

# Haitian Firefly shoots out a "Spark in the Dark"

by Chiemi

Jacques Fleury, known as "the Haitian Firefly," just released his first Chapbook of poetry, "Spark in the Dark." Sadly, Fleury, who was scheduled to present in February at Toast Lounge, was prevented from strutting his stuff due to the snowstorm that struck these parts last month. Never, fear, however, the Fly has been rescheduled to Aug. 13, 3p.m. @ Toast Lounge in Union Square.

"Spark in the Dark" is infused with Haitian folklore, political irony but with an overlay of essential beauty and optimism. The reader will encounter fascinating tales about the lovely yet oppressed island of Haiti. There are portraits of misery set against that tropical backdrop such as a story of Fleury's mother, who was almost killed while pregnant with him, for simply wearing a red dress that had been construed as a political statement. Other colors are at play as well in this verbal kaleidoscope-

- sensuous descriptions of Caribbean fare, French/Creole references, mambo (Haitian voodoo queen), fado (Portuguese folk song), "Black Noise," a "purple lady" and "indifference" embodying a gum that is chewed. Above all, Fleury's passion for life and dragging transformation and a new beginning out of suffering, is readily apparent. This nugget can be described as nothing other than juicy ... Copies are available at the Out of the Blue Gallery in Cambridge --half of the proceeds go to the gallery.

According to Fleury, he wrote the pieces in the chapbook during the last two years. At that point, he feels he became renewed with hope due to a newfound faith in God. He worships with a tight-knit group, the Caribbean Welcome Ministries located in Somerville. Says Fleury of his work, "My Haitian blood is always going to be lurking inside my being." His first 13 years in Port-au-Prince shaped his vision and the images he uses.

Fleury is a poet, freelance writer and host of a LIVE local TV show --"Dream Weavers w/ Jacques" at Cambridge Community Television (CCTV) on Ch. 9 on Thursdays at 5:30p.m. He also writes for "Whats Up Magazine," "Spare Change News" and "The Bridge." Fleury's poetry can be described as political, inspirational and borders on the edges of emotion. His works are infused with Haitian folklore and history, leading local author and publisher Doug Holder to deem it "prophetic."

The above-referenced show is also on the net same time at:

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