



## QUEENS KINGS CARE: By Soul Man.

During the Crack Era that dominated the 1980s, many street legends made their names through a hail of gunfire. Gangs like the Supreme Team and Seven Crowns held sway and left a lasting impression in the minds of children, inspiring raps, movies, and books as hip-hop moved into the mainstream; Southside Jamaica, Queens, was christened Ground Zero. The litany of names that emerged from this borough reads like a casting call of notorious gangsters: Kenneth "Supreme" McGriff, Gerald "Prince" Miller, Lorenzo "Fat Cat" Nichols, Howard "Pappy" Mason, The Corleys, Tommy Montana, and the Feurtado Brothers. 50 Cent and other rappers have brought these names to life in verses; author Ethan Brown chronicled their rise and fall in his book, "Queens Reigns Supreme." But what of the legends themselves? What do they have to say? After indictments, court battles, prison and release for those not sentenced to life behind bars, what is the message?

Since being released from federal prison, Lance and Todd Feurtado have returned to Queens ready to rebuild what they helped ruin. Along with their brother, Pretty Tony, the Feurtados allegedly ran Seven Crowns, a legendary crew that federal authorities say the brothers built into a sophisticated million-dollar-a-week drug enterprise that covered all of Queens and beyond. In 1995 all three brothers pleaded guilty to a drug conspiracy in South Carolina and were sentenced to federal correctional facilities. After 10 years the two younger brothers are out while Pretty Tony awaits his 2012 release date. All three are in their 40s and now regret their activities and seek to right the wrongs they incurred. To that end, Lance and Todd have put out "King of Kings," a DVD that is billed as the untold story that people have been waiting to hear for over a quarter-century.

"The DVD is an educational documentary about the Feurtado Brothers—three brothers that grew up in South Jamaica, Queens, and became the backbone to some of Queens' major players in the game," Lance explains. "We're using our life experiences to educate the youth and young adults to the dangers and consequences of being involved with drugs, guns, and gang violence. We're trying to send a message that there are plenty of opportunities in this world besides the streets." The DVD is a complete walk-through from A-to-Z in and out of the streets and how to come out on the other side with a positive message.

"It was a joint venture," Todd adds, "between Lance's production company (Executive Star Productions), the Hip-Hop Summit Youth Council, POG Films, and Done Right Digital, which did the editing." To date, the disc is doing very well. "Over 25,000 have sold, not counting the bootleggers," Lance says. "We're still selling very well. We're in all of the mom-and-pop stores as well as Tower Records stores everywhere."

The DVD features Russell Simmons, Fat Joe, Jay-Z, Diddy, Rev. Run, LL Cool J, Rev. Dr. Benjamin Chavis Muhammed, New York State Senator Ada L. Smith, New York City Council member Leroy Comrie, Jr. (27th District; Southeast Queens), New York City Council Majority Leader Joel Rivera, and Queens Borough President Helen Marshall, among many others. Todd Feurtado says the topics covered in "King of Kings" include, "the history of Queens, substance abuse, and the importance of a good education and those unjust laws like the Rockefeller and federal drug laws." Besides the DVD, these reborn anti-drug gurus are spreading their message through appearances at local high schools where they advocate against dope, guns, and gangs.

"We're doing a reality-edge tour program called the Hip-Hop Reality Education Tour. We use street knowledge to help the youth get through college," Lance says. "We are from the streets taking it back to the streets and

educating the youth on Rockefeller drug laws, federal sentencing guidelines and new bills and laws that affect our community."

As O.G.s from a sensationally dark era in New York City history youngsters better take heed to the Feurtados' warnings which come from the heart. "When you are a people of color and you are doing something that is good for you and your people, be careful what you say out of your mouths and who you line yourself up with," Todd advises, alluding to the recent Supreme and The Inc. situation. "If you are making money by way of rap, what you say out of your mouth can make or break you. Life and death are in the power of the tongue—something to think about." Lance adds that they are praying for their old friend Supreme who is currently awaiting trial on several federal charges including money laundering and murder.

From the streets to the pen and back again the Feurtado Brothers are fighting against the odds, but with their anti-drug message they can't lose. The brothers, whose names once sent shivers down the spines of many residents in South Jamaica, are seeking redemption. They are making a concerted effort to give back to their community. They have paid their debt to society, but they feel their debt to the future generations of inner-city youth can be paid again and again every day for the rest of their lives. The aim is to educate the youth on the dangers and consequences of being in the drug game. It's not all glamour like the videos in rotation on BET and MTV portray.

The Feurtado Brothers are running production companies and are involved

## LARRY'S PHOTOS

in drug law reform efforts. With "King of Kings," they want to show how the government and federal system aim to keep minorities down. They are setting an example for those in prison, letting inmates know that you don't have to resort to a life of crime anymore. From inner-city drug kingpins to anti-drug crusaders, Lance explains what it's all about: "With our foundation, Web site, and motivational and inspirational speaking all we want to do is help save our young people; we love who they are and who they can be." Todd finishes his brother's thought, "We are going to do everything we can to save the future, which is the young people, your children and our children. We have to help make a better tomorrow and that starts today."

The "King of Kings" movement is a righteous one aimed at the heart of the hood. It's one that is being heard. It's one that can make a difference.

For more information on the King of Kings DVD and the Feurtado Brothers' efforts, visit [kingofkingsdvd.homestead.com](http://kingofkingsdvd.homestead.com).