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Melvin Van Peebles'

AIN'T SUPPOSED TO DIE

A NATURAL DEATH

To Close on June 17th

Performances at T New York, 240 West 52nd Street

June 9 2006

Melvin Van Peebles' Tony-nominated musical *AIN'T SUPPOSED TO DIE A NATURAL DEATH* staged environmentally at the nightclub T New York is scheduled to close on Saturday, June 17, 2006. There will be performances on Fridays and Saturdays through June 17th at 8PM.

A totally unique fiction form, *AIN'T SUPPOSED TO DIE A NATURAL DEATH* is a gutsy, lusty narrative of Black street life that explores every aspect of ghetto life. Peopled by junkies, whores, pimps, lesbians, drag queens, sweating workers, crooked cops, prisoners, lovers, and dreamers, Van Peebles' play is considered a tradition-shattering and trend-setting work which spawned the choreopoem, spoken word, and rap music. *AIN'T SUPPOSED TO DIE* was a huge hit on Broadway in its original inception, where it was nominated for seven Tony Awards, including Best Musical. The recent revival at the Classical Theatre of Harlem garnered 7 AUDELCO Awards and received a Drama Desk nomination for Best Revival of a Musical. Several national dates for *AIN'T SUPPOSED TO DIE* have been planned.

The press is unanimous in their praise of this new production of *AIN'T SUPPOSED TO DIE A NATURAL DEATH*. The New York Times said, "This early precursor to hip-hop, rap and poetry slams is a get-down, roiling depiction of ghetto life" and goes on to say that the show, "explodes like a round of mini-riots... this funky assault on the senses retains its raucous bite several decades after its first incarnation." New York Magazine says that the current version at T New York "has street cred to spare," and the Amsterdam News said that "*Ain't Supposed To Die a Natural Death* is kicking butt and taking numbers... sit down and wait to be mesmerized." The Black Star News wrote, "Van Peebles takes his audience on a real life journey through a subliminal time machine, masterfully luring his unsuspecting subjects - the audience - into the regurgitating belly of the beast which is Black street life in the early 1970s." And Show Business Weekly said, "In a climate of mostly tame musical theatre, this *Natural* remedy for the Broadway blues couldn't be more timely."

The cast for *AIN'T SUPPOSED TO DIE* is Kimberlee, Mo Brown, Jordan Brown, Neil Dawson, Tracy Jack, Keith Arthur Bolding, April McCants, John Andrew Morrison, Taharaq Patterson, Charles Rueben, Chudney Sykes, Willie Teacher, James Tolbert, Glenn Turner, Robyn Landiss Walker and Althea Vyfius.

Melvin Van Peebles is best known as the "godfather of independent film and modern black cinema," and he has also distinguished himself in an impressive list of other mediums, including the theater, where his work has garnered nine Tony Award nominations, seven of them for *AIN'T SUPPOSED TO DIE*. Mr. Van Peebles was the subject of "Baadasssss!", a docudrama (directed by and starring his son, Mario) about the making of his seminal film "Sweet Sweetback's Baadasssss Song." A new documentary about his life, "How To Eat Your Watermelon in White Company (And Enjoy It)" premiered at the Film Forum on January 20th and will soon be released in theaters nationwide.

AIN'T SUPPOSED TO DIE A NATURAL DEATH began performances on Friday, April 7th at T New York, located at 240 West 52nd Street. Performances are on Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm through Saturday, June 17th. Tickets are \$25 and \$45, or \$59.99 for a VIP package that includes four drinks. Tickets may be purchased by calling Theatermania at (212) 352-3101, or online at www.MelvinVanPeebles.com/Aint.

AIN'T SUPPOSED TO DIE A NATURAL DEATH

Book, Music and Lyrics by Melvin Van Peebles

Directed by Alfred Preisser

Musical Director and Musical Supervisor, William "Spaceman" Patterson

T New York, 240 West 52nd Street

SCHEDULE: Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm

Closing Scheduled for Saturday, June 17th.

TICKETS: \$25 (general admission, standing); \$45 (main floor, seating) and \$59.99 (VIP seating, includes reserved booth seating and 4 drinks per person); Call (212) 352-3101 or visit www.MelvinVanPeebles.com/Aint.

Must be at least 18 years of age to gain entrance into T New York and age 21 or over to drink alcohol.

Groups of 10 or more, call (646) 330-4842.

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