

Frosene On The Scene:
By Frosene Phillips

BROADWAY BOUND. Comic, actor, writer, television and radio personality Brian Copeland tells me his debut in Los Angeles at the new Hayworth Theater with his solo show Not A Genuine Black Man was a smash. "We were jammed to the gills," he told me about his first weekend of previews. Rob Reiner and company attended and he received standing ovations.

Reiner, as I previously mentioned in this space, is producing an HBO story on Genuine with Brian. In addition to that, Copeland opens the show off Broadway in May. The New York Times and Los Angeles Times have already begun to sing Copeland's praises. Daryl Roth who produced Wit and Proof on Broadway amongst others will produce the show at the DR2 Theater in Manhattan and Bob Balaban of The Exonerated fame, also on Broadway, will direct.

Hyperion has moved up the release date of his book and his performances at The Marsh in San Francisco are winding down. "It will be released nationwide on July 11," said Copeland. This month, you can still catch Genuine at The Marsh on Thursdays only as the show is in Los Angeles on Fridays and Saturdays through April 1. After that, the show will resume at The Marsh for its regular run of Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays through April, celebrating its second anniversary. Copeland will take off for New York after that. If the early positive buzz in Los Angeles repeats itself in New York, it's just a matter of time before he lands on Oprah with his profound story of growing up in San Leandro when it was considered one of the most racist cities in the country - and Copeland has the facts to prove it.

The Marsh is located at 1602 Valencia Street just three blocks from the 24th and Mission BART. Contact The Marsh at 415/641-0235 or visit themarsh.org. For additional ticket information call 800/838-3006 or visit briancopeland.com.