

ENTERTAINMENT

BROADWAY BOUND REPORT

by Garland Lee Thompson
PASSINARTS THEATRE
CO-FOUNDER HEADS EAST

Michael Grant, co-founder of the Portland-based PassinArts Theatre Company recently, quietly left town and has re-located to New Haven, Connecticut, which is a short train ride to New York City.

After working for several seasons in the Portland area theatre scene as a director, actor and playwright, Michael Grant decided to follow his heart and aspirations in the arts and take another step in the further development of his career.

This surprise decision came after joining his partner and co-founder of the PassinArts Theatre Company, Connie Carley, this past August 14-20, 1989, as they attended the first National Black Theatre Festival in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. They went as a part of the Portland, Oregon delegation of black theatre people that included Sue Busby, executive director of Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center, Al Jamison, director of IFCC's current production, "The Colored Museum" (re-opens Nov. 15 - Dec. 17, 1989), and this writer (who sat on theatre panel discussions, such as "Playwrights on Playwriting," and "Directing a New Play for the Black Theatre").

Whether it was a logical move for his career or strictly an unplanned "spur of the moment" and emotions in his decision, the City of Portland shall miss the creative energy and drive of Michael Grant. All of us in the arts and community, join in wishing, Michael, the best of success in his career development and great happiness in his announced planned marriage to actress, Denise James, of the black theatre circles of New Haven. They met at the National Black Theatre Festival that is now "history," as did many of us and the thirty thousand people who attend that great black festival, sponsored by Larry Leon Hamlin, and the North Carolina black Repertory Theatre. ("Ah love and the Arts!")

We all look forward to Michael returning to the Pacific progress of the PassinArt Theatre Company, under Connie Carley's direction as artistic director (She directed the last production of the company).

Indeed, we are feeling the growing pains of becoming "national" in our thinking and overview of the new trend toward a truly "National Black Theatre Movement in the 1990's. And we are beginning to plan for the next National Black Theatre Festival in Winston-Salem, scheduled for the summer of 1991 (I can't wait).

"Write on, Michael, and "break a leg." New Haven has traditionally been a great "tryout town" in the theatre, on the way to New York and its "the bright lights" of fame and fortune.

THE PORTLAND THEATRE SAMPLER SERIES KICKS OFF THE NEW SEASON

The Portland Area Theatre Alliance (PATA), is introducing its new Portland Theatre Sampler Series, at a cocktail hour get-together, November 15, 1989, 6:30 P.M., at the Broadway Revue, S.W. Jefferson at Broadway, featuring complimentary hors d'oeuvres and a no-host bar.

The Portland Theatre Sampler Series is designed to present the current 1990 theatre productions of nine of the Portland Area Theatre Alliance Companies, with one of the scheduled performances hosted by two selected theatre representatives, such as this writer and other members of the performing arts community of Portland.

PATA THEATRE SAMPLER TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR 1990

Play and Theatre	Day, Date and Time	Host
Ten November Storefront	Wed., Nov. 15 at 7:30 P.M.	Dennis Bigelow Allen Nause
The Lion in Winter Columbia	Thurs., Dec. 14 at 8:00 P.M.	Jim Gilsdorf Jonathan Nicholas
Burn This OSF Portland	Wed., Dec. 14 at 7:00 P.M.	Sue Busby Gary O'Brien
Frankie & Johnny in The Clair de Lune Artist Repertory Theatre	Thurs., Feb. 8 at 8:00 P.M.	Vana O'Brien Richard Yarnell
Women in Mind New Rose Theatre	Thurs., Mar. 22 at 6:30 P.M.	Michael Jones Andrew Edwards
My Fair Lady Musical Company	Sun., April 22 at 2:00 P.M.	Bill Bulick Isabell Chappell
Signal Season of Dummy Hoy IFCC Theatre	Sun., May 13 at 2:00 P.M.	Greg Gilbertson Tad Savinar
Robber Bridegroom Portland Civic Theatre	Thurs., June 14 at 8:00 P.M.	Twig Webster Garland Thompson
Sylvia's Dinner Theatre	Thurs., July 5 at 7:30 P.M.	Michael Griggs Nanette Taylor

Storefront Theatre Appoints New Marketing Director

Storefront Theatre has appointed Michele Waldock its new marketing director effective October 23, 1989. Waldock, a Britisher by birth, has been a resident of Portland for 3 years and has a B.A. in Communications from the University of Portland.

A lawyer by profession, Waldock spent several years in private practice and in the corporate/business world in the U.K. prior to her appointment as a business manager in the program acquisitions department of BBC Television.

Organization of Black Screenwriters

The Organization of Black Screenwriters first meet in June, 1988. Its founder, Bozana Belokosa, recognized the lack of minority representation in the industry: "Blacks have stories that should be told."

Control of Black Art should be held by African-Americans.

JOIN US!

Tell us what you want to see in movies and on television!

Contact: Ms. Bozana Belokosa, Organization of Black Screenwriters, P.O. Box 40948, Pasadena, CA 91114-7948, Telephone #: (818) 798-2994.

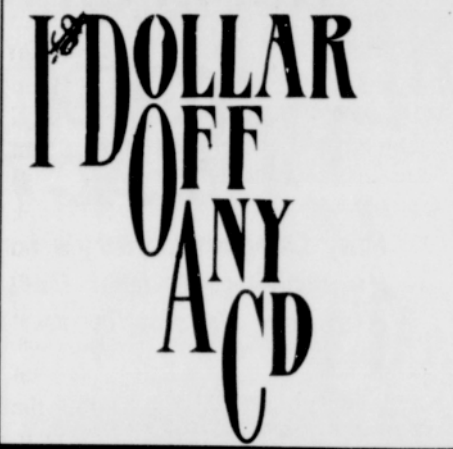
(Note: At the present time, we are not in a position to receive completed scripts. The catalog lists titles only. We cannot accept complete screenplays - only titles and genre.)

\$5 Rush Tickets Available To Students For All Storefront Plays

To make theatre more accessible to students of all ages, Storefront Theatre is implementing a \$5 rush ticket policy for all its productions.

Any remaining tickets may be purchased by students for only \$5 on the day of performance, fifteen minutes prior to curtain-time. This offer is limited to one ticket per student on presentation of a current student I.D.

Student rush tickets will first be offered for sale to all performances of TEN NOVEMBER, which plays at the Dolores Winningstad Theatre, Portland Center for the Performing Arts, October 28-November 25. Regular performances are Nov. 2 thru Nov. 25, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. and/or 7 p.m.



DRUM AFRICA

Learn the basic techniques of West African hand-drumming in this challenging 6-week workshop taught by Ghanaian Master Drummer KPANI ADDY.

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BEHIND-THE SCENES

by Lisa Collins

"LA & Babyface" To Make Music For Their Own Record Label: "LA & Babyface," one of the top record producing teams in the nation, held a press conference recently in their home-base of Atlanta, to announce the formation of LaFace Records. The dynamic duo, who have produced smash hits for some of the recording industry's major stars including Sheena Easton, Karyn White, New Edition, Pebbles, and most recently "Babyface" himself, signed a multi-million dollar distribution pact with Arista Records for an undisclosed amount, to sign and develop their own acts for the newly-formed label. The move will severely limit if not cut out altogether the amount of outside projects that Antonio "LA" Reid and Kenny "Babyface" Edmonds will take on. While many speculate their first project will involve Whitney Houston (with whom they met last month), no one is quite sure whether or not it means Reid and Edmonds will work with Bobby Brown on his next LP. Perhaps the only sure thing is that they will indeed produce Pebbles upcoming LP. Pebbles (who recently married Reid) suspended work on her album until after the couple's first child (due any day now) is born. Those on hand for the announcement included Coretta Scott King, Andrew Young, and Clive Davis (president of Arista Records). A special reception waqs held at the home of Antonio "LA" Reid, after the announcement.


Elsewhere in Atlanta, Britain's top selling pop magazine "Smash Hits" voted Bobby Brown the most promising solo artist of the year, and the London BBC flew into town to film Bobby Brown accepting the award. For those who can't get enough of Brown, he and fellow MCA recording artist Jody Watley are both preparing the release of dance LP's. That's 12" remixes of their dance music to make their way into the nation's music stores during the holiday season.

Just Who Will Play Josephine Baker? That's the question on the minds of just about all of Hollywood's top black actresses. The plum of a role is part of an HBO telepic based on the life of the famed entertainer which will probably go into production sometime after the first of the year. Even MCA recording sensation, Jody Watley who is sporting a new short haircut that some say fashions a Josephine Baker look, is reportedly after the role. Others up for the coveted role include Irene Cara, "Color Purple's" Margaret Avery, Paula Kelly, Holly Robinson, Vanessa Williams, and Lynn Whitfield, who while developing a brilliant screen career is also honing in on some entrepreneurial skills as she has teamed with a skin care specialist to launch an all-natural skin-care line called "MFL."

Stars Lineup To Celebrate Sammy's 60th Year: Michael Jackson and Frank Sinatra will be among those on hand to salute Sammy Davis Jr. on his 60th anniversary in show business at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles. The event to take place November 16 will be hosted by Eddie Murphy. The all-star lineup also includes Goldie Hawn, Bill Cosby, Liza Minelli, and Gregory Hines. Proceeds raised from the event, which is being videotaped for broadcast on ABC, will go to the United Negro College Fund.

In short: All My Children actress Debbi Morgan has set December 30 as the date of her wedding to actor Charles Dutton in New York City. Morgan plays Dr. Angela Hubbard on the popular soap... Universal Studios Tour shut down its famed "Earthquake attraction" for 48 hours as a sympathetic gesture and out of respect in lieu of the devastating 6.9 shaker that recently rocked the Bay Area. The two-minute ride simulates an 8.3 quake--the size of th one that devastated San Francisco in 1906.

Next week: Randy Jackson, the maverick member of the famed Jackson clan strikes out on his own.




PORTLAND CIVIC THEATRE

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