

Sammy Davis Jr. Enterprises, Inc. Files Lawsuit Against Mrs. Sammy Altovise Davis, Jr.



Los Angeles, CA – In response to a lawsuit filed in Dallas last month by Mrs. Sammy Altovise Davis, Jr., Sammy Davis, Jr. Enterprises, Inc., The LaRoda Group, Barrett LaRoda and Anthony Francis have filed their own lawsuit against Mrs. Sammy Altovise Davis Jr. and Burt Boyar, et. al., in the United States District Court in the Central District of California (Case No. CV08-00411).

A sad turn of events, it all began when Barrett LaRoda was introduced to Mrs. Altovise Davis by Anthony Francis back in 2000. The image and celebrity value of her husband's estate had greatly diminished, and Francis thought LaRoda might be able help. A once iconic entertainment figure, Sammy Davis Jr. had achieved international star power and was a civil rights trailblazer during his lifetime. But severe mismanagement was fading his institutional memory and his name value drew little branding power and less income.

LaRoda recognized this state of affairs as not only a tremendous tragedy that had befallen Mrs. Davis but also a loss to the collective memory of not only Black Americans but America at large. As the CEO of the LaRoda Group (www.LaRoda.com), Barrett LaRoda is an entertainment industry veteran and producer of worldwide music events. His roster includes Stevie Wonder, rap artist Doug E. Fresh, saxophonist Najee and the Tobago Jazz Festival. He therefore began to

utilize his expertise, business savvy and industry contacts to effect the course of history and salvage the legacy of one the world's greatest entertainers. Taking Mrs. Davis under his wing and into his home even, they eventually established Sammy Davis Jr. Enterprises, Inc.

LaRoda's successful efforts on behalf of Sammy Davis, Jr. include a live stage show currently running in all of the casinos on the life of Sammy Davis, Jr.; the first branded on-line casino on the internet, the first of its kind in history; and most recently, the inclusion of Sammy Davis, Jr. in a national Applebee's commercial.

Matters took a turn for the worse after negotiations with a major studio regarding the life story of Sammy Davis Jr., that included Jane and Burt Boyar, co-writers of the autobiographies *Yes I Can* and *Why Me?* hit a road block.

It is LaRoda's belief that Mrs. Davis is being unwisely counseled. Cites LaRoda, "The entire situation saddens me to no end. As African Americans, it is crucial that we uphold the integrity of our heroes and maintain control of how our history is told. Mrs. Davis is like a mother to me. It is heartbreaking that she has let others come between us."

A statement issued by Mr. LaRoda's attorneys, Jay M. Coggan, Esquire, Los Angeles and David H. Harper, Esquire, Dallas, reads, "There are so many in the entertainment industry as well as mutual close friends and family members, who can attest to the fact that over the years, Mr. LaRoda and Mr. Francis have provided for Althea Davis financially and emotionally, in an effort to bring resources and to bring stability to her life. It saddens both Mr. LaRoda and Mr. Francis to think that as they are about to realize all of their collective objectives and goals with Mrs. Davis, namely, producing a biopic on the life and times of Sammy Davis, Jr., that Mrs. Davis has allowed strangers to come between them."

“As an entertainment industry executive for over 20 years, Mr. LaRoda has represented many entertainers. He has significant expertise in the area of intellectual property licensing. He has never been accused of financial mismanagement nor has ever been accused of misrepresenting his credentials or qualifications.”

“Clearly, Mr. LaRoda and Mr. Francis expected much more from Mrs. Davis. They sincerely love her, and hope that together, they can all put this behind them, and proceed to preserve and celebrate the legacy of a legend, Sammy Davis, Jr.”

Chaka Khan Plays The Drums

Nina Simone's Daughter Simone Releases Debut Album April 29th



New York, NY – (January 28, 2008) – On April 29, 2008, another generation of talent will be releasing her first solo album nationwide. Her name is Simone and she is the daughter of the legendary musical icon Nina Simone. She is her own woman, a singer, songwriter and performer whose ability to transcend genres echoes the tradition of her mother.

With the upcoming release of her first full-length album on High Priestess/Koch, *Simone On Simone* (a big band tribute to her mother produced by famed jazz musician and arranger Bob Belden), music lovers worldwide will discover the vocal dynamism that live audiences have witnessed for over a decade. Fortunate to have gotten over fifty of her mother's original arrangements, Simone began working with producer Bob Belden (whose credits include work with Woody Herman, Donald Byrd, Mel Lewis and Dianne Reeves and extensive credits as a premier jazz reissue producer) on the recording project, culling eleven songs from Nina Simone's repertoire, including one live performance on which her mother accompanied her and featuring one poignant and highly personal song, "Child In Me" which Simone fondly refers to as "my love song to my mother."

She succeeds admirably turning in tour-de-force performances on little-known gems from her mother's recorded repertoire such as "Keeper Of The Flame," "I Hold No Grudge" and "Don't You Pay Them No Mind" (all from Nina Simone's 1966 LP *High Priestess Of Soul*) as well as the reworking of such classics as "Feeling Good," "Black Is The Color Of My True Love's Hair" (given a completely new and original twist), "Work Song," the spirited "(You'll) Go To Hell" and swinging versions of "Love Me Or Leave Me" and Duke Ellington's "Gal From Joe's." Rounding out her first of many future albums: "I Wish I Knew How It Would Feel To Be Free" (the Billy Taylor tune closely identified with her mother as one of the potent message songs which were so much a part of Nina Simone's catalog of music with themes of freedom, self-empowerment and justice for all) and "How Long Must I Wander," a plaintive song that speaks to Simone's own formative years traveling across the globe with her mother.

Chuck Mitchell, Koch Vice President of Jazz/Adult Music, states, "There are extremely rare occasions when you come

across a musical performer and say to yourself: “This artist can do anything!” Simone has inherited her mother’s charisma, but when she sings you immediately realize that she stands out on her own. We expect to hear Simone in a variety of musical settings going forward|this is just the beginning.”

Blessed with a rich vocal range, an innate skill for lyrical interpretation and a soul-deep understanding of music as a means of healing, empowerment and celebration, Simone is very much her mother’s daughter, but she is most assuredly a multi-talented artist in her own right.

For more information on Simone visit www.simonesworld.com

Guru To Release Jazzmatazz: The Timebomb/Back To The Future Mixtape



(7 Grand Records, New York, NY January 3, 2008) – Fresh off an international tour, Guru, super-producer, Solar, and 7 Grand Records announce the February 2008 release of Guru’s Jazzmatazz: The Timebomb/Back To The Future Mixtape, the “raw” companion to the Jazzmatazz Vol. 4 album. The Mixtape carefully and superbly crafted by Super-producer Solar exhibits the “Golden Era” New York essence along with a cutting edge futuristic twist! Hence the title, “Back To The Future.”

The tracks are pure “bangers” and the guest appearances are classic as they compliment Guru’s iconic yet streetwise

vocals! The MC's selected represent the best of America's true Hip Hop artists that hail from the "Underground" scene that Guru has remained so true to. There are features such as reggae artist Damian Marley, Aceyalone and Zion I from the West Coast, Blue Scholars from Seattle, Mr. Lif from Boston, Yungun from London, as well as legends Lord Tariq from the Bronx, Nature from Queensbridge, C. Knowledge from Digable Planets and Tony Touch to name a few. The album also features up-and-coming 7 Grand Records artists K. Born & Highpower from Philadelphia and Young Pablo from Paterson, New Jersey. This is no ordinary mixtape CD as it is hosted by the Mixtape King himself, DJ Doo Wop, who is featured on a couple of tracks.

"Since the inception of Jazzmatazz, one of our main focuses has been to create music for every generation, for the music lover. The Jazzmatazz series has always been about charting new territories, blurring genre lines, and collaborating with artists to create music that's timeless and relevant."

With a career that spans over a decade and one that is now eleven-LP's deep, Guru has been able to stay relevant when many of his counterparts have faded into the background. Now with a musical and business partnership in full motion with Solar, and the formation of their new label, 7 Grand, Guru feels even more reinvigorated. "7 Grand Records allows me not only to be creative, but to finally be in control of my creativity. Between us you've got a legendary spitter that's still hungry and still relevant, teamed up with the hottest New York producer in the game, which makes for a musical vision that is powerfully important and virtually unstoppable." Solar adds, "7 Grand Records is the epitome of what great NY Hip-Hop represents taken to the new millennium and beyond! Now in control of our own label, we're free to introduce forward-thinking Hip-Hop concepts to the masses," explains Solar.

In the past, Guru's Jazzmatazz endeavors have enabled him to collaborate with a who's who list of legendary musical icons

including Roy Ayers, Donald Byrd, Chaka Khan, Isaac Hayes, Herbie Hancock, Branford Marsalis and popular cross-over favorites including Macy Gray, The Roots, Erykah Badu and Angie Stone. When asked how he has been able stay such a viable force in the music industry Guru states matter of factly "be honest with yourself, be original, be open to criticism and don't be afraid to reinvent and recreate yourself."

With Guru's Jazzmatazz Volume 4: The Hip-Hop Messenger (Back To The Future) and it's companion mixtape Guru's Jazzmatazz: The Time Bomb (Back To The Future Mixtape), Guru and Solar have delivered another fresh approach, one that's not only an interesting attempt at boundary-crossing but also a compelling enough to bridge the jazz, hip-hop & soul enthusiast all at the same time

ABOUT 7 GRAND RECORDS

7 Grand Records are dedicated to the art of hip-hop and beyond. Whether it's providing an outlet for challenging and stimulating music or releasing records with high artistic value, Guru and Solar are committed to providing an independent outlet for highly creative and uncompromising art. For more information about 7 Grand Records please visit:

www.myspace.com/gurusjazzmatazz

www.gurusjazzmatazz.net