

Soul Fest Gospel Expo An Explosion Of Incredible Talent

The Soul Fest Gospel Expo will be held on Sunday, July 13, at the Franklin High School Playfield, located on the corner of Rainier Avenue and Martin Luther King, Jr. Way South.

The Gospel Expo begins at 10:45 a.m. with Church in the Park with the Emerald City Community SDA Church, with the Rev. Eugene Lewis, pastor, and the Rev. Damian Chandler, youth minister.

The Gospel Expo of singers, praise dancers, gospel rappers and others continues at 12 noon with an enormous amount of incredible talent "tapped and untapped" from all over the state. The event opens with a brief show that includes prayer with the Rev. Ruth Saunders, associate minister at Mount Zion

Baptist Church, and "Precious Lord" with Rev. Jackie Jackson.

This year's Gospel Expo is dedicated to Sis. Bonnie Dee Pennington, a legendary gospel announcer who retired a few years ago from the Z-Twins' Heaven Bound Train after over three decades in the gospel music industry.

Also on Sunday, award-winning writer Connie Bennett Cameron, author of the book, "Preacher Man," will be on hand to sign copies of her debut book.

Others on the show include national recording artist Second Coming, the Soul Fest Official Gospel Artist of the 2003 Gospel Expo, Witherspoon!!!, the Iintombi Zilapha Dance Troupe of South



Bonnie Dee to be honored.

Africa, Latter Rain, Christian comedian Tracie Davis, and the popular S.T.A.N.D. Mime Dancers.

4 Sisters Combine Urban Contemporary Gospel With Sweet Harmonies, Hip-Hop, And R&B With An Attitude To Form --- Witherspoon!!!!

Witherspoon!!!! is another star attraction at this year's Soul Fest Gospel Expo, on Sunday, July 13, at the Franklin High School Playfield, located at the intersection of Rainier Avenue and Martin Luther King, Jr. Way South.

This dynamic group of four sisters from Federal Way has been singing together for 11 years since they were little girls at the ages of 7, 9, 10 and 13. And they are one of the hottest gospel groups around, opening for national acts such as gospel duo Mary Mary, Mavis Staples, the Blind Boys of Alabama, Hezekiah Walker and James Hall. They also opened for Christian comedian Jonathan Slocumb.

The Witherspoons!!!! -- now with Erica, 24, Tasha, 20, Tamara, 19, and Krista, 17 - are in for an exciting and blessed musical career of singing God's praises. The group of four sisters, who originally began singing a cappella, have been singing together since 1992. Their fresh unique style appeals to the urban listener as well as the traditional listener. Their sound is fresh, exciting, and more importantly -- a sound of sweet harmony.

The Witherspoons!!!! initially began performing solely in their home church but were inspired by the awesome receptions they received when they ventured out to local events around the Seattle/Tacoma area. They were encouraged to enter local talent shows and placed in the top ten.

Two such events were Tacoma's Goppollo First Annual Show sponsored by the Pantages Theater in Tacoma. They won the grand prize at the



Witherspoon will perform at Soul Fest Gospel Expo Sunday.

Washington Christian Talent Show 2001. Witherspoon!!! took home top honors in each event, and that inspired them to share more of their talents with the world.

In May, 2001 Witherspoon!!!! had the privilege of being invited to sing with Stellar Award nominee Adrian Green at the West Coast Gospel Announcers Guild Conference in Ontario, California.

Their first project, "Expressions," is a dynamic first offering. This CD contains many original compositions of Witherspoon!!!! as well as several written by Tamara and Erica individually. The girls also included a couple of songs written by their parents, Hank and Glenda.

Witherspoon!!!!'s goal is to

share their talent and positive outlook on life with as many people and in as many places as possible. They look toward the future with the belief that their gifts and talents will inspire many people.

Erica, Tasha, Tamara and Krista work hard to give their very best. Whether singing or writing and creating music, they want their ministry to be an inspiration to all who hear it. They receive their inspiration from God and by listening to other artists. Because they received an early start in their music ministry, they have the ability to produce songs that are both upbeat, yet full of harmony.

Witherspoon!!!! has an awesome talent that must be heard by everyone, and you'll get a chance to hear them at this year's Gospel Expo.

GOSPEL EXPO PERFORMERS

Witherspoon!!!!
S.T.A.N.D. Mime Dancers
Latter Rain
New Life Church Choir of Lacey
Emerald City Community Mass Choir
M.I.S.S.I.O.N.
Sis. Bonnie Dee
God's Peacemakers/Praise Dancers
TMT0 Hip-Hop Praise Dancers
Poetic/Gospel Rappers
Soloist Margo Williams
Min. Cummings and L.4.T.L.

Christ Life Center Choir of Tacoma
Iintombi Praise Dancers of So. Africa
Rev. Ruth Saunders
KRIZ Gospel Announcer Elta Jackson
Rev. Eugene Lewis
Emerald City Community Youth Choir
Rev. Damian Chandler
Rev. Jackie Jackson
Second Coming
"Preacher Man" Author Connie Cameron
Christian Comedian Tracie Davis
All Men's Christian

**GOSPEL EXPO SUNDAY, JULY 13, 10:45 A.M. TO 7 P.M.
FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL PLAYFIELD, MLK & RAINIER AVE.**

Second Coming -- Official Soul Fest Gospel Artist

Second Coming has been selected as the Official Soul Fest Gospel Artist for the 2003 Gospel Expo on Sunday, July 13. As such, the group will perform throughout the Soul Fest 2003 weekend, beginning with the Black National Anthem, "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing" at Opening Day ceremonies on Rhythm & News on Friday, July 11, from 12 noon to 1 p.m. And on Sunday, Rev. Jackie Jackson will open the Gospel Expo with "Precious Lord."

Originally from Buffalo, New York, Rev. Jackie Jackson and her son Gerald, a mother and son duet, formed the gospel group Second Coming. Rev. Jackie has performed with God's Clients gospel group at many gospel affairs that included a guest appearance on the Bobby



Rev. Gerald Osborne and Rev. Jackie Jackson of Second Coming.

Jones Gospel Hour and they have sung "The National Anthem" at several Mariners' baseball games. Gerald has released prior recordings, as well as performed for the National Telethon on the Canadian Network.

In the midst of searching for

direction, purpose and family unity, God brought Rev. Jackie and Rev. Gerald together again as anointed ministers in the body of Christ. After having committed their lives to preaching the word of God and singing glorious praises unto his holy name, God has given them the command to preach the gospel to all nations regardless of race, creed, or color. They currently attend Daystar Baptist Church in Renton with Pastor Donald L. Ward, Sr.

Rev. Jackie and Rev. Gerald will be singing from their debut CD, "Second Coming" as well as other great gospel music at Soul Fest 2003 at the Franklin High School Playfield on the corner of Martin Luther King, Jr. Way South and Rainier Avenue.

South African Praise Dancers

The Iintombi Zilapha Dance Troupe, formerly known as the Iintombi Dancers, from Capetown, South Africa, have delighted audiences at the Paramount Theater's *That Dance* production, The Maafa Experience at the Moore Theater, as well as the Soul Festival in 2002, and many other local engagements.

The Iintombi Zilapha Dance Troupe will join us again this year at Soul Fest 2003 at Sunday's Gospel Expo July 13. You won't want to miss this exciting group of young praise dancers and singers who electrified the Soul Fest crowd last year!

This energetic dance troupe combines traditional African and contemporary dance to the beat of African drums unlike anything you've ever seen before. And their melodic voices



So. African Praise Dancers with angelic voices.

harmonize beautifully for a truly angelic sound of spiritual soul. Check them out at Soul Fest Gospel Expo Sunday!

For additional information

on the Iintombi Zilapha Dance Troupe, visit them at iintombi.net, or contact Tonya Kelley, at 206-934-7277.

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Latter Rain At Gospel Expo This Sunday

Latter Rain Ministries is the fruit and life of a number of men past and present brought together to give glory to the Father by ministering to the needs of all. Through a unique blend of traditional gospel music with a contemporary flair, this five-man a cappella group is strikingly rich with spirituality, and broad in its appeal to various audiences.

Latter Rain has had the privilege to travel, minister and evangelize musically in Philadelphia, Tampa Bay, San Jose, St. Croix, St. Thomas, Puerto Rico, Portland, and Toronto and Vancouver, Canada. They have also

ministered in the streets, jails, hospitals, churches, colleges, and in the performance halls of their own home in Seattle.

Just back from a very successful trip to Southern California's 5th Annual West Coast Gospel Announcers Guild and a mini tour through Rialso, Riverside, Compton, and San Bernardino, Latter Rain is very excited about what the Lord is doing through their ministry. They are currently nearing completion of their first major recording project.

You can hear this talented group this Sunday at Soul Fest Gospel Expo. Don't miss it!

**SOUL FEST 2003
July 11, 12, 13
FRANKLIN HIGH PLAYFIELD
MLK & RAINIER AVE. SO.**