You need time to restore See HEADLEY/2D



And 'Justice League' for all



Justice League Season One Phil LaMarr, Carl Lumbly, George Newbern, Kevin Conroy, Susan Eisenberg, Maria Canals and Michael Rosenbaum Bruce Timm, creator Warner Home Video



It only took five years to bring a "Justice League" box set to market but it was well worth the wait.

There are only seven special features including commentary on three episodes. All except one has appeared on the single disc releases.

But none of that matters. It's the episodes of this groundbreaking series that make the box set worth the price. Far more than just a refresh of the ABC-TV series "Superfriends" (also available), "Justice League" fleshes out these iconic comic book characters. Series creator Bruce Timm wanted to make this one of the best representations ever, and succeeded mightily.

There were chances taken. Superman (George Newbern) is maybe a little too human. The Green Lantern (Phil LaMarr) is African American and eventually falls in love with Hawkgirl (Maria Canals, who is Latina). This version of Wonder Woman is nearly as strong as Superman and can also fly.

None of this has kept comic book aficionados away from the series. With each year it's gotten bolder and a bit more violent, placing it at 10:30 p.m. on Cartoon Network's schedule. This allows the series to deal with more complex subjects and relationships. Kids will still like it but grownups can marvel at the superb storytelling.

The first season is no slouch at presenting a good story. "The Savage Time" takes an interesting look at World War II, even including a dead-on rendering of Hitler. "The Enemy Below" introduces Aquaman, who's even crankier than Batman. "In Blackest Night" tests Green Lantern's faith in himself.

The original series was in regular pan and scan. Subsequent releases will be in widescreen. Oh, yes, there are lots more coming.

Ratings

Table with 2 columns: Rating category and star count. Classic: 4 stars, Excellent: 5 stars, Good: 3 stars, Fair: 2 stars, Why?: 1 star, No stars - A mess: 0 stars.

ART REVIEW

Lambla takes hammer to stereotyping

By Sandy Seawright

"Stereotypes: Confronting Cliches" McColl Center for Visual Art The Creative Crucible 721 North Tryon St.

Guest curator June Lambla of Charlotte attacks racial, national and age stereotypes with her curator's "visual hammer" of what she selects for this group show and what is displayed next to what. The result is viewers have their minds opened with lots to think and talk about and we get to see bold contemporary art and an unforgettable video unlike anything I have

seen here.

Roger Shimomura paints larger, colorful paintings that remind me of the work of pop artist Roy Lichtenstein. His Japanese men, inserted into domestic American settings, have large buck teeth just like the stereotype that Mickey Rooney played in the film, "Breakfast at Tiffany's." Shimomura directly addresses issues of discrimination. One of his wall labels states that in July, 2003 the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development made public that one in five African-Americans or Hispanics experience discrimination in renting or buying a place to live.

Iona Rozeal Brown creates acrylic on paper images that have the formal positioning of figures in Japanese wood block prints; however the prints feature Japanese youth called ganguro who darken their skin and pay big money to have their hair permed into huge afros. Brown is definitely doing what good art

always does. Taking what's there and looking at it in a new way. In looking at Brown's art we are seeing the familiar, the classic Japanese style wood block print, in a fresh way featuring subjects we have never seen. In "Fervor," a black-and-

white video by Shirin Neshat, we see how the tradition of Muslim women being segregated from men and women wearing

shadors, a veiled headress and shawl that covers their faces doesn't work to limit emotional and sexual attraction between the two sexes. This video is well worth the trip to the McColl Center.

German photographer Loretto Lux in her lifochrome prints, a term I had never heard before, photographs Caucasina children so they look like Dresden porcelain, i.e. like perfection. These children look like a highly techni-

See STEREOTYPES/2D

FILM REVIEW

'Inside Man' debuts at No. 1 with \$29M

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES—Denzel Washington's reunion with Spike Lee put them on the inside track at the box office.

Their bank-hostage thriller Inside Man, an unusually commercial project for director Lee, debuted as the No. 1 weekend film with \$29 million the best opening ever for both the filmmaker and his star, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Universal's Inside Man knocked off the previous weekend's top movie, the Warner Bros. action tale iV for Vendetta, which slipped to second with \$12.3 million. iV for Vendetta raised its 10-

day total to \$46.2 million.

Disney's fright flick "Stay Alive," featuring Frankie Muniz in a tale about a video game that brings death to its players, premiered in third place with \$11.2 million.

The weekend's other new wide release, Lionsgate's "Larry the Cable Guy: Health Inspector," a gross-out romp starring comic Dan Whitney investigating a food-poisoning outbreak, opened at No. 7 with \$7.05 million (euro5.89 million).

Stung by declining revenues over the last year, Hollywood broke out of its latest slump, with the top-12 movies grossing Please see INSIDE/2D



PHOTO/YAHOO MOVIES

"Inside Man" is the best debut for actor Denzel Washington and director Spike Lee. The two have collaborated on other movies including "Malcolm X."

Reynolds disputes her surgery danger reports

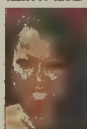
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Contrary to rumors, Star says she's A-OK

LOS ANGELES—Star Jones Reynolds has said that reports of her plastic surgery perils were greatly exaggerated.

Jones Reynolds, a host of "The View," called the daytime talk show to discuss her breast-lift surgery and to dispute what another host, Meredith Vieira, described as

rumors circulating that she almost died.



Reynolds

How are you, Star? Vieira asked her in the on-air conversation.

Well, can we first start with ... I did not almost die, Jones Reynolds replied. "I mean there is nothing worse than sitting in a bed watching a scroll across the TV that says 'Star Jones faces death' I went, 'Oh, my God, I did?'"

Joking that she wanted to keep the show "abreast" of the situation, Jones Reynolds said she merely required a blood transfusion because of the March 17 surgery at a Santa Monica, California, hospital.

The doctors "all knew that I was anemic and just in case I ended up needing some blood, which I did, they were prepared. They gave me the blood and literally I was fine right afterwards," Jones Reynolds said, adding she was conscious during the transfusion.

Vieira asked her to describe the operation, which Jones said included receiving implants. "It's a little bit of a hoist because after you lose some weight you sometimes go real flat, and I really wanted to lift them up," said the once-heavyset Jones Reynolds, who has slimmed down considerably. Asked by guest host Tisha Campbell-Martin if her bosom was perky, she replied: "Well, let's just put it like this: Friday was my 44th birthday but my (breasts) think they're still 20."

