

## Percy Sledge to headline Old Hope Road thriller

Internationally acclaimed rhythm and blues vocalist, Percy Sledge, will be the headline act for the R&B Reggae Concert scheduled for March 1 on the grounds of Jamaica College, Old Hope Road, Kingston.

Staged by R&B Reggae Promotions, the concert seeks to combine two of the genres that are most loved and appreciated by Jamaicans - reggae and R&B. A cadre of talented reggae acts is slated to join Sledge in concert and thrill the audience with a plethora of hits starting from the 1980s through to the present. Among the reggae artistes scheduled to perform on this exciting line-up are the incomparable John Holt, George Nooks, Gem Myers, A.J. Brown, Bagga Case (Home T) and Breezy McKenley, along with Digicel Rising Stars alums Noddy Virtue, Jodi-Ann Pantry and Nickeisha Barnes. To take the musical appreciation up a notch, Winston Blake, the maestro of Merritone Music, will set the turntables in motion. All artistes will be backed by one of the most enduring and sought after bands in reggae music - Fab Five. According to the promoters, the R&B Reggae Concert is a special treat designed as the ultimate family showcase and they guarantee an evening full of memorable moments. **STELLAR LINE-UP** Frankie Campbell of Fab 5, who is involved with the project, puts it best when he says, "Can you imagine Percy Sledge, John Holt, Gem Myers, A.J. Brown, George Nooks and Merritone in one venue? That will be a package that I surely would not miss for the world". Sledge is best known in Jamaica for songs such as Cover Me, When A Man Loves A Woman, Take Time To Know Her, Try A Little Tenderness, Dock of The Bay, Warm & Tender Love, Whiter Shade of Pale and My Girl. He has had his songs covered by both reggae and dancehall acts and is undoubtedly a favourite among Jamaicans, both the young and not-so-young. According to his biography, the Alabama-born Sledge had a somewhat unusual introduction to the music business. Working as an orderly in a local hospital, Sledge toured with a local band called the Esquires Combo on weekends and a former patient at the hospital who knew both Sledge and local record producer Quin Ivy introduced them to each other. Ivy was impressed with Sledge's emotional style of singing and signed him to a recording contract. Sledge hit it big with his first record, the classic When A Man Loves a Woman, released by Atlantic Records, which went on to become a worldwide hit (and, incidentally, the first Atlantic record to go gold). R&B Reggae Concert is sponsored by The Gleaner Company Ltd, Hotel Four Seasons, Kia Motors, RJR Communications Group, Kool 97 FM, Champion Customs Brokers, Salon True Beauty and Blake's Texaco. Source: Jamaica Gleaner