



**THE INNER SOUL OF DEXTER GORDON**

Exclusive - By Lanita Duke

Grassroot News, N.W. - There are various forms of popular Black music, but there is one form that reflects the aggregate of the different forms that exist. That form is Jazz.

Jazz has the powerful sentiments of the Blues, the call and response of Gospel, and the beat of Soul. Not only are all of the Black musical forms reflected in Jazz, but the consistent development and changes that occurs in Jazz, has a direct effect on Soul - the most popular form of Black music.

The changes in Jazz started in 1940 and Dexter Gordon was among the many musicians who contributed to the development of Be-Bop. Dexter was in town last Monday night and gave an education in Jazz.

It must be kept in mind that during the first forty years of the 20th century, Jazz had that Big Band/Swing sound. Dexter told of the times when a 50 seat railroad car would have to be reserved in order for just one band to travel. Due to the expense of such a move, big bands were stationary. It wasn't until the small mobile New York bands started to become recognizable that Dexter



**DEXTER GORDAN**

Gordon, Max Roach and many others, injected a beat, a harmony and rhythm that no big band could copy. Dexter had begun to build a bridge between the traditional Swing Sound and the contemporary New York beat.

Jazz, as a Black music form, in the white record industry, was considered by the powers that be as "Monkey business," and Jazz artists were looked down upon as freaks and hypes. It was that type of attitude Dexter had to deal with which sparked him in the early 60s to leave the states for a tour of Europe.

He originally had planned to stay a few months, but ended up staying eighteen years. "They treated me like a God," Dexter explained.

It is in Europe, that Jazz is treated like a true art form and its musicians treated like respected artists. So the next time you gear your turntable up to jam to Kool & The Gang, or Michael Henderson, remember that the beat that gets you on your feet was created in a smoke filled jazz club in New York's Harlem by artists like Dexter Gordon.

**A CURLY AFFAIR**

By Pam Smith

"The whole idea was to take non-professional people, change their hair, put some makeup on them, put them into different clothes and let them do," explained model Renee Mendoza, "and we did it!"

The idea referred to by Renee, was a hair and fashion show, presented in the elegant Marriott Hotel ballroom, January 24th. The show, coordinated by Michael "magic" Joseph and Julian "the doctor" Wright, began with a psychedelic bang. Flickering rainbow colors set the mood for an evening which was filled with vibrant smiles, dazzling fashions and easy hair creations. If tensions were high among the amateur models it did not show, as they moved through their first modeling performance ever.

"There has to be a relaxed atmosphere for the models, because if there isn't, and if they tense up they'll pass out halfway through the show...that's just how much pressure they're under. It may look easy, but actually it demands alot," explained "the doctor." "That's why during rehearsals we do everything to make them comfortable."

Michael, a native of Seattle, Washington and Julian, from New York, met at a hair style show in Los Angeles, California. Both professional hair designers, they decided to join forces to develop a new and totally unique hair concept. The *Maxi Curl* it's called. It's a very beautiful curl, very soft and loose and popular among both men and women. "The cut," explains Michael, "is geometrical." Julian adds that, "if people think that Sasoon is a household name, wait until they get the Shining Star Styling Institute, soon to open here in Portland. I have a direct hair source in London. I just came from there. Because of that connection, I am informed of the very latest in hair designs as soon as they originate."

The team calls themselves "The Shining Star."

The first scene of Saturday night's show highlighted the latest in fashions, courtesy of Mary Ellen, a designer from Portland. A few hints to today's fashion conscious woman.

- Pull out your old pearls and other long beaded jewelry...it's back. Knits are sneaking in; two piece sweater sets are returning, tiered dresses are hitting the scene and ruffles too. Don't be afraid to wear those bright, bright colors this year.

- For the fashion conscious man, suits are still in, especially 3-piece ones. Mandarin collared shirts are in style. Double breasts are being stressed a little more this year and both single and double pleated slacks constitute today's G.Q., man. Everything has to be relaxed and comfortable.

The final scene placed its emphasis on the hair. It too has to be relaxed. "If we have to worry about our hair we won't have any time to worry about our cloths," said commentator Jerrie Ward. French braids seem to fit well into that "comfortable" category along with

the *Maxi Curl* and the geometrical cut.

All of the models participating in the show are from Portland. "What we did explained "Magic," was to grab people from clubs who looked like they had potential and we started working with them. We rehearsed for this show for about a week and a half."

In reply to a question which asked why this show wasn't put on in the community, Julian said, "We wanted to; we wanted to give our money to Black people but we just couldn't get things together this time. But we do plan on coming into the community. We're into showing Black people that we're taking care of business which is so vital here in Portland. People are thirsty for something new here and we are ready to give it to them. We are willing to stimulate the community and participate in it in any way that we can." Julian outlined three main ways: 1) To bring the latest hair and



**DORIS RUSH**



**BILLY BLACK**

(Photo: Percy Davis)

fashion styles to the community; 2) To conduct seminars to upgrade professional stylists in the community and; 3) To make themselves available at any community function upon request whenever possible. "Actually, there are no limitations as far as the community is concerned," Julian concluded.

From here, Julian and Michael will be touring the West Coast introducing their products. After the tour, they'll return to Portland and open their Salon.

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Fighting fish were bred in Japan and Thailand for competition. People would gamble on the outcomes of the battles.

There is a Nut Museum in Old Lyme, Conn. where admission is one nut, regardless of variety.



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The reason there's no Channel One on television sets is because in the early days of TV, it was found that Channel One interfered with radio telephones, so it was eliminated.

The first place in the Western world to give women the right to vote was, oddly enough, the island known as the Isle of Man.

Tangerines are named after the Moroccan City of Tangiers.



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