

# Heels Have Eyes Four The Culture: The Real Supershow

## Heels Have Eyes Four The Culture

Date: April 18, 2025

Location: Palms Casino Resort, Las Vegas, Nevada

Commentators: Ernest Miller, Kazeem Famuyide, David Otunga

This is the annual For The Culture show, which features Black wrestlers from around the world. The series has featured some good stuff and I've liked the shows well enough so far, though this one is a bit different as it is a co-promoted event between GCW (the regular promotion) and 4th Rope. That could make things different enough so let's get to it.

Commentary and the ring announcer welcome us to the rope.

Rapper Westside Gunn comes out, apparently the person in charge of 4th Rope, and raps a song about hurting people...and the Hurt Syndicate is here. MVP is happy to be here because this is wrestling meets hip hop. He welcomes us to the show and tells us to have a great f\*\*\*\*\* time.

## Mustafa Ali vs. Leon Slater vs. Trevor Lee

Lee, with far shorter hair, shoulders Ali to start and we get some early near falls. Slater sends both of them outside and tries the big running flip dive over the post, only to have his head hit the post (GEEZ) on the way down. Thankfully he's fine and Lee takes him down for two back inside. A pop up hurricanrana sends Lee back outside though, leaving Ali to neckbreaker Slater down.

The standing phoenix splash gives Ali two as commentary can't believe the speed. Lee comes back in to help Ali beat Slater down but he's back up with a double handspring elbow. Slater's spinwheel kick drops Ali but Lee knocks Slater silly with a

clothesline. Back up and Slater gives Ali a spinning powerbomb before he gets whipped hard into the corner. That leaves Slater to roll Lee up for the pin at 5:50.

**Rating:** B-. Good, fast paced match to start here and that's what it should have been. Slater is the young up and comer here as Lee and Ali are far more established. They all looked good here and thankfully they didn't spend a lot of time out there, which made the match that much easier to watch.

#### Moose vs. Oni King

Moose's TNA X-Division Title isn't on the line. King apparently "woke up this morning and chose violence" and Moose flips the fans off at the bell. Moose knocks him down to start but King sweeps the legs and starts up some rhythmic strikes in the corner. Some right hands have Moose staggered but he's able to block a suplex and hit a big boot. King runs him over for two but a suplex doesn't work. Moose's spear finishes at 3:40.

**Rating:** C. This wasn't anything close to the opener but it wasn't supposed to be. This was about two good size guys beating each other up and a spear from someone the size of Moose is always going to work. Having Moose on the show is a big deal and the match was fun enough while it lasted.

Justin Roberts comes out to be the guest ring announcer and has a quick chat with commentary, who he apparently knows.

#### 4th Rope Tag Team Titles: Hardys vs. TNT

TNT (Terrell/Terrance Hughes, the sons of D-Von Dudley, who brings them to the ring) are challenging and ignore the Hardys bringing out the TNA titles rather than the 4th Rope titles. Matt (who does not look thrilled to be here) starts with Terrance (commentary isn't sure which is which) and takes him into the corner for some opening posing.

Terrance takes him down and does the Jeff Hardy dance so Jeff comes in for the double elbow. The flipping splash/fist drop combination sets up Poetry In Motion as everything breaks down. Terrell comes in for a cheap shot and D-Von gets in some choking from the floor (to quite the reaction). Terence monkey flips Terrell into a Cannonball to Jeff in the corner and we hit the front facelock.

Terrell Death Valley Drivers Terrance onto Jeff for two and it's back to the facelock. Jeff mule kicks his way to freedom and brings Matt back in to give both of them the ten rams into the buckle. The Side Effect gets two on Terrance but a springboard Hart Attack (back elbow rather than clothesline) drops Matt for two more. Back up and the Plot Twist into the Swanton retains the titles at 7:14.

**Rating:** C+. You could tell the Hardys weren't overly thrilled to be there but it was cool to see the two generations deal here. The Hardys have all kinds of history with the Dudleys and this was a fun idea. TNT isn't a great team yet but they had some nice double teams and certainly didn't look bad.

Some unnamed people are talking about their numbers in the battle royal but no one will tell much of anyone anything. This includes Vix Crow, better known as Alicia Fox.

### Mike Santana vs. Raj Dhesi

Dhesi is better known as Jinder Mahal. We get a bit of respect before the match, with Miller wanting one of them to throw a right hand, just like he would. I'm thinking that would have been a kick, but that's why Miller didn't win much. Dhesi shoves him away and Santana realizes he needs to think twice about this. They go to a stalemate so Santana hits him in the face, only to get dropped with a shoulder.

Santana knocks him outside and keeps up the beating near the crowd, setting up the chops against the post. Back in and Santana catches him on top with a superplex for two and it's

already time to get frustrated. Dude, you hit one move. The chinlock goes on for a bit until Santana fights up and hits a rolling cutter for two. Dhesi's Death Valley Driver gets the same but the Khallas is blocked. The referee accidentally gets superkicked though, allowing Dhesi to kick him low. A chair is loaded up but here is JBL to lariat Dhesi down. Spin The Block gives Santana the win at 10:14.

**Rating:** B-. I was getting into this one before the JBL ending, which is the whole Sheriff deal or whatever it's supposed to be. That's not the most interesting ending, but at least the two of them were both protected. Santana feels like someone who is ready to become a star, though Dhesi has done well enough since leaving WWE. I'm still annoyed he didn't get at least a chance, but he needed to get away from WWE after how things went for him there.

#### Hollyhood Haley J/Vix Crow vs. Alexis Littlefoot/Masha Slamovich

I haven't seen Littlefoot before but she's from Lexington, Kentucky so we'll give her some bonus points. Slamovich kicks J in the face to start and then brings in Littlefoot to face Crow. They slug it out with Crow getting the better of things as J has gone into the crowd to dance, while being paid in dollars. Crow grabs the chinlock and looks rather confused by whatever J is doing. J finally gets on the apron but Littlefoot rams Crow into her (that should be a tag) and rolls Crow up for the pin at 3:15.

**Rating:** D. Yeah what else is this supposed to be? It was nice to have Crow back in the ring after being away for so long but it wasn't like she got to do much here. Slamovich was barely involved in this, but given how much she has done over the weekend, I can forgive the shorter match. Nothing to see here.

Post match J whips out a sock and knocks Crow cold, revealing a rock inside.

## The Infantry vs. Culture Inc.

That would be Carlie Bravo/Shawn Dean vs. Eli Knight/Malik Bosede and this is a street fight. They go straight to the brawling (as they should) with the Infantry taking over and heading outside. A running boot knocks Knight out of a chair and it's time to go back inside, with the Infantry bringing in some chairs. That takes too long though and they're quickly dropped with baseball slides, allowing Culture to grab the chairs. Back in and Bravo gets knocked outside, leaving Dean to get caught with a double superkick.

The beating continues, with the Infantry being sent into the set a few times. Back in and Bravo gets thrown onto a raised chair for two (ouch) and it's right back to the floor. Dean is back up with a heck of a big dive and everyone is wiped out. The fight goes into the crowd and this can't end well. They go into a dark corner and the camera misses something that draws a HOLY S\*\*\* chant. We go back inside with Bravo in trouble but Dean comes in with a top rope clothesline. Knight is staggered enough that a running double stomp onto a chair finishes Knight at 9:04.

**Rating:** B. It was a wild brawl for the most part and the big spots were certainly good. The problem was not being able to see some parts, but that's more on the production than the wrestlers. It felt like they were having a fight though and that's the point, with the anger coming through here.

One of the people asking about the numbers earlier (Joe Alonzo) finds someone we can't see behind a door.

## Tiara James vs. Maya World

James wastes no time in taking her down and throws in some pushups. A running shoulder takes World down but she's back up with a shoulder of her own. And yes, she does include some pushups. James is right back up with a Backstabber for the win at 1:53, as World might have gotten banged up there. The

referee didn't seem to think that would be the ending and was checking on World after it was over.

Justin Roberts gets in the ring and wants to try an experiment. He's heard that if...say his name he will appear, so here is Joe Hendry. We get the pose and catchphrase before Hendry talks about how great this weekend has been. Cue the Godfather, with the ladies, for one of the most random pairings I've ever seen.

Godfather offers Hendry the women, but says it should be called the Nice Lady Train. We can call it the NLT! The fans aren't sure about that, even with Haley J coming out to join in. Godfather offers to put Hendry on the "Lovely Lady Train". The fans try to chant it, but they're more into the idea of Godfather doing Hendry's pose. This was bizarre fun.

Cha Cha Charlie is ready to win the battle royal to become Flyweight Champion.

#### 4th Rope Flyweight Title: Battle Royal

This appears to be a Royal Rumble with 20 entrants for the inaugural title. Reall (Enzo Amore) is in at #1 and does his greatest hits while looking even worse than usual. Joe Alonzo is in at #2 and apparently no one can stand him. Reall sits on the top and Alonzo yells at the crowd as they decided to wait on #3, which is quite the troll job. Apparently we have one minute intervals (or less) and it's Mo Jabari in at #3.

Reall and Alonzo jump him before he can even get in, with Reall hitting a running Razor's Edge into the post (though it looked more like the crowd). Jabari is thrown inside for Jordunzo and the elimination. Sidney Akeem (Reggie from WWE) is in at #4 and picks up the pace, managing to knock Alonzo down. A Downward Spiral into the buckle cuts him off though and Jordunzo lets Reall toss him out.

Richard Holliday is in at #5 and says he wants in on what

Reall and Alonzo are doing. If his Steiner Math is correct, the three of them together gives them 100% chance of success. They seem to agree and everyone shakes hands...and Holliday is tossed out as John Wayne Murdoch is in at #6. Yeah that tracks. Murdoch jumps Alonzo but gets knocked outside (not out) for a posting from Reall. The Razor's Edge into the post knocks Murdoch silly and Mance Warner is in at #7.

That gives us something of a tag match, with Alonzo quickly being knocked down for a running knee from Warner. Reall gets beaten up but manages to hang on as Cha Cha Charlie is in at #8. A frog splash hits Alonzo and Charlie tosses him out without much trouble. Charlie clotheslines Warner and Murdoch down as Rich Swann is in at #9. Swann and Charlie immediately dance together, until Charlie suplexes him to cut off the music. AJ Francis is in at #10 as I wonder what exactly the flyweight class is supposed to be.

Francis beats up Reall on the ramp before coming in to throw Murdoch out. A splash hits Warner and Francis is dominating as Bryan Keith is in at #11. Francis runs over Keith and Reall with a double shoulder but they muscle him up for a double suplex. We settle down into a more traditional battle royal with some elimination attempts until Tommy Dreamer (of course) is in at #12.

Dreamer hammers away on various people until he runs into Francis. The chokeslam is broken up with a bite to the hand and Kevin Blackwood comes in to clean house. Well until he gets poked in the eye and cuttered by Dreamer that is. AJ Gray is in at #13 and hammers away until we settle back down. Kenny King is in at #14 as the ring is getting full. Said ring gets more full with Odyssey (Jones) in at #15.

Odyssey knocks down a few people and goes after Francis, who pulls him off the top and tosses him without much trouble. Well that was disappointing. For some reason Francis goes up and gets ganged up on to no avail. Isaiah Broner is in at #16

and muscles Francis up for an impressive F5. An even bigger F5 hits Swann and Dreamer gets punched down as well. Keith and Broner chop it out until Elijah is in at #17.

A big guitar shot hits Broner and another hits Blackwood as the guitar is wrecked. Blackwood and Broner are out, followed by Gray as Elijah does some good work in clearing the ring. Elijah goes Old School (that's stupid) but eliminates Dreamer anyway. Francis goes up again to pose, earning himself a low blow from King. That doesn't go well either as King, and then Swann, are tossed by Francis. Reall and Keith send Francis to the apron as Kevin Knight is in at #18.

Knight slams Charlie as almost everyone else is down on the ropes. Nic Nemeth is in at #19 as the star power in this is impressive. With Ryan Nemeth at ringside, Nic fires off superkicks, including a pair to get rid of Francis. Nic superkicks Elijah and just about everyone is down as EJ Nduka is in at #20 to complete the field. Nduka kicks a bunch of people and gives Knight a heck of a powerbomb.

Reall gets one of his own as commentary chants about Nduka not being a flyweight. After Dreamer is in the match too, the weight limits go out the window. Nduka gets a running start and hits a crossbody on Keith and Knight, with all three of them being eliminated at once. We're down to Reall, Nic, Elijah and Charlie. Elijah and Nic wind up on the apron with Ryan helping pull Elijah out...but Nic goes out as well. So we're down to two with Charlie hitting a splash but Reall skins the cat and wins at 34:25.

**Rating:** C+. I liked this a bit more than I was expecting to, as there is something very fun about seeing who is coming through the curtain next. That's what we had here and it worked pretty well, with quite the lineup. It would have been better if it was pretty much anyone but Reall, but I've long since given up on the hope that we'll be rid of him anytime soon.



Madusa of all people comes out to present the title. Reall does a Shawn Michaels pose and of course wants a mic. He goes on a rant about how much he deserves this because no one has put up with more than he has. This is what he was made to do and there is no man in wrestling he would ask for advice. Madusa believed in him though and he has no problem asking a woman for advice. This is the first family of 4th Rope and that was for Windham and Brodie. Can't stand the guy but that was a sweet thing to say.

And now we get extra emotional as here is Chris Bey (in an Evanescence shirt). He's glad to be back but these people are sick. It's 3am and these people are at a wrestling show! They're here because of 4th Rope and for the culture. Bey is having a great weekend and even though he wasn't able to be on the promotion's first show, he's been watching what has been going on. After hitting the promotion's catchphrase, he sends us to the next match. This is always great to see.

#### Matt Riddle vs. Gabe Kidd

Kidd drops down to chill for a bit and then does the crane pose from Karate Kid. They go to the grappling with Riddle taking him down for a kneebar before letting it up for the chop off. Kidd hits a corner clothesline into a slam for two before putting Riddle in a chair at ringside. That means more chops but Riddle pops up and fires off his own strikes.

Back in and they fight over a suplex until Riddle gets two off a small package. Riddle's fisherman's buster plants Kidd again for a near fall but he catches Riddle up top for a superplex. A brainbuster gets two but Riddle knocks him down again. The Floating Bro connects for two and a running knee gets the same as frustration is setting in for Riddle. Back up and Kidd grabs a victory roll for the fluke pin at 6:52.

**Rating:** C+. This didn't have time to go anywhere and it was nowhere near the other stuff I've seen from Kidd. Riddle

losing clean is weird enough, but the good thing is that Kidd's rise continues. He's going to be a big deal somewhere and this is the kind of win outside of a major promotion that gives him an even brighter future.

Post match respect is shown but Riddle gives him an RK0. Sore loser.

Here is MVP, apparently the Commissioner, to ask if the fans are still with him. After starting a F\*\*\* THAT GUY chant for a fan who say something mean, MVP introduces the Flatbush Zombies for some music as the cage is set up for the main event. Points for not just asking the fans to sit there at about 4am.

Then a DJ plays some music.

Then another live performer performs. This eats up quite a long time, closing in on half an hour. I get the idea, but that is a long wait if you're here for the wrestling.

#### 4th Rope Title: Zilla Fatu vs. Josh Bishop

Fatu is defending in a cage (Justin Roberts gets the name of the title wrong). Fatu headbutts away to start and sends him into the cage a few times, with Bishop already being busted open. The Samoan Spike is blocked though and Bishop grabs a suplex. The slow beating begins and a fall away slam sends Fatu into the cage. A running dropkick does it again for two but Fatu knocks him down again and heads up.

That earns him a crotching on the top, with Bishop following to ram Fatu's head into the cage. A nice superplex brings him back down for two and we hit the reverse chinlock. Back up and Fatu hits a backdrop and the flying shoulders. A DDT sets up the Superfly Splash for two but Fatu misses a charge into the cage. They both go up top, where Fatu grabs a super Samoan drop. The running Samoan Spike retains the title at 10:09.

**Rating:** C+. It was nice while it lasted, but it didn't last that long. Granted it was probably close to 5am local time here, but you would kind of hope for a longer main event, especially in a cage for a title. Zilla feels like someone who could go somewhere if he gets the chance to develop, though that is going to take time. Bishop wasn't bad either, though this didn't feel like a big time main event.

Post match a bunch of wrestlers from Reality Of Wrestling, including Journey Fatu, run in to beat Zilla down. Bishop is beaten down as well and Reality Of Wrestling owner Booker T. pops up on screen to say this is just the beginning for 4th Rope. And we seem to have an invasion angle.

**Overall Rating:** B. It's very long and the music part wasn't the most thrilling time (though I'm sure it had its fans), but my goodness what a lineup. You had the Hardys, the Hurt Business, Nic Nemeth and a bunch of other TNA stars. This felt like something closer to the annual WrestleCon Supershow with all kinds of big names. The wrestling was good enough and it had the cool moments with Bey and Hendry. I had a lot of fun with this and it was WAY better than I was expecting.

### Results

Leon Slater b. Trevor Lee and Mustafa Ali – Victory roll to Lee

Moose b. Oni King – Spear

Hardys b. TNT – Swanton to Terrell

Mike Santana b. Raj Dhesi – Spin The Block

Masha Slamovich/Alexis Littlefoot b. Hollyhood Haley J/Vix Crow – Rollup to Crow

The Infantry b. Culture Inc. – Double stomp onto a chair to Knight

Tiara James b. Maya World – Backstabber

Real1 won a battle royal last eliminating Cha Cha Charlie

Gabe Kidd b. Matt Riddle – Victory roll

Zilla Fatu b. Josh Bishop – Running Samoan Spike

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# Maple Leaf Pro Forged In Excellence (Night One): 0... . Canada

## Forged In Excellence Night One

Date: October 19, 2024

Location: St. Clair College, Windsor, Ontario, Canada

Commentators: Don Callis, Mauro Ranallo

So this is Maple Leaf Pro, the new promotion from former TNA executive Scott D'Amore. The card has been built up well over the last few weeks and I might as well look at the first two nights. As you might expect, there will be a heavy Canadian influence on the show, but there are some outsiders as well. Let's get to it.

The opening video looks at some of the people on the show tonight and how they got here, with some classic Canadian wrestling clips thrown in. It's almost weird seeing TNA clips in there given how D'Amore departed.

The production looks OUTSTANDING for an independent show, easily on par with TNA.

Josh Alexander/Stu Grayson/El Phantasmo vs. Rocky Romero/Alex Zayne/Trevor Lee

Well you knew Romero was going to be on a show like this. What kind of a show? Every kind of a show. Alexander works on Romero's arm to start and elbows him down before handing it off to Grayson and Lee, the latter of whom has gotten a heck of a haircut. Grayson takes him down and hits a dropkick but Lee hands it off to Zayne.

Phantasmo comes in to take him down, followed by a very springboardy armdrag. Alexander and company grab stereo Sharpshooters but they're quickly broken up, with Romero hitting the Forever Clotheslines on Phantasmo. Lee gets kicked into Zayne though and it's off to Alexander to clean house. Everything breaks down and Alexander gets kicked down as Callis wants Alexander hurt before he faces Konosuke Takeshita tomorrow night.

Alexander fights up as well and hands it back to Grayson for a double clothesline. Phantasmo hits a torture rack neckbreaker but Romero sens him into Alexander. Grayson's Nightfall (torture rack into a backbreaker) drops Zayne and Alexander hits a release German suplex on Lee. Romero's armbar is countered into another backbreaker though and Alexander nails the C4 Spike for the pin at 13:27.

**Rating:** B. Heck of a choice for an opener here, as they didn't overstay their welcome, kept the action up, and gave the fans a hot match to get things going. The Canadians winning is the most obvious result imaginable and they had a good one here, with Alexander feeling like a polished star. Rather solid match with this one and the show is off to a nice start.

Mike Bailey is ready for Konosuke Takeshita because we're on his own home country turf.

We run down the card.

We get a history of Maple Leaf Wrestling and various great wrestling in Canada, as narrated by Bret Hart. That's certainly a big get and there is some awesome classic footage in here.

### Bhupinder Gujjar vs. QT Marshall

Gujjar is/was from TNA (he hasn't been around in a bit) and Marshall has AEW's Harley Cameron in his corner. Cameron mocks the Windsor fans and Marshall promises Gujjar the beating he deserves for thinking a cup of coffee in a major promotion matters. Marshall armdrags him to start and stops for some posing on the top. They fight over wrist control with Gujjar taking him down and hitting a nice dropkick for two. There's a clothesline to the floor and Gujjar follows him out with a slingshot dive.

Back in and Marshall pulls him off the ropes for a crash to take over again. A slap to the face wakes Gujjar up though and he hits a running forearm to put Marshall down for a change. Marshall is right back with a sitout powerbomb for two but Gujjar hits some jumping shots to the face. Cameron grabs the foot though and Marshall scores with a Diamond Cutter for the pin at 8:25.

**Rating:** C+. Not as good as the opener but it lets a named heel get a win off some simple yet effective interference. That's always been a standard for D'Amore's shows: they aren't going to reinvent the wheel, but they're going to give you completely competent wrestling with talented stars. That's what we had here, as it wasn't a classic or anything, but it was perfectly acceptable wrestling.

Kylie Rae is really excited to be here in Canada and was here at 6am. She's ready to face anyone and everyone.

### Kylie Rae vs. Aurora Teves vs. Laynie Luck vs. Taylor Rising

One fall to a finish. Rae shakes hands with Teves and Luck but Rising kicks her in the ribs to start fast. They trade rollups for two each and it's a four way standoff. Rising bails to the floor and it's Rae grabbing a crossface on Luck, with Teves making the save. Back in and Rae forearms away at Rising but Teves takes over with some rapid fire kicks. Rae takes Luck to the floor and gets hit in the face, setting up a big flip dive off the top for a massive crash. Back in and Rising gives Teves a Pedigree but Luck comes in with a top rope cutter. Rae pops up to superkick Luck and pin Teves at 6:53.

**Rating:** C+. As usual, you can only get so much out of a four way match with less than seven minutes as everyone is trying to get their stuff in as fast as they can. Rae is by far the biggest star in the match and it makes sense that the promotion would want to focus on her, but she doesn't have the best record when it comes to sticking around. Maybe this is the exception though, as she certainly has the talent to go somewhere.

Josh Alexander (after an interview with Konosuke Takeshita is accidentally shown) is glad to be back in Canada and Canadian wrestling is back too! He's ready for Konosuke Takeshita tomorrow as they make more history.

Now we get the Takeshita interview (fair enough as someone probably hit the button early by mistake), which is part of the WrestleDream press conference with Takeshita saying he's ready to face anywhere, anytime.

IWGP Junior Heavyweight Tag Team Titles: Jet Setters vs. Aiden Prince/El Reverso vs. Rogue Squadron vs. Brent Banks/Johnny Swinger

The Jet Setters (Kushida and Kevin Knight) are defending and the Squadron are Rohit Raju/Sheldon Jean. The Squadron clears the ring to start but then runs off from the threat of violence. We settle down to Knight and Banks catching the

others' kicks so Swinger comes in and gets punched out to the floor. The rapid fire changes begin until Prince rolls over to kick Knight in the face. Prince and Reverso hit stereo dives onto the champs on the floor but it's the Squad stomping away back inside.

Raju and Jean take turns working on Prince's arm but the champs crotch Raju against the post to cut him down. Swinger, the goof, comes in and is immediately glared back into the corner by Kushida. The Squadron takes him into the corner but Kushida rolls out and hands it back to Knight. It's back to Prince, who gets dropped by the champs, only for the Squadron to knock everyone down.

Swinger is the only one left standing so naturally he goes up, only to get crotched back own. A bunch of people are sent outside for the series of dives but Jean comes back in and strikes away. Banks clears the ring again until Reverso hits a springboard kick to the face. Knight is back up to kick various people down until Swinger grabs a rollup for two on Kushida. That's enough for the champs, as it's a neckbreaker/high crossbody combination to finish Swinger and retain the titles at 16:09.

**Rating:** B-. Another fun match with all kinds of action, but also another match with so many people floating around that it was hard to keep track of everything. It doesn't help that the teams aren't the most familiar and it is already tricky enough to remember who is who. This was fun while it lasted, but it would have been better with fewer teams.

Video on the Champion's Grail, one of the promotion's titles. Apparently it's a cross between Riki Choshu and Kenny Omega. That's a heck of a mixture.

#### PWA Champion's Grail: Rohan Raja vs. Jake Something

For the inaugural title and no word on what the PWA is. Raja is a former member of the Desi Hit Squad in TNA, where



Something currently wrestles as well. The bigger Something powers him into the corner to start and then runs him over with pure strength. Raja gets in a shot of his own though and some forearms to the back have Something in trouble for a change. Back up and Raja starts in on the arm, with a knockdown setting up an armbar.

Raja's neckbreaker gets two but Something uses the good arm to hit a clothesline. What looks to be a powerbomb doesn't work so Something settles for a spinebuster for two instead. Back up and a hard forearm rocks Raja again and a one armed powerbomb (cool) gives Something two more. Into The Void (boss Man Slam) is broken up and Raja hits a Backstabber into a brainbuster. Something misses a charge and Seek And Destroy (jumping Downward Spiral) gives Raja the pin at 13:31.

**Rating:** C+. Nice enough power vs. non-power match here but I'm still not entirely sure what the title is supposed to be. Given the people involved, I would assume it's a midcard title but the whole PWA deal wasn't exactly well explained. Perfectly fine match here, though nothing that stood out in the slightest, even with someone who with as good of a look as Something.

Post match Raja says he's defending the title around the world and wants to face the best. He's hungry for competition, so he'll be called Ravenous Rohan Raja. Uh sure.

Bully Ray takes credit for the house because he is the biggest star in this company (well, kind of). He doesn't know why Raj Dhesi (formerly known as Jinder Mahal) would sign up for a tables match with Ray, but it won't go well for him.

### Bully Ray vs. Raj Dhesi

Tables match. Before the match, Ray complains about being listed as only being in the WWE Hall Of Fame rather than WWE and TNA. Oh and he's half of the greatest team of all time. And he's Calzilla. And handsome. The fans chant for Dhesi,

which has Ray threatening to leave for the United States. Ray promises that Dhesi will never put him through a table so Dhesi strikes away, including a jumping knee to the face. Dhesi knocks him out to the floor but Ray gets in a mic shot to the face.

Back in and Ray rakes at the eyes before grabbing a kendo stick to keep up the beating. Ray calls a fan an "old bag" and gets in a low blow but stops to yell at the referee. That's enough for Dhesi to get in some kendo stick shots before sending the referee up to play D-Von in What's Up. The table is brought in but the referee gets bumped, meaning Dhesi putting Ray through the table doesn't matter. Cue QT Marshall to drop Dhesi and put him on the broken table...which is enough to give Ray the win at 8:52.

**Rating:** C-. This was more about the What's Up spot than anything else, which wasn't anything overly special. Ray has a longstanding tendency to get wins like this for the sake of heat from the crowd, but it's rare that he gets any kind of comeuppance. Now he already has a minion in Marshall and that isn't boding well for the rest of his time around here.

Post match Ray loads up a chair but Bhupinder Gujjar makes the save.

Ad for TNA Bound For Glory.

We preview next week's AEW Dynamite, because Tony Khan's stuff has to be in everything.

Gisele Shaw is ready to face Miyu Yamashita before her ROH Women's Title shot tomorrow.

Gisele Shaw vs. Miyu Yamashita

If Yamashita wins, she is added to the Ring Of Honor Women's Title match on Night Two. Feeling out process to start, with Yamashita working on the arm but getting reversed into a

hammerlock. Back up and Shaw misses a charge so Yamashita can kick away in the corner. Shaw knocks her out to the floor but Yamashita manages a posting for a needed breather.

Back in and Shaw ties her in the ropes for some knees to the ribs, setting up the chinlock. That's broken up so Shaw settles for two off a sitout powerbomb instead. Yamashita is back with a springboard enziguri but Shaw backbreakers her into a Downward Spiral for two more. They strike it out with Shaw getting the better of things, only for Yamashita to tell her to bring it. That's fine with Shaw, who hits a running knee for the pin at 12:35.

**Rating:** B-. This was one of the better matches on the show and it was good enough for the spot. Shaw had long since felt like she was ready to become the next star in the TNA women's division but it never went on to the next level. Beating Yamashita gives Shaw some momentum on the way to tomorrow's title shot, but it's probably going to take more than that to get the title off of Athena. For now though, good match.

Video on Athena, the longest reigning champion of any kind in Ring Of Honor history.

We run down the Night Two card.

Video on Konosuke Takeshita vs. Mike Bailey.

### Konosuke Takeshita vs. Mike Bailey

Takeshita runs him over to start but Bailey pops up and fires off some kicks. A running hurricanrana sends Takeshita outside and there's the running hurricanrana through the ropes. The triangle moonsault drops Takeshita again and the bouncing kicks have him in more trouble back inside. They're already back on the apron, where Takeshita catches him with a Death Valley Driver to leave both of them on the floor.

Back in and we hit the chinlock until Bailey fights up, only

to get planted with a DDT for two. Bailey fights up again and fires off the kicks, setting up the running shooting star press for two of his own. The standing moonsault hits raised knees though and Takeshita hits a crazy release German suplex. They both miss kicks and counters until Bailey scores with some moonsault knees for a breather. Bailey fires off more kicks but Takeshita pulls him up for a rather devastating forearm.

Takeshita misses a running charge to crash out to the floor, allowing Bailey to hit a big springboard corkscrew dive. Back in and Bailey misses the Ultimate Weapon, allowing Takeshita to launch him face first into the middle buckle. A powerbomb out of the corner puts Takeshita down and a shooting star legdrop (just go with it) gets two. Bailey knocks him out to the floor but Takeshita is right back with another huge forearm.

Back in and Bailey's hurricanrana staggers Takeshita, who counters the tornado kick into a very spinny Blue Thunder Bomb for a near fall. A wheelbarrow suplex into a hard clothesline gives Takeshita two more but Bailey kicks him into the corner. The tornado kick sets up the Ultimate Weapon for two but the Flamingo Driver is countered into a kneeling tombstone for two. Takeshita hits his running knee or two and Raging Fire is finally enough to put Bailey away at 24:31.

**Rating:** A-. I'm not a big Bailey fan but he knows how to have some rather entertaining matches, which was the case here. These guys beat the living daylights out of each other until Takeshita put him away, which is all you can hope to see. It's the kind of main event that people will notice and for the first big match the promotion has ever presented, that's more than enough.

Josh Alexander comes out for a staredown with Takeshita before their title match tomorrow.

**Overall Rating:** B. The opener and the main event are both good and the stuff in the middle is mostly acceptable. The one match that doesn't work very well is the tables match but you kind of know what you're getting into with that. Otherwise, I had a good time with this show as they didn't do anything insane. There was no big angle or storyline as they focused on the wrestling instead, which is a smart move. I'll be checking out the second night as well and they'll be coming in off a nice start with this part.

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