

Book Review

Out of the Darkness: The Spider Jones Story

It can be said that Spider's book is an optimistic, often humorous examination of a disaster that somehow transformed itself into a bright sunny day.

Out of the Darkness is a polite title for this raw, ruthless, self-deprecating story of a desperately poor black child's struggle. Coming from poverty would be a gross understatement for the crushing circumstances of Spider Jones' beginnings. Depression was so overwhelming that the boy was even "afraid to dream." It appears that the simple acts of breathing in and breathing out were performed long enough that "out of nothing at all" opportunities arose. This powerful, rough, often clumsy biography depicts the twisted path followed by a terrified, confused boy, to achieve success.

We know Spider Jones as a prominent radio and television personality. This may lull us into the belief that he was always a cheerful, happy prankster. His book is another clear revelation that celebrities can suffer and bleed like the rest of us and have painful baggage on their backs.

Spider reminds us, how pure luck and sudden twists of fate can shape a life. This honest, direct recitation of his fragility presents us with a window seldom looked through. Perhaps this vulnerable opinion of himself is what endears him to so many greats, such as Jake Lamata, George Chuvalo, Mohammed Ali and many other stars of music and sports. Spider's contact with these celebrities is warm and tastefully presented.

Chuck's biography is reminiscent of that perceptive Pink Floyd song, "Everybody hurts sometime . . . hold on." It appears that Spider and his co-writer Michael Hughes, have held on long enough to be holding a bestseller.



The Toronto International Film Festival

Come September, Toronto will host one of the most important film festivals on the planet.

Founded by William Marshall, with the assistance of Dusty Cohl and Henk Van Der Kolk, in 1976, it has become North America's supermarket for producers, distributors, buyers and the media. Although the Cannes Film Festival may be larger, the Toronto Film Festival is considered an essential vehicle to launch films to the world markets.

In its first year, the Toronto festival operated on a tight budget of \$221,000 and attracted some 35,000 participants. It presented 127 feature films, from 30 countries, spotlighted Canadian films and introduced aspiring directors and actors to the world.

This year's Toronto International Film Festival has a much larger budget

and will be held for a ten-day period from September 9 to 18, 2004.

It will bring together talented professionals of the industry, along with the indispensable number crunchers, investors, dreamers, promoters and wannabes. The city of Toronto and cinema fans from around the world will once again welcome this glittering, fascinating event.

Waterfront Magazine will cover the Festival with our entertainment columnist, Jennifer Ferns, who will be accompanied "on the job" by gifted Hollywood actor Louis L'Amour, remembered for his hilarious portrayal of the temperamental brother in "My Big Fat Greek Wedding".

See you at the festival!

Life isn't all black and white.



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