



ENTERTAINMENT



Broadway Bound Report

by Garland Lee Thompson

THE OREGON ARTS COMMISSION 1989-90 GRANT AWARD CYCLE

After dealing for years with the New York State Council on the Arts, as an organizational grant recipient (as founder of the New York OBIE Award-winning Frank Silvera Writers' Workshop, since 1973, to date receiving \$40,000 plus annually), and serving once as a grant panelist on the New York City Department of Culture & Art; In 1989, I have served for the first time as a grant panelist for the Oregon Arts Commission.

OREGON RANKS LOW ON THE STATE ARTS FUNDING SCALE IN THE USA

It was interesting to me to learn that in the 1989 funding cycle that I served as a grant panelist (Literature), the total amount of Oregon Arts Commission grant awards was \$40,000 to all art disciplines (Theatre, Dance, Visual Arts, Literature, Opera/Music, Special Projects, Presenting, Program, Arts Education, & Multi-disciplinary).

The State of Oregon, with an annual arts budget of roughly \$4 million, is near the bottom of the state funding scale, with only Idaho giving less state funding support for the arts in the fifty states of the country (at the last reports).

NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS IS THE TOP MODEL OF THE LINE

The tops in the USA is the New York State Council on the Arts, which gives annually more than \$40 million to the arts. But of course, NYSCA is the original model for the pilot project of the National Endowment for the Arts (in the Johnson Administration - 1965).

With a \$5 billion cultural industry in the state of New York, it is understandable that those cultural dollars do not "grow on trees," unfortunately for the Oregon Arts Commission, with years of recession and only the timber, paper industry and farming to tap for funding for such "frivolous" programs as the arts.

Howsoever, if the economy show any improvement with new "high-tech" industry, film and communication development in the state, the arts will receive a higher agenda status as we enter the 1990s.

(Note: Among the few ethnic minority and Black theatre, visual arts and dance groups to receive OAC funding for 1989-90 were; Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center - \$6,300, Passinarts Theatre Company - \$750, Homowa Foundation for African Art - \$500, and The American Dance Theatre - \$1,300. There would no OAC Literature grants to African-American or minorities in 1989-90.)

OAC Oregon Arts Commission

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Dear Garland,

Again, a belated THANK YOU for your hard work on the OAC grants panel. The Commission met in late June, and made its final funding decisions on more than 250 applications, allocating over one million dollars. This mammoth effort could never have been accomplished without your careful review of the applications, and your thoughtful recommendations to the Commissioners. We had some very strong applications this session, and I hope you enjoyed getting to know the groups a little better.

Enclosed is a list of all the grants made by the Commission. Within the Program and Special Project grant categories the panel funding levels were still over the amount available, and the chairpersons of those panels were responsible for presenting funding recommendations which balanced with the funds available. Overall, though, you will see that the Commission had great respect in the panel process, and although many of the grants were discussed by the full Commission, very few funding recommendations were altered.

Thank you once again for your dedication. Please do share with me your impressions of the panel process, as well as any recommendations you may have for future panelists. We are always looking to make this process as fair and open as possible.

Sincerely,
Leslie Tuomi
Assistant Director

Lou Rawls, Marilyn McCoo Host Celebration for 10th Annual Parade of Stars Telethon



ENTERTAINERS LOU RAWLS AND MARILYN MCCOO--Hosted a special celebration for the 10th annual "Parade of Stars Telethon" benefiting the United Negro Fund. Pictured with the entertainers are Bruce Goodyear, Manager Special Market Promotions for American Airlines, and Alex Agee, Division manager, Company Meeting and Incentive Sales, American Airlines. This year's "Parade of Stars Telethon" will be aired nationally on Dec. 30th, check your local listings for time of airing.

HOLLYWOOD--The United Negro College Fund (UNCF) will celebrate a decade of telethon success on Saturday, Dec. 30, when some of the entertainment world's top performers appear on a special 10th anniversary edition of the "Lou Rawls Parade of Stars" telethon.

Led by telethon host and Grammy-award winning singer, Lou Rawls, the 1989 "Parade of Stars" promises to continue its tradition of providing spectacular entertainment during the holiday season.

The telethon's 10-year milestone signals a successful partnership between UNCF, Rawls, the entertainment industry and leading U.S. corporations.

"The 'Parade of Stars' has been an outstanding team effort for the past decade," says Rawls, who provided the initiative to make the telethon an annual star-studded event. "Everyone involved has truly made a difference to help keep the doors of opportunity open for today's youth," Rawls noted.

Since the show's inception in 1979, more than \$65 million in cash and pledges has been raised to benefit the 41 private, historically Black colleges and universities supported by UNCF.

Celebrities from stage and screen--singers, dancers, actors and comedians--will take center stage at the Aquarius The-

atre in Hollywood and the Desert Inn in Las Vegas for seven hours of nonstop energetic performances. Among the greats scheduled to appear will be Bill Cosby, Bob Hope, Patti LaBelle, Lou Gossett Jr., Julio Iglesias, Lola Falana, Frank Sinatra, Charley Pride, Anita Baker and Gregory Peck.

Co-hosts for the "Parade of Stars" include the versatile Marilyn McCoo, a telethon anchor since 1983, along with popular television game show host Alex Trebek. Sharing co-host duties from Las Vegas will be supreme song stylist Nancy Wilson and Ed McMahon, who first served as co-host 10 years ago.

Known for showcasing a variety of talent that appeals to a broad viewing audience, the Parade of Stars telethon will once again feature contemporary artists along with vintage greats. Telethon viewers will be treated to musical sounds ranging from adult contemporary and rhythm and blues, to gospel, pop and country.

Among the stars making debut appearances on this anniversary telethon will be "Tony! Toni! Tone!," the Oakland-based trio that was chosen as 1989's best new singing group in an Ebony Magazine music poll; Vanessa Williams, the former Miss America whose successful singing career has netted her two Grammy nominations; and Sheena Easton, a versatile singing and acting talent who has worked with such

BEHIND-THE-SCENES

by Lisa Collins

The New Queen In Prince's Court? Well, rumor has that actress Kim Basinger and Prince are living together. Basinger (who starred in "Batman" & "Blind Date") is also said to have Prince working with her on an album. What's more, she reportedly helped direct part of his current "Scandalous" video, and has done some writing for one of his artists--Mavis Staples. (Who would have thought it?)

In other recording news! People can't seem to get enough of Paula Abdul. So much so that her record company is releasing a collection of the star's hottest videos (including "Straight Up" and "Forever Your Girl"). Also included is an interview with Abdul, as well as behind-the-scenes footage of Paula in her early days as an LA Lakers cheerleader. . . . Chaka Khan's 15-year old daughter, Millini, was recently signed to Motown Records.

So Where's Al B. Sure Been Keeping Himself Lately: It's been a busy year for Al B. Sure, what with touring, recording and off-stage exploits (including an alleged rape incident that landed him national exposure). But lately, Al B. Sure has been in New York keeping a low profile and wrapping up his next album which is due out this spring. According to sources close to the singer, vocally he's been doing a lot of woodshedding. Said publicist Gene Shelton, "you're going to be hearing a new, fresh, stronger, and more mature Al."

Lovers Lane: Word has it that Stephanie Mills recently recited her "I do's" to lighting technician Dino Miniture. According to sources close to Mills family, word of the marriage came as a surprise. Meanwhile, some of the proceeds from Mills upcoming limited Broadway engagement will go to benefit Hale House, a non-profit child care agency based in central Harlem. The week-long engagement will culminate on New Year's Eve . . . Columbia recording artist, Sade, wed Spaniard Carlos Scola in a small castle outside of Madrid last month . . . Still going strong are Jackie Jackson and actress Lela Rochon. (Rochon played the role of a young hooker, "Sunshine," in "Harlem Nights") . . . Despite persistent rumors, Robin Givens still denies (at least officially) that she is seeing Iron Mike.

On The Homefront: MCA recording artist, Pebbles, recently gave birth to a baby boy. It is the second child for Pebbles, who wed producer Antonio "LA" Reid (of the dynamic producing duo of "LA & Babyface") earlier this year. (Pebbles has a daughter from a former marriage) . . . Meanwhile, Babyface and his wife Denise (of four years) are expecting their first-born in May . . . The son of superproducer Quincy Jones was recently arrested on the charge of assault with a deadly weapon. 20-year-old Quincy Jones III was arrested following a shooting incident near the campus of UCLA. While no one was injured, the DA is being asked to file a felony complaint . . . Actor Taurean Blacques ("Generations") has been invited to the White House to pick up an Humanitarian Award for his efforts with regards to adoption. Blacques, who is the natural father of two, recently adopted eight children. Of course, the actor whose other talent seems to be investing in real estate, has amassed quite a fortune. But then it takes a fortune to raise ten children.

Oregon Stage Company Premieres With "The Holiday Broadcast of 1943"



Cast from "The Holiday Broadcast of 1943"

Oregon Stage Company, a new professional theatre located in Washington County, will present its first production, "The Holiday Broadcast of 1943," December 1-24 at the Forum Theatre, 17705 NW Springville Rd. (on the Rock Creek campus of Portland Community College).

First produced by Oregon Cabaret Theatre in Ashland last December, "The Holiday Broadcast of 1943" is an original script by John Stadelman featuring popular music and radio comedy material from the forties. It takes place December 24, 1943 in an Armed Forces radio station in the south Pacific. All the troops are huddled around their radios eagerly awaiting the Christmas Eve Big Broadcast to be transmitted from New York, with an all-star cast including Bing Crosby, Burns & Allen, W.C. Fields and the Andrews Sisters. When the short wave receiver breaks down moments before showtime a group of four Marines, A W.A.V.E and an Army nurse decide to pool their talents and fake the broadcast. Reviews called the show "absolutely delight-

ful . . . full of good music and high spirits . . . designed to make you leave the theatre humming a tune and generally feeling good about life . . . nostalgia at its best . . . a Christmas treat that warms the heart."

"The Holiday Broadcast of 1943" will run until Dec. 24 at 8 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday nights, 7 p.m. Sunday nights, with 2 p.m. matinees on some Saturdays and Sundays.

Tickets prices are \$14 regular and \$10 students/seniors on Friday and Saturday nights; \$12 regular and \$8 students/seniors for all other performances. The Forum Theatre is located at 17705 NW Springville Road, in Building Three of Portland Community College's Rock Creek campus. Take the 185th Avenue exit off Sunset Highway (Hwy. #26) and turn north; turn right at the third Stop sign onto Springville Road. It's approximately a 15-20 minute drive from downtown Portland; ten minutes from Hillsboro or Beaverton.

To reserve tickets for "The Holiday Broadcast of 1943," call the Oregon Stage Company ticket office at 690-9433.

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