

Exclusive Interview

James Is Outa Sight!

entertainment

By AVON PRIVETTE

James Brown and his show at Memorial Auditorium in Raleigh last week were just out of this world. James, his 18-piece band, The Flames, his dancers — all were just too much.

All his fans (5000 of them) from the area were there, ready to see Mr. Dynamite himself.

The show was a combination of his band doing instrumentals and backing him up when he played the organ, a comedy act, and James' selection of hits. They included "I Feel Good," "Papa's Got A Brand New Bag" and "Prisoner of Love." As he rendered "This Is A Man's World," there was a stillness in the crowd. Everyone was spellbound as his heart and soul poured forth the meaningful lyrics, that resounded all through the building.

Through the auspices of Joe and Elliot Murnick of C & M Productions, I was granted an interview with the one and only James.

When I entered his dressing room he was reading the article I had written about him in the Daily Tar Heel last week. That got us acquainted so our interview got off to a bang. After chatting five or six minutes, I remembered to turn on the tape recorder.

Here it is, my interview with the King of Soul, James Brown.

DTH: "Though everybody has their own definition of your 'sound,' I know your own terms will add more meaning to them."

James: "Well, my music is like you explain here in your column. I say, I say column. I appreciate it — the phenomenal write up you gave me. It really made me feel good. But I'd like to say my music is like everyday living. I like to play it like I see it. Like the umpire says, 'I call it like I see it.' And this is the way it goes. Its a religious thing, its a happy thing, but its like everyday living. That's what it is. You know you said (in the write-up) 'its you inner self.' That's right. I had a lot of problems in my childhood. It was real rough for me to make it, you know. I had to get out and work at an early age, but thanks to everybody else I made it."

DTH: "You've bought a new Lear Jet airplane, haven't you?"

James: "Yes, I have."

DTH: "Did you fly into Greensboro (James had played Sunday in Greensboro)."

James: "I flew into Greensboro and I flew into Raleigh, too! It's out at the airport now."

DTH: "Of the many instru-

ments you play, do you have one favorite?"

James: "I like the organ, but I like the drums too."

DTH: "Are you going to play the drums tonight?"

James: "I won't get a chance tonight, because I've been out twice already and I gotta go back again."

DTH: "I guess you've lost a few pounds already."

James: "Ha, ha, ha. I don't want you to think too much until you see the next part of the show. That's THE part."

DTH: "I'm saving most of my film for it. Do you have one favorite song?"

James: "Well, I love 'Please, Please' with all the heart and soul I can come up with. 'Please, Please,' that was my beginning. You know, it was the beginning of James Brown. And it seems that everybody likes 'Please, Please' better. Most of the people do, you know. But everybody has their own favorites too, like this last song I just recorded about don't be a school dropout."

DTH: "That was really tremendous. (He had just performed this prior to the interview) You, Bobby (Byrd), and the cheerleaders. It was well liked."

James: "Yeah! Did you see the response we got from the audience?"

DTH: "I got a picture of that. It was so sharp. You could see a warm glow in their faces."

James: "Right, they really liked it."

DTH: "It was thoughtful for you to do it."

James: "Thank you, thank you very much. Well, its not the thing of whether you want to make money all the time. You want to make it worthy of our country. I want to make our country better."

DTH: "That's a noble thing for you to say."

James: "Yeah, this is something, and I want to do everything I can. And the only way we can learn to get everything big to really go is to raise that level that we live on, and our standards. Like going to school. We got to get a good education. We need to make our living standard higher, you know. Then things are better for us. But there'll always be some laborers around

but we want them to be skilled because — This is THE country. America is the country. I've been to all the foreign countries, but America is the country.

DTH: "Hearing this from you sure makes me feel good."

JAMES: "Oh man. I've been every place. I don't want to go no other place, not me."

DTH: "I know of 13,000 students who'll appreciate that."

James: "Thank you very much. I want to say thanks to all the kids in school. Stay there until you finish. Because if you don't you're gonna regret it in your later days, you know. You may as well be dead if you don't have an education."

DTH: "Do you have a favorite building in the area to perform in?"

JAMES: "Well, believe it or not, I like the Memorial Auditorium (in Raleigh.)"

DTH: "The acoustics there are better."

James: "Yeah, I like the Memorial Auditorium. It kinda carries me back. I think about a while back when I used to play there."

DTH: "One thing you many fans appreciate is that you always show up when you schedule a performance. Back last January when it was snowing and sleeting, and the crowd was small, you still put on a grand show."

James: "Well, I'm always gonna do that. Because if one person comes I'm gonna give him a show. Fame is one thing but friends is another. I'd rather have friends."

DTH: "Thank you so much for the chat."

James: "Well, go see the rest of the show and then come back and let me know what you think. You can leave the recorder here. I'll sign some pictures for you. You can pick them up after the show."



Please, Please Me

DTH Photo by Avon Privette



Prisoner Of Love



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Papa's Got A Brand New Bag

Tomorrow In The DTH

As National Fire Prevention week draws to a close, the Daily Tar Heel will present a detailed report on the dangers of fire in Victory Village.

Every student in the Victory Village complex will want to learn of the extent of danger to his family and property and what he can do to ward off the disaster.

Your life might even depend on the fire safety tips you will pick up by reading "Victory Village Residents: Do You And Your Family Live In A Fire Trap?" tomorrow in the Daily Tar Heel.



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