

Ice Cube's Posse on their own

Da Lenchmob
Guerillas in The Mist
Street Knowledge /
Eastwest Records

by Liam O'Mahony
The Collegian

Ice Cube's first project on his new record label, Street Knowledge, is not one to be overlooked or passed by as another "gangsta" rap album. His "posse" from his early days as a solo artist, 'Da Lenchmob,' take the spotlight on their debut album, "Guerillas in the Mist."

Ice Cube produced the album and sings a few cameos on various tracks. Da Lenchmob is T-Bone, J-Dee, and Shorty, and they don't play around. Their lyrics cut straight to the point, although not always a positive point; they can't be ignored.

The album opens to a track outlining the ugly history of capital punishment in America. It talks about the previous existence of public lynching in various states, as well as the various methods still in existence today.

"Buck the Devil" and "You and Your Heroes" are their answers to white America's tiresome heroes and habits. In "You and Your Heroes" they put down all of the white "heroes" of the past and present including George Washington, Babe Ruth, Elvis Presley, Marilyn Monroe, Larry Bird, and Madonna.

The rest of "Guerillas in the Mist" has some funky tracks backed with angry lyrics that won't be easily forgotten. They aren't nice, but they command respect from the underground world of hip-hop. They show sensitivity towards human pain and suffering on "Lord Have Mercy," a slower song that asks for help in life and death in violence-torn South Central L.A.

Da Lenchmob is currently touring with the Rolling Band and the Beastie Boys. The tour stops in Toronto on November 2, and this reviewer will be there to see it.



Accepting the truth As Is

by Victoria Sousa
The Collegian

When you hear the word AIDS, what is the first word that comes to mind? Homosexual? Drug Users? Punishment? Illness? Contagious? Blame? What about words like: abandonment, loneliness, seclusion, anger, and fear? What happens to these words when a person discovers someone they know has AIDS?

"One of the frightening things about AIDS is that a death from AIDS is a very difficult death. It tends to be lonely, because many people who are diagnosed with AIDS lose family and friends...insurance companies run out on them. It tends to be emotionally, physically, and mentally devastating," says Dr. Kathleen Campbell, the director of the Matchbox Players' production of *As Is*.

The play focuses around the relationship of two gay men, Rich and Saul, and what they both go through when Rich is diagnosed with AIDS. Campbell explains, "It's a play about loving someone and reaching out to someone in spite of fear, in spite of anger, and in spite of death. It's very hard to love someone you know you're going to lose."

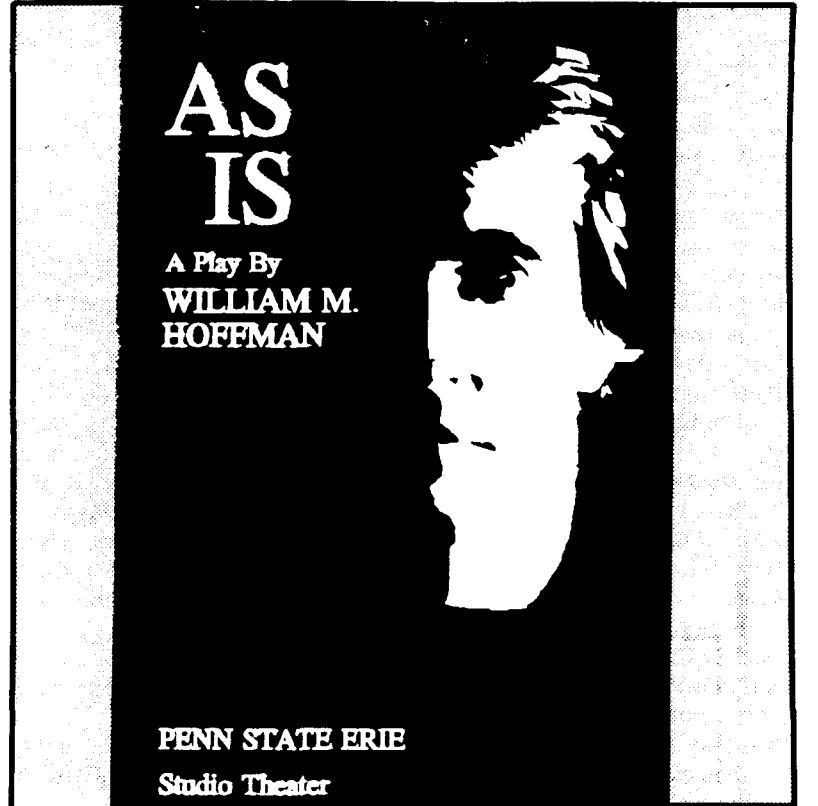
"What especially concerns us is that, while most of the cases of AIDS still are people identified as male homosexuals or IV drug users, the fastest growing

populations in which AIDS appears are teenagers and women." comments Campbell. "So the epidemic is quickly becoming an equal opportunity disease."

"AIDS is a disease that kills people. Whether they're homo-

sexual or whatever else, it's not something to make light of. It's a deadly disease and nobody deserves to die from it." adds Vincent Smith, who plays Rich.

Hoffman, the playwright, approaches the issue of AIDS often with a type of dark humor. Stephen Daniel, who plays Saul agrees, "We can't deal with crises like this in life without a touch of humor or not taking an entirely serious viewpoint about things."



Campbell found great encouragement from faculty last Spring when she told them about her idea of doing an AIDS related play. "I think in some way, theater has a better chance of shifting peoples' thoughts, because it's about human beings and it addresses the problem on the level of real human beings and human relationships."

She adds, "I'd like them [the audience] to get the fact that this is serious. HIV is serious. AIDS is serious and they're at risk. It's not just Saul and Rich and a lot of gay men. If they don't make a shift in perception about gay life or gay men and their responsibilities, at least maybe they'll get that their own behavior matters."

"I really wish that this will be a mind broadening experience for many of the people who perhaps came from a bit of a more sheltered or provincial background," says Daniel. "It's probably the best play Kathleen has directed and put on so far; and I know they're just going to get better."

As Is also stars, playing multiple roles, Daniel Ester, Dennis Dressler, William J. Russell, Kirk Douglas Riffer, Shoshana Heyler-Connor, and Heather M. Fetcko.

As Is will be performed in the Studio Theater on November 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14 at 8:00 p.m.; and November 8, and 15 at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$4.00, with a \$1.00 discount for Behrend Students. For reservations or more information, call 898-6061.

Discussions after some performances and information on AIDS, local health agencies, safe sex, and high risk behaviors will be available after all performances.

Though *As Is* doesn't have any sexually explicit scenes, it contains language that some people may find offensive.

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