

SIDE FOR STERLEN JONES

Hope strains to adjust a mic stand when the group's number one competition walks on stage. He's STERLEN JONES (16) mixed race, gorgeous and knows it. Right behind him is his sidekick MONK (15) goofy, but sensitive, a future entomologist.

Everyone slowly walks towards the front of the stage to investigate the purpose behind Sterlen's visit.

SPRING

Well, well, well, look what crawled in.

HOPE

It's a bug.

Hope and Spring laugh together, giving one another a high five. Dazzy stands to the side observing, while Monk is drawn towards George the grasshopper.

MONK

Why is it under a cup?

HOPE

That's not the pest I'm talking about Monk.

STERLEN

Now, now ladies. I was just about to compliment you on your glow. But then I realized . . . I just have that affect on women.

Dazzy pretends to choke. Sterlen slowly turns to look at Dazzy standing a few feet behind him on stage.

DAZZY

(As Sterlen stares)

Oh, excuse me, something got caught in my throat. It must have come from something I heard.

Sterlen stares at Dazzy as he speaks. Once he stops talking Sterlen disregards him by turning back to the girls without acknowledging Dazzy.

STERLEN

So, ladies, have you and Dizzy --

DAZZY

-- It's Dazzy, D A Z Z Y! --

STERLEN

-- Have you withdrawn from the competition yet?

HOPE

Excuse me.

STERLEN

I just assumed after checking out my act last week, you'd wanna get out now before things got . . .well . . .you know.

SPRING

First of all we haven't seen your act.

STERLEN

Everybody was there last night --

SPRING

-- And second of all, we have no idea what you're talking about, and I don't think you do either.

Monk continues to be completely occupied with George, while everyone else on stage participates in verbal warfare.

STERLING

MONK
You know you need to put a hold or something in this cup.

Do I have to spell it out for you.

How do they expect you to breath.

HOPE

Do you know how to spell Loser.

The verbal attacks continue as Monk decides to make George more comfortable by putting holes in the cup. The cup slips and George jumps into Monk's shirt. Monk begins to squirm.

HOPE (CONT'D)

If anyone should withdraw from this competition it's you. It's for artist trying to make a difference in this world.

STERLEN

Hey, don't worry about me, I can become whatever I wanna be. Just like you Hope.

HOPE

What are you talking about now
Sterlen?

STERLEN

You know what I'm talking about.

HOPE

Why would I ask --

Sterlen slowly walks towards Dazzy.

STERLEN

-- I'm just saying. You don't
wanna get with me, you'd rather be
something else. --

HOPE

What! --

Sterlen starts to walk away towards Dazzy.

STERLEN

You know what, it's not that
serious.

Sterlen stops and stands closely in front of Dazzy.

STERLEN (CONT'D)

I just wanted to spare you ladies
the humiliation.

DAZZY

How you gonna come up in here and
stand in my face -- Streetlights is
my group!

Monk accidentally crushes the grasshopper against his chest
while it was under his shirt. Sterlen addresses Dazzy as he
walks away from him to leave the stage.

STERLEN

Alright, alright, calm down Dizzy.

Dazzy yells out to Sterlen as he leaves the stage. Monk walks
quickly to catch up with Sterlen, while trying to hide the
spot where there's bug guts spread over his skin and shirt.

DAZZY

It's Dazzy, D. A. Z. You know what,
bye, see yah, don't need yah.