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John Amos brings one-man show to WSSU.

Mellow Mushroom brings good fun and food to Winston-Salem.

## ENTERTAINMENT

## John Amos brings 'Halley's Comet' to WSSU

## MEDIA RELATIONS

The Winston-Salem State University Lyceum Cultural Events Series and the Office of Student Affairs proudly presented critically acclaimed actor and playwright John Amos in *Halley's Comet* on Saturday, March 25, in the Kenneth R. Williams Auditorium.

Amos, the Emmy-nominated actor for his portrayal of the adult Kunta Kinte in *Alex Haley's Roots*, has been on a world tour with *Halley's Comet* for the past 14 years. This year marks his 15th season.

Written by Amos, *Halley's Comet* is a simple story line of an 86-year-old man visiting with the comet for the second time in his life, which has enthralled hundreds of thousands of theater-goers around the world.

Amos continues working with his newly established foundation, the Halley's Comet Foundation. He portrayed Mayor Ethan Baker on CBS' *The District*, had a recurring role with NBC's Emmy Award Winning *The West Wing*, as Admiral Percy Fitzwallace, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and was featured in The WB's *All About The Andersons*, starring as comedic actor Anthony Anderson's father.

Critics here and abroad have dubbed *Halley's Comet* a tour de force, destined to be a classic, and labeled Amos a masterful storyteller.

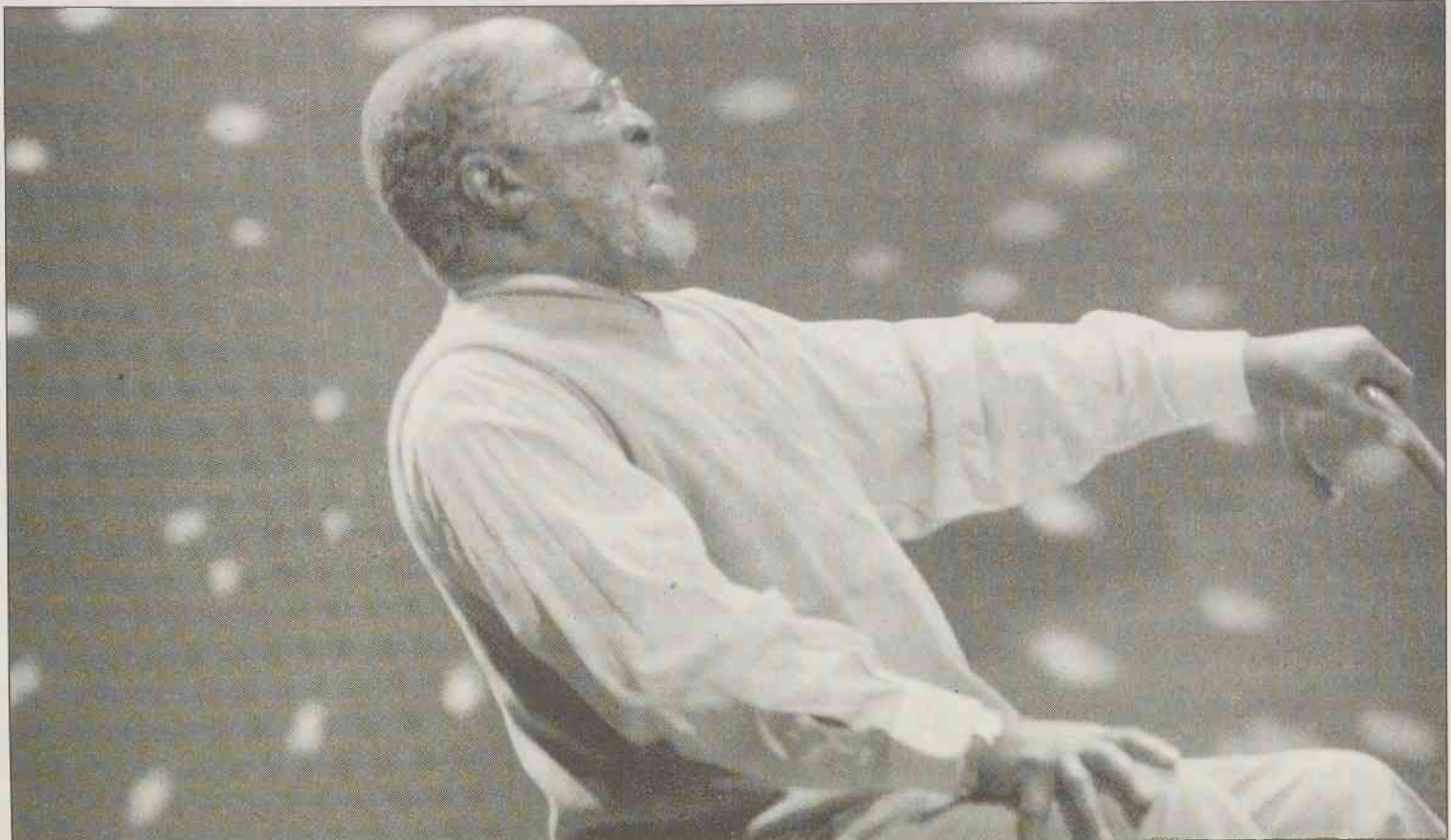


Photo by Garrett Garms

John Amos puts on a one-man play about an 86-year-old man who meets with the famous comet for the second time in his life in "Halley's Comet."

## David Pelzer tells of unfathomable abuse in 'A Child Called It'

By Lauren Boyce  
ARGUS REPORTER

This book tells the story of David Pelzer, who was physically and mentally abused as a child by his mentally and emotionally unstable, alcoholic mother.

In *A Child Called It*, Pelzer retells his horrific story of unimaginable and unbearable abuse that has become one of the most severe child abuse cases in the history of

the state of California.

Besides his reflections on his childhood struggles for survival, the book also focuses on his unflinching and unyielding determination.

"I decided that I would use any tactic I could think of to defeat Mother or to delay her from her grizzly obsessions. I knew that if I wanted to live, I would have to think ahead. I could no longer cry like a helpless baby.

In order to survive, I could never give into her. That day I vowed to myself that I would never, ever again give that [expletive] the satisfaction of hearing me beg her to stop beating me."

Told from a child's perspective, *A Child Called It* takes the reader on an emotional rollercoaster. Throughout the entire book you will find yourself enduring his pain, praying for his relief and empathizing with his need for

love.

No one is able to fathom the inhumane ways his mother treated little David. From feeding him ammonia to forcing him to soak in a tub full of cold water with his head submerged under the water for hours on end. This book is filled with stories of abuse that are deeply disturbing.

"Mother then ordered me to climb up onto the stove and lie on the flames so she could watch me

burn. I refused, crying and pleading, I felt so scared I stomped my feet in protest, but Mother continued to force me on top of the stove."

*A Child Called It* opens the eyes of its readers not only to the reality of child abuse in America but also to the powerful and unbreakable human spirit that lives in us all. David Pelzer's story is inspiring to us all. The fight within us is awakened with every page turned.



Photo by Garrett Garms

Mellow Mushroom offers good food in a relaxed atmosphere.

## Mellow Mushroom brings college atmosphere to downtown area

By Michael Siegrist  
ARGUS REPORTER

Winston-Salem's hot spot for pizza is the newly opened Mellow Mushroom. Located on the corner of Fourth and Marshall Streets, the restaurant offers great opportunities for fun, food and drinks.

The brightly painted restaurant gives the feel of the '70s, with its psychedelic mushrooms, laidback, hippie staff and groovy, soft music playing in the background—the Red Hot Chili Peppers provided the mood music this particular day.

The menu offers a variety of pizza choices ranging from 10 to 16 inches. The Magical Mystery Tour pizza has pesto sauce, spinach, Mozzarella

cheese then topped with Portobello and button mushrooms, Feta and light jalapenos. This is one of the 12 specialty pizzas Mellow Mushroom has to offer.

The Gourmet White pizza was quite enjoyable. Great crust, not too thick and quality Feta help the pizza rise to the occasion.

"I really like it, best pizza in Winston," said Tara Hester, a restaurant patron.

The smoking section is completely blocked in to add comfort for nonsmokers.

In the summer, the front of the restaurant opens out into the street. "We plan on putting a lot of patio tables out there when it starts to get warm,"

said Mellow Mushroom waitress Kristen.

The new restaurant has opened with a bang. Some say the place gets too crowded, but on a recent Wednesday night, the restaurant was only filled to about 50 percent capacity.

The new hot spot offers intriguing late night choices as well as accommodating the business crowd for lunches.

The restaurant is open daily: Sunday-Wednesday — closes at 11 p.m.; Thursday, Friday and Saturday — opened till 2 a.m.

The service is prompt, the food is good and the atmosphere is interesting.

## E-40 releases first album in three years

By Brian L. McLaughlin  
ARGUS REPORTER

Vallejo-born rapper, E-40, confirms that he is the king of slang with his first album in three years, "My Ghetto Report Card." E-40 unleashes his patented slang to a new generation of listeners with this new album, which features singles such as "Tell Me When to Go."

The 38-year-old hip-hop veteran, who describes himself as a "street narrator," says the way he stays new is by "Getting with these young cats and reinventing myself. 'Tell Me When to Go' is the first song in nearly a decade by a [San Francisco] Bay Area performer to have major national impact and promises to be the biggest of E-40's 19-

year recording career, according to freelance writer Lee Hildebrand, in an online article titled "Hip-Hop Goes Hyphy" on <http://www.sfgate.com>.

The album also introduced a wide, national audience to "hyphy," a word used to describe "the wild antics associated with participants in and onlookers at spontaneous, usually illegal car sideshows that have been spreading beyond their East Oakland origin to neighborhoods throughout Northern California," Hildebrand reports in the March 12 online article.

The album has 20 tracks and guest appearances from Mike Jones, Juelz Santana, T-Pain and the Federation. Other producers on the album

include Kanye West, Rick Rock and E-40's 18-year-old son, Droopie. The hit single "Tell Me When to Go" was produced by Atlanta hip-hop star Lil Jon, and features Oakland rapper Keak Da Sneak.

There's an assortment of songs for all to like, ranging from "Muscle Cars" to the smash hit "Tell Me When to Go" where the listener can get their hyphy on.

If the listener can adjust to E-40's accent and own slang, this will be an enjoyable album. The hyphy phenomenon has been bubbling in the Bay area for the past several years. What Crunk is to Atlanta, and what Screwed is to Houston is what Hyphy is to the Bay. The movement has spawned its own form of dance —

dancers compete for the dominance of the crowd; a form also known as "going dumb."

The hyphy look is jeans, white T, dreads and big sunglasses called "stunna shades." Of course, the main component of hyphy is the cars. The ride of choice is the "scraper," a classic four-door Sedan (Buick, LeSabre, Park Avenue) pimped out. The car has to have colored tint, big rims, big pipes, and a stereo system that can be heard around the corner.

It's not all about the look though. One has to be able to gas, break and dip, do figure eights, donuts and "ghost ride the whip" (which is driving hanging out the door making it appear as if the car is driving itself).

## 'Final Destination 3' could be best yet

By Travis Stinson  
ARGUS REPORTER

You've heard people use the expression, "three is the charm," meaning the third try finally worked or worked best. Well, I believe this description fits in the case of movie *Final Destination 3*.

The setting for this thriller is a theme park on senior night. Wendy, played by Mary Elizabeth Winstead of *Sky High*, is shooting digital pictures for the yearbook. But she sees a horrible accident in a vision,

just as her boyfriend and another couple get ready to ride "The Devil's Flight" roller coaster. Wendy's best friend's beau, Kevin (Ryan Merriman) gets off, as do a couple of other reluctant classmates. Security takes Wendy off the roller coaster because she's making such a scene and scaring the other riders. But they won't let her boyfriend get off. And, sure enough, as soon as the ride takes off, there's a crash and the riders die horribly.

And, the dying doesn't end there; it goes on throughout the

movie.

In my view, *Final Destination 3* is the best yet in the *Final Destination* series. Overall, this movie was very good and I do recommend others to see it if you like horror thrillers.

Cast: Mary Elizabeth Winstead, Ryan Merriman, Texas Battle, Kris Lemche.

Director: James Wong.

Running time: 1 hour 30 minutes.

Industry rating: Rated R for strong horror violence/gore, language and some nudity.