

ENTERTAINMENT

BROADWAY BOUND REPORT

The U-Krew (On A Mission)

Behind-The-Scenes

by Garland Lee Thompson
The Seventeenth Annual Audelco Awards
 The Audience Development Committee, Inc., of New York City, will present its seventeenth Annual AUDELCO Awards, Monday, November 20, 1989, 7:30 P.M., at Aaron Davis Hall, 133 Street & Coanven Avenue, City College Campus, New York City.

The AUDELCO Awards, founded by Vivian Robinson, pres., Renee Chenoweth, and a group of African-American women to present a spectacular celebration of Black Theatre Excellence in New York City and the surrounding tri-state area.

AUDELCO (Audience Development Committee, Inc.) was established and incorporated in 1973 to generate more awareness of the arts in Black communities; to promote better public relations and to build new audiences for non-profit theatre and dance companies.

tions Through Theatre Arts, Harlem, N.Y.

In 1976, I won my first AUDELCO Award, which was the AUDELCO Committee's Board of Directors Award for Contribution to the Development of Community Theatre in New York and Harlem.

The theatre development program that I founded in 1973, the same year that the AUDELCO was formed, is the Frank Silvera Writers' Workshop Foundation, Inc. Since our first AUDELCO Award, the Frank Silvera Writers' Workshop was nominated or won AUDELCO Awards every year from 1976 to 1986.

The Workshop, which is now in its seventeenth season, is a new playwrights, directors and technical designers development theatre, located at 317 West 125th Street, Harlem, N.Y. The Workshop has won AUDELCO Awards in almost all of the eighteen categories; from the Board of Directors Award, Best Musical Production, Best Dramatic Production, Best Actor, Actress, Director, Lighting, Set Design, Costumes, and even for Best Sound Design, which my son, Garland Jr. won the first award given in that category. It was the unbelievable night that the AUDELCO Awards was held at the famed Apollo Theatre in Harlem. It was a thrill for my son and I that we shall never forget.

The evening has always been filled with excitement and high drama. The great Black stars, such as Rudy Dee, Ossie Davis, Debbie Allen, Gloria Foster, Cab Calloway, Dick Campbell, Lofton Michell, Alice Childress and many black pioneers of the theatre, usually all turn out in grand fashion for the big night to honor the talent of the American Black Theatre Movement.

Many of the people, about whom I am teaching and discussing in my current class (African-American Playwrights, Their Craft and Legacy) in the Black Studies Department of Portland State University have been and will be presented at this gala event in Black Theatre history.

If you get a chance to attend, but miss it, theatre fans, because you won't believe it to be true. So, don't take my word for it, go see for yourself. Write on, Vivian and the AUDELCO Committee of New York City. I'll be there is black tie with all those beautiful Black people on November 20th, 1989.



by Tony Washington
 Portland's local rap artist the U-Krew displayed a wide range of their music. Ranging from rap to instrumental, to terrific vocal harmony. The group consists of five young men who have exploded onto the entertainment scene.

The group, performing this past weekend at Eli's in downtown Portland, drew a mixed crowd, and a gave the audience a chance to enjoy a different style of music. The members, all Portlanders who attended Grant & Jefferson High School respectively, Lavell Alexander (P. Kookie) who is the youngest member is enrolled at Jefferson. Its unusual for groups such as the U-Krew to receive the amount of recognition of their talents. The U-Krew featured newcomers Eric Smith (EZMC) and Nyssa who are both exceptional. Keep an eye out for their new release on Enigma Records The U-Krew which was produced by Rose City locals, Marlon (The Magician) McClain and co-producer Larry Bell. We wish to commend the U-Krew on a job well done.

The Krew recently released a video and signed a contract with Capitol Records which brought their well deserved talents into the limelight.

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Ebony Holds Achievement Awards: The black entertainment was recently on hand in Los Angeles as Ebony hosted its annual American Black Achievement Awards. Top honors went to Motown Productions' Suzanne de Passe, dancer-choreographer Arthur Mitchell, Leontyne Price and Democratic party chair, Ron Borwn. The black-tie affair was tapped for syndication and will be shown in approximately 30 markets between December and February. The star-studded crowd included Anita Baker, Avery Brooks, "Generations" Jonelle Allen, Esther Rolle, and Natalie Cole, who looked resplendent in a gorgeous black pants outfit. Cole, who is just settling in to married life with hubby-producer Andre Fischer, joins the list of those vying for the role of Josephine Baker in the movie HBO is doing on the life of the famed Caberet singer. Cole who has contemplated acting for some time now, studied with a top acting coach to prepare for her recent audition. Directors were so impressed that she was called back. Meanwhile her husband Andre is excited about his upcoming project with Carl Anderson.

Elsewhere in Tinseltown, A&M Records threw a bash for Barry White marking the 25th of his latest LP at the exclusive and trendy Spago's Restaurant just above the Sunset Strip. Among those in attendance were actress Dawnn Lewis, Soul Train's Don Cornelius, and superstar producer Quincy Jones ... Speaking of Jones, word has it that his upcoming LP, due for release later this month, is a killer. But with a lineup featuring Luther Vandross, Dionne Warwick, Miles Davis, Ella Fitzgerald, Al B. Sure, Bobby McFerrin, Barry White, Herbie Hancock and rap sensations Ice-T, Big Daddy Kane, and Kool Moe Dee, who could lose. The first single, "I'll Be Good To You" is a duet that teams Chaka Khan with Ray Charles.

Randy Cancels Showcase: All were primed for the Los Angeles showcase of Randy Jackson and his group--"Randy & The Gypsies," but it never happened. Jackson cancelled the showcase at the last minute, due to illness (Bronchitis, I think, was mentioned). At any rate, Jackson had to have been a bit miffed when he looked in the LA Times to find a picture of Bernard Jackson (of the group surf surface) above a caption that read "Randy Jackson" amidst a featured interview on himself and his new group, "Randy & The Gypsies." One would think that the LA Times would know who was who. (A correction was made in the daily's next edition).

Whatever Happened To Jayne Kennedy? Aside from motherhood curtailing a great deal of her activity, (Kennedy now has two pint-sized toddlers on her hands) she is still very active with respect to appearances, and hopes to get going with some projects that will put her back in the public eye very soon.

Snoops Not Faring Well: The latest report released by Neilsen ranks Tim Reid's much-talked about new series, "Snoops" as 71st. The show which nabbed a prime slot, bowing in on Friday nights just ahead of "Dallas," is however struggling and while there is no news on whether or not it will be axed, things don't look so optimistic. Meanwhile, ABC's answer to Cosby--"Family Matters" is said to be doing quite well. Of course, that's good news for co-star Telma Hopkins who recently celebrated her birthday with a cozy weekend in Palm Springs with her steady, who gifted her with a diamond bracelet.

In Short: bobby Brown has been signed to headline a benefit concert for the United Negro College Fund at Madison Square Garden sometime in next month ... Freddie Jackson teamed up with Irene Cara for a duet entitled "Love Survives," which is set as the theme song to an animated film, "All Dogs Go To Heaven" Ex-Temptations lead David Ruffin, who is not without his share of troubles, having just been ordered to enter a drug rehab, has joined with two other former Temptations to form a singing group. And the name? Yeah, you guessed it. They're going to call themselves the Temptations.

Next Week: 227 co-star Hal Williams accuses NBC of snubbing his TV show.

- Toward the fulfillment of these goals AUDELCO performs the following informational, educational and promotional services:
- * Annual Black Arts Festival.
 - * AUDELCO Recognition Awards.
 - * Black Theatre Archives.
 - * Cultural Outreach Programs.
 - * Publication of Newsletters, Directories an Annual Black Theatre Magazine.
 - * Theatre for Young Audiences.
 - * Tourism Projects.
- There will be a Pre-Awards champagne Reception at 6:30 p.m. for Patron tickets holders (\$100.00), VIP seating. The general admission is \$50.00 that includes the Poet Awards Reception. The theatre opens for general admission at 7:30 p.m. (for information call (212) 534-8776).

The Presentations includes: The Recognition Awards in eighteen categories (nominees to be announced), The Rising Star Awards to be presented this year to Donald "Shun" Faison and Afi McClendon, The Outstanding Pioneer Award to be presented to Cynthia Belgrave, for her many years of performing, directing and producing in the theatre, The Board of Directors Awards to presented to Black Spectrum Theatre, Queens, N.Y., Crossroads Theatre, New Brunswick, New Jersey, and the National Black Institute of Communica-

Lady Day At Emerson's Bar & Grill

The Portland Civic Theatre's Production of Lady Day at Emerson Bar & Grill, is a revealing view into the life of singer Billie Holiday.

Jeanette Russell Brown gives a sensitive and stellar performance as Lady Day. Her portrayal communicate not only the pain that Lady Day must have endured, but also captures the essence of Lady Day in her vocals.

The play written by Lanie Robertson is a travel through a time warp back to Emerson's Bar & Grill where Billie Holiday is performing shortly before her early death at age 44. During her show Billie talks to her audience telling them her experiences often in a humorous manner, yet underlying the humor is a tale of disillusionment and pain, one gets a sense that incidents she talks about are over whelming her and that she is slowly unraveling at the seams. Ms. Brown's acting is poignant and touching. Billie Larkin who plays Jimmie Powers her accompanist provides fine understated performance, although his dialogue is limited. Billie's piano playing is impressive and he too lends a lot to creating a convincing sense of time and place.

Lady Day at the Emerson's Bar & Grill says a lot about America as a nation and its race relations during the first half of the twentieth century. One can not help but wonder that would have the

genius of Lady Day survived longer had she had not to endure the trauma and injustice of racism.

The production of Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill will be running from November 3rd through December 10, at Civic Theatre Blue Room. This is a must see play for those who enjoy the music of Billie Holiday or are concerned about the human condition of they fellow man.

Jazz Night At Lewis & Clark

Enjoy fall term's Jazz Night Concert, Friday, Nov. 10, at 8 p.m., in Evans Auditorium, Lewis & Clark College, 0615 S.W. Palatine Hill Road.

This free event, featuring a truly American musical art form, appropriately coincides with the American Music Week celebration taking place throughout the country.

The Lewis & Clark Jazz Ensemble, a student big band with student and guest soloists, will perform selections representing big band jazz styles of the past and present. Standard tunes of the 30s and 40s such as "Time After Time" and "When You're Smiling" will be mixed with current funk, rock and Latin styles.

Arrangers represented include Tom Kubis, Bob Florence, Matt Harris, Don Schamber and Jeff Jarvis. David M. Becker directs the 19-member ensemble.

The Colored Museum Back By Popular Demand At The IFCC

Last season The Oregonian called it "audacious theatre, challenging politics, and one of the best shows in town." Now the IFCC's critically acclaimed production of The Colored Museum returns, Nov. 15 through Dec. 17, complete with the original cast including Willie Award winner Brenda Phillips and jazz singer Shirley Nanette.

Eleven "exhibits" or sketches unfold against a museum background in this searing, satirical revue by George c. Wolfe. Sophisticated wit, song and chilling drama combine to explore and explode the stereotypes and myths surrounding Black America.

If you saw it last year, you'll want to come back and bring a friend. If you missed it last year, here's a second chance to enter one of the funniest, most enlightening museums around!

There are performances available to fit everyone's schedule and pocket-book: The preview on Nov. 14 at 8:00 p.m. is only \$5. Special performances on Nov. 15 and 16 are gala benefits for the IFCC to help replace funds lost in this year's City budget cuts. Tickets are \$25 per person and the event includes a post-show champagne reception with entertainment on Wednesday night by Art Alexander, and Thursdays night by Janice Scroggins. The Colored Museum continues through Dec. 17, Friday and Saturday nights at 8:00 p.m. and Sundays at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are going fast so call 243-7930 for reservations today!

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