

Jay-Z bites off more than he can chew

commentary by Olivia Page
staff writer

Jay-z, a.k.a. Shawn Carter, a.k.a. Jigga, a.k.a. "Number One Biter."

Yes, Jay-Z is the "Number One Biter" according to Issue No. 45 of "XXL" Magazine. How is this so?

Imagine yourself in a car, listening to a Jay-Z CD in your car.

You sway your head to the commercial beats and you notice a verse that sounds like something you have heard before.

Most likely, you have heard the verse before and it is also likely it's just slightly altered version from Tupac or Biggie. Sometimes the verses on a Jay-Z track are even the exact same as those by the rap superstars.

Now, don't misunderstand. This lyric swapping is not sampling. Sampling is when a recording artist pays another recording artist for beats or lyrics. In Jay-Z's case, lyric biting is more like copyright infringement.

One of the most noticeable Jay-Z biting sagas took place this year with Jay-Z and Beyonce's "Bonnie and Clyde." This controversial "remake" of Tupac's "Me and my Girlfriend" turned the rap classic into a commercial hip-hop track. Both songs not only mention driving and other scenes, but also have a very similar chorus, with only a one-word difference.

Tupac's version has "bloody end," while Jay-Z's has "very end." Jay-Z also switched some parts of Tupac's lyrics such as "turn this house into a happy home" to "let's lock this down, like its supposed to be." Basically, the only originality of the Jay-Z song is having a girl, Beyonce, singing.

Jay-Z "dissed" Tupac on the 1999's "Reasonable Doubt" album in "Brooklyn's Finest," a song with Biggie. Tupac in turn "dissed" Jay-Z in "Bomb First" and "All Out."

Tupac is not the only one on Jay-Z's bite list. The Notorious B.I.G. is not only referenced, but also bit from, on numerous Jay-Z songs.

Jay-Z changes Biggie's "I see some ladies tonight that should be/ having my baby...baby." Jay-Z has "I see some ladies tonight that should be rolling with Jay-Z, Jay-Z." On



PHOTO BY ROLLINGSTONE.COM

Master "biter" Jay-Z.

"Squeeze First," Jay-Z says "that's why I squeeze first, ask questions last, that's how gangstas pass." Big's "Hypnotize" has the same verse. Jay-Z also has a verse in "Give it to Me," which is basically the same as Big's "The World is Filled."

Jay-Z even copied Nas, another contender on his "diss" list aside from Tupac, with "Never Change." Nas's verse on "Verbal Intercourse" is very similar.

Jay-Z also has some very similar verses when compared to Dr. Dre, Mase and Snoop Dogg.

Notice when the artist Tupac, Biggie, Dr. Dre, Mase and Snoop Dogg came out with verses that Jay-Z "bit," from a commercial rap was not even in their vocabulary. Jay-Z is prized platinum artist, known for commercialization. He has the club beats matched with choruses that stick out. He has also done numerous sampling in which he has followed the copyright laws and paid just dues. Among songs he has sampled from are Jacksons 5's "I Want You Back," in "Not Guilty," and segments from the musical "Annie" in "Hard Knock Life."

Joining the TV family

More gay characters reflect real life

by Donna Petrozzello
New York Daily News

Garry said.

For years, GLAAD and other advocacy groups have urged the broadcast networks to use gay parents prominently in prime time.

"It's All Relative," which begins Oct. 1 at 8:30 p.m. EDT, stars Lenny Clarke ("The Job") and Harriet Sansom Harris ("Memento") as parents whose son gets engaged to a woman who's been brought up by two gay men, played by John Benjamin Hickey and Christopher Sieber.

For executive producers Craig Zadan and Neil Meron, who developed

Gay and lesbian parents looking at the small screen this season will find something rarely seen on TV--themselves.

"This is one of the first times that I've gotten to see someone like me on prime-time TV," said Joan Garry, a lesbian, mother of three and the executive director of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD).

The fall lineup has several openly gay or bisexual characters, some of



Michael C. Hall (right) with the rest of "Six Feet Under's" Fisher family cast.

PHOTO BY HBO

them moms and dads. Among them: ABC's "It's All Relative" and Fox's "A Minute With Stan Hooper," each features a gay couple in a long-term relationship.

One of the characters on NBC's "Coupling" is a bisexual Asian-American woman.

CBS' "Two and a Half Men" stars Charlie Sheen as a man whose estranged sister-in-law is gay.

While the number of gay or lesbian characters has not increased dramatically--it's essentially even with a year ago--they include the kind of family-based, realistic roles that has made GLAAD take note.

For example, GLAAD cites ABC's new sitcom "It's All Relative," whose gay couple has a daughter, as a broadcast-TV breakthrough.

"I hope ABC uses the show to give people a closer look at some of the realities of the gay parenting experience for both the parents and the kids,"

"It's All Relative," the show couldn't have come at a better time.

With series such as Bravo's "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy," HBO's "Six Feet Under," Showtime's "Queer as Folk" and NBC's long-running "Will & Grace," Zadan said, viewers have been primed to accept a wide variety of gay characters on TV. "These shows are all representative of people in gay communities, and ours is just another take on it," Zadan said.

"We want to present families the way that they exist in this world," Meron added. "Families aren't defined by blood anymore, they're defined by love."

Despite its optimism over a handful of shows, GLAAD notes that most of TV's gays still are affluent white men. "We're looking for more stories, more dimension and more depth to gay characters," added Garry. "The media absolutely has a responsibility to reflect the world around them."

Dancing the night away



Shen-and-Bones dance group will perform in H3O.

by Dana Vaccaro
staff writer

Water consists of three simple atoms, two of hydrogen and one of oxygen. What would happen if an extra hydrogen atom were to appear? Does H3O make sense to anyone? There may not be such a formula in the chemistry world, but in the theatrical world, it makes sense.

Shen & Bones Performance Group, along with Joseph Allen Popp's Weirdo Theatre, presents "H3O a Hectic Collaboration in Three Parts," at the Erie Art Museum Annex, 423 State St., at 8:30 p.m. tonight and tomorrow.

H3O is a collaborative piece of dance-theater, which lasts 45 minutes, split up into three parts.

Lani Fand Weissbach, the artistic director for Shen & Bones Performance Group, as well as the yoga teacher at Penn State Behrend, said dance is not very visible around Erie and "H3O" is "a unique theatrical performance for this area."

She considers her approach to dance as eclectic and contemporary and thanks that dancing is "kind of experimental in using the body in different ways."

The dancing techniques that will be used in the "H3O" combine western con-

temporary with influence from the east, such as Japanese Butoh. The eastern dance will be used throughout the presentation. Weissbach explains that with western contemporary style "the body moves in a more harmonious way," where as the eastern style is "more of a meditative slow movement."

Butoh, she said, "is versatile, flexible, and meaningful for the movement of the body."

"H3O" is focused toward Erie with the theme of water and industry. Weissbach says that there are both funny and serious parts during the performance. The dancing and music is expressed in more of a poetic way, versus a narrative way, which would be used more in a play. The presentation will not only move the audience but also create a poem.

The movements, along with the music, are choreographed and improvised.

"Even though [the dancers] are improvising movement, it has to be structured," said Weissbach. She is not only the dance director for this performance, but she is also directing the Weirdo Theatre.

While directing both dancers and musicians, she has been busy and said that this has been a learning experience for her.

Shen & Bones Performance Group, which was, which was formed in 1989,

PHOTO BY SHEN-AND-BONES.COM

and Weirdo Theatre have performed together several times at Forward Hall. This is their first elaborate performance together.

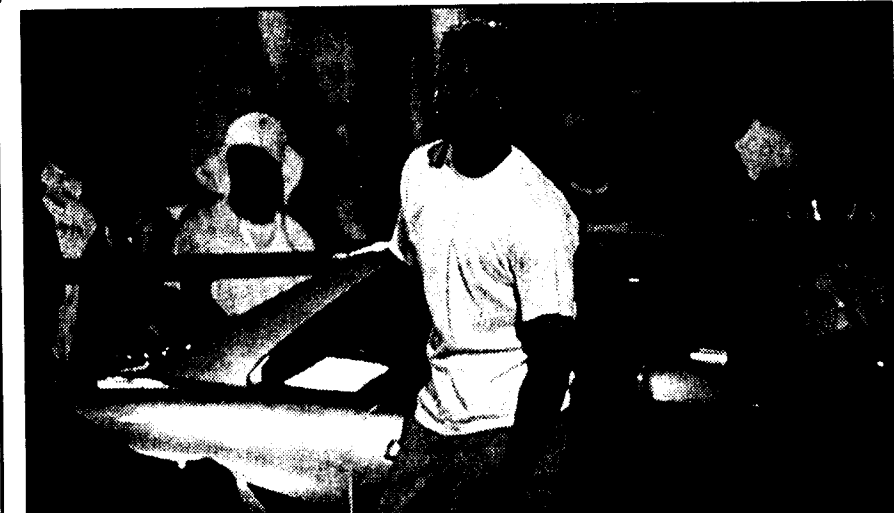
Along with Weissbach, Alethea Bodine, Elizabeth Spadafore, and Doug Lodge will be involved in the performance.

Weirdo Theatre consists of four band members, Joseph Allen Popp (guitars), Rob Gray (voice, theremin), Ken Cornelius (bass), and Rick Lopez (drums). They will also be playing a special after-show set.

Tickets for the performance are \$5.00 for students and \$6.00 for regular admission.

"H3O" will be performed today and tomorrow at the Erie Art Museum Annex, 423 State St. The performance begins at 8:30 p.m.

LEB Movie of the Week '2 Fast 2 Furious'



"2 Fast 2 Furious" star Paul Walker stares into oblivion. PHOTOBYZAP2IT.COM

After being arrested for illegal street racing, fugitive LAPD officer Brian O'Connor (Paul Walker) is blackmailed into going undercover for US Customs so they can take down the leader of a major drug cartel. Unbelievably ridiculous and infinitely stupid, this street-racing sequel makes the same mistake of creating an inconceivable plot as the first film, only this time it does it without Vin Diesel. Paul Walker and his onscreen partner Tyrese come off as too dim-witted to succeed in the task at hand, and only Eva Mendes has no problem delivering the constipated dialogue. At least the plot is so completely disposable it rarely interrupts the killer racing scenes. Directed by John Singleton at the lowest point of his post-Boyz n the Hood career. -- DJ

"2 Fast 2 Furious" will show in Reed 117 at 10 p.m. on Sept. 25-27. The cost is \$1 per student.