



Denise Hall as Maxine Waters in LAPD's "Agents & Assets"

"I cannot go away, I will not go away,"

-----The truly Honorable Congresswoman Maxine Waters says in our production "**Agents & Assets**", (the entire text of which is from a hearing transcript of the US Congress).

Dear LAPD Friends,

Maxine Waters has continued in grand fashion to be an outspoken thorn in the side of a mostly somnambulent congress. LAPD in its humble way has refused to go away, with its 2002 projects. "**Agents & Assets**" questioned the pursuance of a military rather than a public health solution to the drug problem. "**Is there History on Skid Row?**" investigated the displacement of very poor people due to gentrification in Skid Row Los Angeles.

* LAPD's just returned from remounting "**Agents & Assets**" in Detroit with a combined cast of LAPD'ers and Detroit residents. The Detroit cast members and production crew came mostly from the Mariner's Inn drug recovery program that was among our partners there. We chose to mount the show in Detroit because it is a community that has been devastated by drugs and because the citizenry of Michigan, through legislative and ballot initiatives, are considering the overturn of mandatory sentencing laws and the replacement of jail time with treatment

programs. Each "Agents & Assets" presentation was followed by public forums with drug policy and drug rehabilitation professionals

* The last two weekends June, In Los Angeles, LAPD produced a 4 hour performance / installation "Is there History on Skid Row?" The performance / installation was housed in a store front at the exact intersection of Skid Row and Gentrification (Winston and Main), and through live performance, numerous videos, and live interviews with local homeless people, shop owners and area advocates, we explored the issues facing the very poor people that live in Skid Row; including the threat of displacement through gentrification.

2003 UP-Coming Activities:

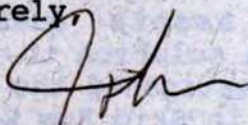
* **The Women of Skid Row.** A main concern of LAPD company members both male and female, that we began to investigate in "Is There history on Skid Row?" is the rapidly increasing number of women and children in the area. There are few services for women and children on skid row. Those services that exist have been geared toward getting women out of the area -- because it's so hard core. But, that strategy has failed. It has simply been overwhelmed by women in need. Director Henriette Brouwers and LAPD company members will develop a show with and by the women of skid row. The show will be developed in conjunction with skid row womens' advocacy groups and service provider, (including Downtown Women's Action Coalition and Central City Outreach).

* Develop further residency production's of "AGENTS & ASSETS". The show addresses the impact of the "war on drugs" on low income communities.

* **The convocation of a conference, of artists working in communities with homeless people and with people in drug recovery.** The conference will take place in Nashville, TN where most initiatives on behalf of homeless individuals are faith based. President Bush is calling for increased government support of faith based charities who are working to meet social needs. In public presentations and workshops we will look at explore public sector, arts and community organizing initiatives as means of serving the the very poor and homeless people.

Your donation to support our activities on in Skid Row LA and in other communities of poor people, is super appreciated.

Sincerely,



John Malpede
for LAPD

HAPPY, Hops To See you
Soon - Like Johnny.

"Founded 17 years ago in LA, The Los Angeles Poverty Department has become one of the country's most outspoken and profound Theater troupes."

REAL DETROIT, Natalie Haddad, October 16, 2002

& Thanks
Again For DETROIT. J