

K-Doe: Blazing the Trail From Emperor to King

THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE -- From the maternity ward at Charity Hospital to the world-famous Mother-in-Law Lounge, the life and times of the legendary Ernie K-Doe, Emperor of the Universe, Mr. Naughahyde and 2001 King of Krewe du Vieux, have been an intergalactic roller-coaster ride.

K-Doe first sang in his church choir and went on to sing with spiritual groups like the Golden Choir Jubilees of New Orleans and the Divine Travelers. He was inspired by many artists, including Big Joe Turner, Ray Charles, B.B. King, Bobby Bland and Guitar Slim. His first recording was "I Only Have Eyes For You". K-Doe has performed all over the world, and is known and loved throughout the universe.

He received the Rhythm & Blues Foundation's Pioneer Award, presented at Radio City Music Hall in New York, where he brought the house full of musical legends to their feet with his rendition of "Mother-in-Law." In 1999, K-Doe was the first person to be honored with the Big Easy Entertainment Awards' Heritage Award and was presented with a Legend Award by the South Louisiana Association. He was inducted into the New Orleans Music Hall of Fame in 1995, the Louisiana Hall of Fame in 1997, and the Society of Interplanetary Royalty in 2001.

K-Doe's hits include "A Certain Girl," "T'ain't It the Truth," "Come On Home," "Te-Ta-Te-Ta-Ta," and "Later for Tomorrow," to name a few. His biggest hit was "Mother-in-Law" in 1961 which sold millions of copies. According to K-Doe, it will endure forever "because someone is always going to get married."

One of those someones is K-Doe himself, who married Antoinette Fox in 1994 with her mother

(K-Doe's favorite mother-in-law) looking on. Queen Antoinette will join Ernie on the king's float along with her sister, Grand Duchess and Praline Princess Tee-Eva Perry.

K-Doe and the Mother-in-Law Lounge will soon be seen on the silver screen in *Happy Here and Now*, a surreal mystery filmed in New Orleans that features two new K-Doe originals: "Children of the World" and "White Boy, Black Boy". Of his new recordings, K-Doe says he is doing it all on his own: writing, producing and publishing. "The Pope has tried it, presidents, governors and mayors have tried it, but it takes a Charity Hospital child to show them how it's done."

King Ernie's next venture is reputed to be a radio station, KDOE, featuring "all K-Doe, all the time."

Contemplating his reign as King of Krewe du Vieux -- the only possible step up from Emperor of the Universe -- K-Doe reminisces about watching parades as a boy, hollering for throws. Now, he says, "I'm gonna be up where all those other kings were, with a queen of my own. There have been kings, queens, duchesses, but we're gonna give all the others a run for their money. If anyone thinks they can outdo the Krewe du Vieux royalty, take my advice and stay home. Rex and the others gonna have to catch up. We're gonna leave them breathless."

These days, K-Doe can be found holding court at the Mother-in-Law Lounge where he performs with an alternating cast of musicians. He envisions the Lounge as a place where musicians can get together and help one another just like in the old days. And the Lounge itself is a vision: cosmic bright blue with larger-than-life portraits of Ernie and Antoinette on the exterior. You can't miss it driving down North Claiborne; rumor has it that it is

visible from outer space.

But you won't have to board the space shuttle to see King Ernie K-Doe as he leads the Krewe du Vieux where no krewe has gone before on February 10 at 7:00 PM.

Bead Recount Update

The following bulletin was released from the Campaign Headquarters of the Krewe du Vieux:

Due to the ongoing Bead Recount, there will be no beads thrown at the 2001 Krewe du Vieux parade. Following a dispute over the accuracy of the initial bead count, Krewe du Vieux's beads were sent to Florida (motto: "one, two, three, four, five, six...oops, where was I?") to be manually recounted.

The recount was well under way when it was brought to a halt by an injunction issued by the Court (we're not sure which court, but judging from the secrecy, we think it's Comus) as a result of a challenge to the methods used to enumerate the beads. Some felt the beads should be sorted by length, others by color. Prosecutor Hairy Con-dick insisted that not all beads should be counted the same. "There has to be a standard; issues such as length and thickness should be considered," he said. Krewe du Vieux defense counsel Freeda Ball responded, "It's not size that matters, it's quality. Each bead is created equal, it's how you use it that counts."

Krewe du Vieux does not expect this situation to be resolved by parade time, so our advice is to leave the bead bags at home, but come out to see the floats and the costumes. The decadent delinquents of the Krewe du Vieux will provide an orgy of degenerate delights and depravities as the annual parade of anarchistic, atavistic, attitudinous, amorous aliens takes to the streets of the Faubourg Marigny and the French Quarter on February 10.