

## Yugoslavian dance company performed Europe's gypsy music at ECSU

By Marty Jacobi

Splashes of color moved about the stage when Frula, a company of Yugoslavian dancers, performed at Moore Hall Auditorium on Nov. 18 as part of Elizabeth City State University's Lyceum Concert Series.

Frula, also a small wooden type of flute, is the name of an international company of 30 dancers and musicians whose folk dancing and music revved the audience up at Moore Hall with the traditional Greek kicks and foot-slapping dances, and calmed viewers with soothingly rhythmic eastern melodies and graceful moves.

Dragoslav Džadzevic, the art director and choreographer of the Tzigane tour, said the reaction to their two-month tour in the United States, which included a stop at Carnegie Hall, was well received.

"Almost all the halls sold out," he said. "It's the 27th tour in the states, coast to coast." After the ECSU performance, the group had two more shows before returning to Yugoslavia.

Tzigane, meaning Gypsy, draws on material from Spain, Hungary, Russia, Rumania, Turkey, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and Greece. The six-piece live orchestra featured Pista Baci, who is known

as "the world's greatest Gypsy violinist." The entourage provided the backdrop to the dances, as well as performing a few solo numbers.

It was a virtual history lesson as the music and dance told the gypsy stories of eastern and southern Europe. Each dance related an ethnic story or cultural aspect of a region or expressed the feelings of a particular people in a region or country.

One dance, called the "Silent Dance," portrayed the strong desire of the Serbs to dance, even during hundreds of years of Ottoman Turkish occupation in Serbia, when the Serbs had to hide deep in the forests of the mountains. The only sound of the dance on the Moore Hall stage was of the girls' shoes as they performed some lively footwork.

The "Cikosi Dance" expressed the excitement of the famous horsemen, called Cikos, from Hungary, Rumania and Yugoslavia; while the "Last Dance" evoked the feelings of loneliness experienced by the wandering peasant shepherds of Vlasi.

In South Macedonia young girls prepared for a wedding by washing the bridal linen in a lake. The dance was performed with long strips of linen



photo by Marty Jacobi  
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The dazzling diversity and contrasts of Yugoslavia are expressed by this dance, aptly named "Yugoslavia".

waved into a variety of patterns, including the bride's veil.

The second act was devoted to the life of the Gypsy. It emphasized the intricate footwork of the women and leaps and antics of the men. "The Woodcutters" described the joy of the gypsy woodsmen in reuniting with old friends after months of solitude and hard work in the forests.

The Gypsies, who originally came

from India and spread out into many countries, kept their traditional ways of life, yet added a touch of the local customs into their dances. The "Gypsies' Fate" depicted a farewell to the king, the immigration of the gypsies and their adaptation to their new homes.

The Series' next performance will be "The Snow Queen" on Sun. February 28th at 7:30 p.m.

## Ice Cube returns with WAR and PEACE.

By Ronel Brewer

Having never been a fan of the West Coast or Southern style of rap, for years I've been thoroughly intrigued with a young man by the name of O'shea Jackson. You might know him as Ice Cube.

It's not surprising though with him being one of the most enduring, versatile, controversial, and engaging figures ever to emerge out of the hip hop culture.

Having established himself as a film phenomenon- acclaimed actor, screenwriter, director, and producer- Cube comes back with a vengeance. He lets you know that he's out for a while but he's definitely not gone.

He's spent most of 1998 working at an astonishing rate, completing not one, but two full-length albums entitled WAR and PEACE.

"War and Peace is my best record in years," says Cube.

The first volume War was released on November 17, 1998, on Priority Records, with Peace to follow in 1999. Just as his album Death Certificate presented a life side and a death side, Cube explores the war/peace dialectic in well over 2 hours of music.

"The War disc is talking about what I think is the war of life and war of living," Cube explains.

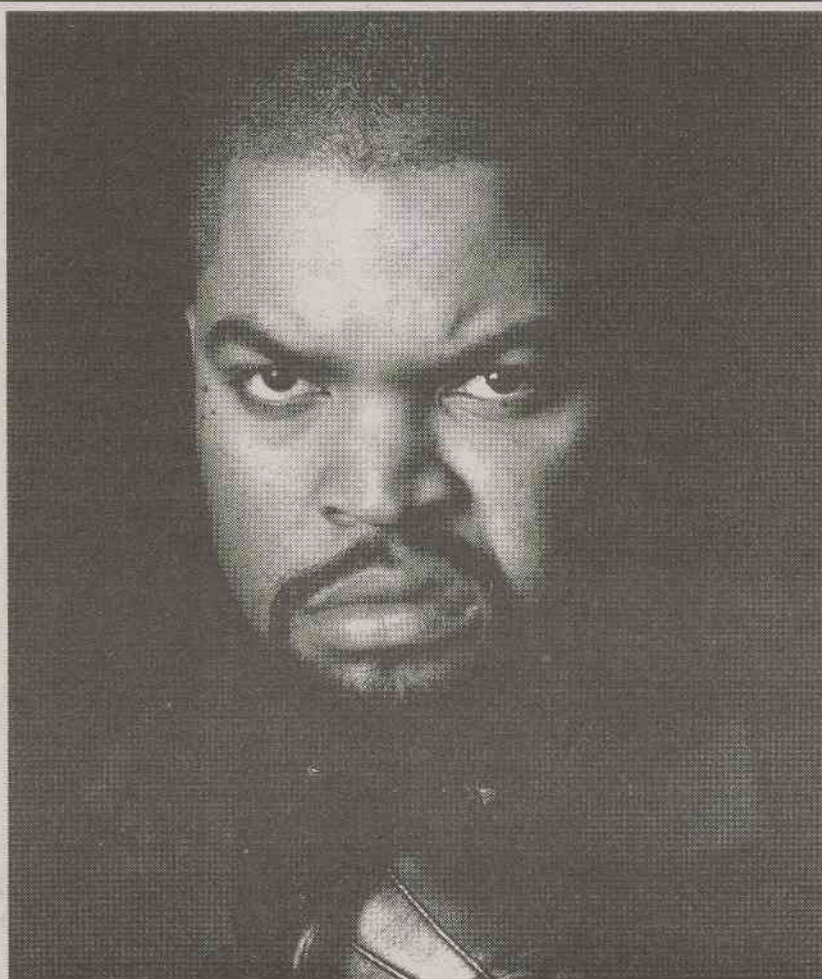
"And Peace is gonna be a different look; it's a different record than any I have ever done."

Cube can't be but so modest about the music "The production on this album is superior to anything I have ever done." This album features a collection of artists including: Master P, Short Khop, and Mack 10. His first single to drop was "Pushin' Weight". I'm sure that any car with a booming system would appreciate the low tones emitted on every track.

The interludes alone are almost enough to make you want the album. The dark and gloomy voices put you right in the thick of "War." You can listen to this album from beginning to end, as a matter of fact, you might not be able to listen any other way. This amazing Ice Cube production captures you, much like a movie, takes you to a climax and resolution, all the while never letting you go.

I guess Ice Cube said it best, "I can never play out, because people are still biting my styles," referring to his first solo album, Amerikka's Most Wanted. Just think that this is one of two discs (War and Peace) and the best is always saved for last."

Peace



**ICE CUBE** WAR & PEACE

PRIORITY RECORDS