

Russell Peters' Triumphant Return Home



From l. to r.: Gavin, Russell and Raoul

Photograph courtesy of Lisa Gibran

Canadian 'King of Comedy' Russell Peters and protege Gavin Stephens celebrated with Hip-Hop Activist Raoul Juneja (a.k.a. Deejay Ra) and fans at the 'Outsourced' after-party, Friday September 8th in the suburb outskirts of Toronto.

Marking Russell's first performance in his hometown of Brampton after nearly ten years, Russell Peters sold out three shows with longtime opening act Gavin Stephens for the grand opening of the city's new 'Rose Theatre', ending the Toronto leg of Russell's 'Outsourced' world

tour commemorating the launch of his new DVD of the same name. The weekend prior, Russell spent over four hours at an autograph signing event held in the lavish Yorkdale Canadian shopping boutique.

The 'Outsourced' after-party also marked the five year anniversary of Deejay Ra's "Comedy Meets Hip-Hop" CHRW 94.7 FM radio series, which featured a November 2000 premiere with Russell Peters and a December 2001 finale with Gavin Stephens. Award-winning Canadian

comedy TV personality Mista Mo and Muslim comedian Rasul Somji were featured alongside Gavin Stephens on Deejay Ra's 2001 radio finale, which was later released on CD.

"Russell Peters: Outsourced" has quickly risen to the top of the DVD charts after its highly anticipated release last week, selling close to 10,000 copies and becoming the number one DVD in Canada. In the past five years, Russell has hosted his own BBC-UK late night talk show, sold out the famous Apollo New York Theater, and become the most downloaded comedian in Internet history.

No stranger to hip-hop culture, Russell also holds the distinct title of

turntablist, having DJ'd as a hobby for over twenty years. Alongside fellow pioneering Toronto DJ Mastermind, Russell was co-host of one of Canada's highest rated rap radio shows in the mid 1990's, "The Mastermind Street Jam", and even performed comedy skits on the show's "Street Legal" CD soundtrack. DJ Mastermind, also of South Asian heritage, recently moved to Calgary to help launch the city's VIBE 98.5 FM station and currently serves as their music director.

"Although some international fans are hearing about them for the first time now, through touring Russell Peters and DJ Mastermind have been representing the authentic cultures of both comedy and rap

around the world for almost twenty years now," explains Raoul Juneja, who held a hip-hop radio tribute for Russell and Mastermind last week.

"Russell Peters deserves credit not only for opening the door for ethnic Canadian hip-hop personalities, but also for the majority of young South Asians you now see in American movies, media and rap - I'm one of many who feels privileged to have received Russell's advice over the years, and we couldn't be happier to see his rise to the top."

For more about Russell Peters, Gavin Stephens or Raoul Juneja visit RussellPeters.com, GavinStephens.ca and LyricalKnockout.com respectively.