

ENTERTAINMENT **HAPPENINGS** ENTERTAINMENT



**AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH
STEPHANIE MILLS**

Exclusive - By Lanita Duke

Grassroots News, N.W. - When it comes to easing on down the road, no one does it with such dynamic entertainment energy as Stephanie Mills. Grassroot News reporter Lanita Duke focuses on her dialogue with Ms. Mills during her last visit to Portland.

Duke: Stephanie, could you enlighten our readers to your cultural background?

Mills: I was brought up and raised in Brooklyn, New York and later graduated from Bourhall Academy, a private school in Brooklyn.

Duke: Your first major commercial success was "The Wiz," which was an all-Black play. What type of interaction occurred because of that, between the artists and the audience?

Mills: It was great! *The Wiz* broke the ice for a lot of Black Broadway plays that came after us. Plays like *Bubbling Brown Sugar* and *Ain't Misbehavin*. *The Wiz* paved the way for their success and we were on stage for four years and during that time the critics said we wouldn't last, but we did.

Duke: Since the traditional critics killed the production, what do you think was the appeal?

Mills: The appeal was nothing but entertainment. In this day and time people just want to come and enjoy themselves and forget about their problems. It was a fairy tale about a little girl who went through changes within herself. It didn't have a heavy message. It wasn't Blackness. We weren't saying that we were Black people. People could see that. We were just talented Black people dancing and entertaining.



Duke: Now that you've expanded into studio recordings, do you like that better than an actual stage production?

Mills: I love what I'm doing now and *The Wiz* wasn't my first Broadway show. It's just that I've proven myself as a Broadway performer. Now I'm trying to prove myself as a commercial recording artist. I enjoy the artistic demands but can do without the traveling.

Duke: How do you like working with Teddy Pendergrass?

Mills: I love working with Teddy. Our first date together is here in Portland since cutting the tune. I think he's a wonderful man.

Duke: Having achieved commercial success under the banner of R&B, do you feel some type of allegiance to the Black community?

Mills: Yes. I would like for Black women to look up to me, not look up to me per se, but look at me as a symbol; to save for something better than their surrounding. We should learn to adapt to higher and better things in life as opposed to being told that you can't. The easiest thing to do is for someone to tell you that you can't.

Duke: What are your plans for the future?

Mills: I'm going to cut another record, a little film work and someday go back to Broadway.

Duke: What advice could you pass on to our readers?

Mills: To be the best you can be; to work hard at whatever it is to ensure your successes are real and not just a paper chase.

HAPPENINGS

ACT-SO Orientation Noon Luncheon, Saturday, January 24, 1981, noon - 3pm, Matt Dishman Community Center, 77 N.E. Knott Street. Guest speaker: James De Priest, Oregon Symphony Conductor.

Theatre Workshop: Theatre workshops winter term begins January 12th. Classes for all ages are being offered in music, dance, and theatre at Mt. Tabor Annex 511 SE 60th, and in Portland Community schools and centers. Call 235-4551 or 235-0305 for details.

Benefit: A benefit concert for "El Salvador" featuring a group of Chilean musicians from Seattle called "Jatari" and local artists will be held Saturday, January 17, 1981 at 8:00p.m., at St. Andrews Church, 806 N.E. Alberta. For more information call 224-2872, 239-7015, or 235-9388.

Dexter Gordon Quintet
January 19, 1981

Portland Center for the Visual Arts
117 NW 5th Avenue
222-7107

Two Shows - 9:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.
Tickets - \$6.50 (\$5.00 PCVA members)

Ticket outlets: Jango Records; Music Millennium; Longhair Music; PCVA



JOAN ARMATRADING IN EUROPE

Joan Armatrading was not surprised to find the sign on her dressing room door in Nuremberg, Germany read "John Armstrong." The veteran singer/songwriter is used to a lack of recognition among promoters and booking agents (*The New York Times* recently described her as "perhaps the best unknown pop star in the business").

However, Miss Armatrading's current tour of Europe and Great Britain indicates that this confusion does not extend to her fans. Most of the 49 dates on the tour have been SRO and the critical raves are pouring in non-stop. "The star gives a lesson in music," was the opinion of the *Hamburger* of Hamburg, Germany, "she was brilliant and her musicians were stars themselves." *Der Spiegel*, Germany's major news magazine, called Joan Armatrading an "Idol."

Joan Armatrading's European agenda, her second major headlining tour of the continent, encompassed 26 dates in eight countries, with 15 concerts in Germany. According to her personal manager, Michael Stone, the rock-oriented material from Armatrading's new A&M Records LP, *Me, Myself, I* (just released in the U.S.) has increased her following among young people. "We just played an SRO show in Vienna," Stone related, "and the audience ranged from thirteen into the 40's. The young people were standing and dancing up front, and the older people were sitting quietly and enjoying the beat in the music."

The highlight of the European tour to date was Joan Armatrading's televised performance at the Rock Palast in Essen, Germany. In addition to the 10,000 fans in the hall, the concert was beamed to a potential audience of 700 million people in eight countries, including Germany, France, Great Britain and the Soviet Union.

Armatrading's new band includes some of rock's finest, notably former Eric Clapton sideman Dick Simms and former Little Feat member Richie Hayward. Hayward agreed to make the tour despite seriously injuring his leg in a motorcycle crash, and being informed by one doctor that he would never walk again. "We're providing his therapy," explains Michael Stone.

The Armatrading itinerary concludes with 23 dates in Great Britain, where the West Indian-born artist has a massive following. Perhaps, by the time Joan Armatrading returns to America, promoters and booking agents will get her name right.

SEE SPORTS ON GIANT SCREEN T.V.

JOE'S PLACE

1801 N.E. Alberta

ICE COLD BEER
WINE

DO YOU REALLY WANT TO SAVE ON YOUR FOOD BILL?

FRUIT PIE
Hostess APPLE

We offer savings of up to 40% and more on fine quality wonder and Hostess products, plus large discounts on other baked goods. Besides our everyday low prices, we feature in-store specials daily. Just look for the "bargain" signs on the displays in our store. Discover for yourself what thousands of smart shoppers in the area have found.

You'll be amazed at the savings you make at our Wonder Thrift Shop!

Food stamps gladly accepted

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED
You must be completely satisfied with every purchase or we will cheerfully refund your purchase price.

WONDER-HOSTESS THRIFTSHOP
115 N. Cook St.
Corner of Vancouver & Cook St., Portland, Oregon
Open Mon thru Sat - 9am-6pm - Closed Sundays



KBOO 90.7 FM: On Thursday, January 15, 1981, KBOO 90.7 FM will honor the birthday of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., with a special programming from 10am to 12 midnight. Program hosts include: George Page from 10am to 2pm; Art Alexander from 2pm to 6pm; George Fitz from 6pm to 8pm; and J.W. Friday from 8pm to 12 midnight. Several interviews will feature: Ronnie Herndon, Vern Chatman, Lucious Hicks, Marvin Welt, John Jackson, Herb Cawthorne, Linda Roberts, and Linda Williams. There will also be commentary by: Kwame Toure, Malcom X, Julian Bond, Max Roach, Vernon Jordan, and Grassroots News, N.W.

ACT-SO ORIENTATION KICK-OFF

ACT-SO, the Afro-Academic Cultural Technological Scientific Olympics will be holding its annual scholarship orientation luncheon, Saturday, **January 24, 1981** at the **Matt Dishman Community Center** from noon until 3 p.m. This is an opportunity for all high school students, parents, teachers and counselors to become informed about the ACT-SO program. Special guest speaker will be Mr. James De Priest, new conductor of the Oregon Symphony. The ACT-SO program is partially funded by a \$3,000 United States National Bank challenge grant.

INFLATION BEATER

Happy Hour at the ROCKS
Monday - Friday 5-9

House Brand Drinks 55¢ Beer 25¢

Movies Shown Daily
OLD FIGHTS
MUHAMMAD ALI
JOE LOUIS and OTHERS

WEDS. LADIES THURS. NIGHT WED. AFTER FRI. HOURS
Ladys no cover
2 Drinks for the price of one
SAT. Till 4:30

AFTER 9 DISCO

The Best Souvlaki In Town

MONDAY through FRIDAY

Michael J.
15 N.W. 6th 228-1308