

A CLASS ACT

The duo's career really took off in 1990 when Kid and Play starred in the surprise hit *House Party*. In that film, Kid plays a teenager who gets grounded on the night of the biggest party of the year. So he sneaks out of the house and spends the entire night trying not to get caught by his dad. *House Party* was made for \$2.5 million, but grossed an astounding \$27 million, making it the most successful small-budget venture of the year. The film was released at the same time as Kid 'N Play's second album, *Funhouse*. While the film racked up box-office receipts, the album climbed the charts, and suddenly, the rap duo was everywhere.

With one successful *House Party* under their belts, Kid and Play decided to throw another one, and in the fall of 1991, *House Party 2* hit the theatres. This coincided with the release of their third album, *Face the Nation*. The album had a much harder street edge than any of their previous work and was full of soul power. Now, with the release of **A Class Act**, Kid and Play are once again lighting up the silver screen. Kid plays Duncan, an Ivy League con-

tender who needs to pass physics to get the scholarship he wants; and Play is Blade, a homeboy from the ghettos of L.A. who wants to break free from his reform-school past. When the school mixes the two up, they try to use the problem to help each other out.

But soon they find it almost impossible to keep the secret from their friends and families, not to mention their girlfriends. The elaborate charade unfolds in a rapid-fire series of comic twists and turns — all in the inimitable Kid 'N Play style.

As far as future plans are concerned, the duo would like to do more movies, but they're realistic about their limitations. As Play says, "no one wants to see [us] doing Shakespeare." While they wait for the next opportunity, Kid will be busy looking for a house to buy, and Play has opened up a hair salon in Queens and a clothing store called IV Plai.

— Laurie Hibberd

During this comedy, Kid swaps his trademark "high-top fade" hairstyle (inset left) for baby dreads (top right) when his character, a book-worm, switches identities with another student (Play), a party animal.



RAPPERS KID 'N PLAY GET TOP MARKS FOR COMEDY

Been to any good house parties lately? Kid 'N Play fans can say yes to that. The rap duo from Queens, N.Y., starred in the Hudlin brothers' film *House Party* in 1990 and its sequel, *House Party 2*, in 1991. Both films did hip-hop business at the box office and left the door wide open for the two homeboys to do more pictures.

Enter **A Class Act**, Kid 'N Play's latest film. It's about two high-

school students whose school records get switched because of a clerical error. One is a straight-A student, the other a smart-alec party animal, and the two decide to use the mix-up to their advantage.

Kid is actually 28-year-old Christopher Reid and Play is 30-year-old Christopher Martin. They started hanging out together while growing up in the East Elmhurst section of Queens. When they met, rap was their bond. They saw it as the perfect way to express themselves and, as Play says, "it makes you popular with your peers and

the young ladies." Although they were originally involved in their own projects — Kid was known as Kid Kool Out and Play was Playboy MC — they decided to team up, combine their nicknames and head for Hollywood.

After pounding the pavement for a couple of years, the two rappers got a deal with Select Records and released their debut album, *2 Hype*. The record sold a million copies in the U.S. and Kid 'N Play earned rave reviews for their innovative hip-hop sound and outstanding self-choreographed dance routines.

TRIBUTE