

First Lady Entertainment

FIRSTLADY ENTERTAINMENT merges with national touring company for an evening at the Schnitzer . . .

When critically acclaimed national playwright producer-director Delilah Rashell Williams was in the market for a Local Representative for her upcoming hit stage play "Somebody Oughta Tell God Thank You" coming to the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall Friday January 8 at 8pm one phone call to Dee Baker of First Lady Entertainment. "She was professional and enthusiastic, well connected and ready to roll" says Williams who has repeatedly brought quality sold out shows to the Schnitzer with some of the best entertainment in the country including "Things Aint What They Use to Be" "Gods Trying to Tell You Something" and The "Tour of Life". "Her reputation preceded her and I was honored to be considered as a representative" injects Baker. Williams' continued "I was hesitant because this business is a high risk business at best lending true to all the adages "don't count your chickens before they hatch", "believe half of what you see and none of what your hear" and "talk is cheap, it takes money to buy land" and the one I live by "if a persons word is no good, neither are they". We so far Dee Baker has landed high marks in all categories delivering the chickens and the loot to boot and her word has been as good as gold, says Williams. "I found her to be refreshing, a force to be reckoned with, a lady of integrity, honesty, drive and determination worthy of leading the effort to support our companies name "Standing Room Only" greatly assisting us in filling up the Schnitzer once again." "I'm not easily impressed" says Williams from her California home "there are so many shysters in this business. On my last venture to this region, I trusted a Christian book store in Seattle and after paying them thousands of dollars for their work, they in return stole over \$5,000!! to say I'm gun shy is putting it mildly. But one would have to stop and take notice of this phenomenal lady". "She has an awesome system" says Baker and I'm proud to be an implimentor of what she has already put in place." The two continue to exchange flattering compliments and shared admiration's of one another until Williams says "hey this story is not about me Dee its about you, so lets back up and start all over again."

So where do we start? Dee Baker Was the first black woman construction worker for the city of Portland and went on to become a foreman or should we say forewoman "from a ditch to a building give me a hammer and watch me work" says Dee "" from the jack hammer to the dump truck she's done it all.

An educated woman with degrees in business management this widely versed mother of 2 has rightfully earned the title a "Jill of all Trades". A compassionate person with 2 teenage sons she headed a haven for youth and called it "Hot Friday Nights" a safe environment for teens to congregate and have fun during the summer. Answering to the beat of a different drummer, Dee did not seek to reward troubled teens but good teens instead. With strict parental control she enforced a safe and welcome atmosphere with no cursing, no smoking, no drugs and no sagging pants, that hundreds of teens throughout the city enjoyed. Sponsored by Coca-Cola and several local businesses including 'Cafe, American Linen, Capturing the Moment photography, KBMS Radio and Lewis Limousine. "So many people believed in me and supported my efforts it was impossible not to succeed" says Baker, "and for that I am forever grateful and forever committed."

It all began in 1992 when Dee had the job of collecting the cover charge at the door of a local club at which her boyfriend was a DJ "I liked it" said Dee "it was exciting greeting and meeting so many different people." Being an opportunist Dee saw this as not just a fun job but a catalyst to network an establish a business of her own. Her first ventures were with her ex-boyfriend who Dee Jayed. He spun the records and she played host and loved doing it. The combination was very successful as people packed the clubs enjoying the music and special touch of hospitality served up by Dee. From this

would emerge First Lady Entertainment "affordable entertainment with a personal touch specializing in personal care right down to every detail". Soon Dee would be arranging and hosting weekend outings on a much larger scale including cruises, lavish parties and out of state tours. With big dreams and limited dollars Dee saw this as a chance to earn free tickets by bringing so many paid patrons to the bargaining table.

Successfully heading weekend trips like Hot Summer Nights Travel; an annual event celebrated in Reno, Nevada a trip down memory lane as thousands gather making the annual voyage the largest of its kind in the USA complete with "classic cars and the sounds of classic R & B music in 1995 when nearly 100 people joined her on this exciting trip and First Lady Entertainment made it all worth while. "Fun for them and work for me" says Dee as she personally tended to every last detail from the plane flights to the charter busses to the luxurious hotel right down to the tipping of the bellman and making sure each clients luggage was physically delivered inside their rooms not holding in a hotel closet allowing patrons to rush off the to the casinos and began the fun, combining this with top of the line entertainment like Etta James, Barry White and BB King just to name a few. Dee has set a precedent second to none. When entertaining in Portland at her Annual Virgo Birthday Bash, every Virgo receives flowers and a customized song and food for everyone.

Going the extra mile makes all the difference and that's what First Lady Entertainment is all about leaving Dee



Dee Baker in front of the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall

in a class all her own. To keep her clientele informed Dee publishes a monthly newsletter "First Lady Entertainment Review: with distribution of nearly a thousand containing information on upcoming events and addressing current issues in the community as well. If once a month is too long for you to wait, you can find First Lady Entertainment on the web at lady1@cnw.net. Although Dee is looking forward to "Somebody Oughta Tell God Thank You", she is also looking beyond it for her largest event to day "Global Fest 99" a multi-cultural event, pledging a day of cultural unity setting aside "bias" to understand other cultures; . . . "Working together collectively for one cause"; celebrating with food/crafts clothing dance and R&B/Jazz & Gospel entertainment including the Temptations, Hiroshima, and Erica

Bahdu to name a few. The first of its kind it will take place at the Portland's Civic Stadium right here in Portland with an estimated attendance of over 10,000.

Dee says "while I was praying for a fundraising vehicle to launch this event, when I got up off my knees the phone rang offering me the opportunity to serve as Local Representative for the national touring company of "Somebody Oughta Tell God Thank You" and believe me I do every day". But I can't wait till the curtain rises to tell GOD Thank You once again because He has sure been good to me, God is the driver I'm just the passenger" says Dee and its obvious she's enjoying the ride.

For more information about First Lady Entertainment and best available seats to "Somebody Oughta Tell God Thank You" call Dee at (503)285-4009

From the Creator of "God's Trying to Tell You Something" and "Things Ain't What They Used To Be!" comes the next Hit Gospel Stage Play to Rock the Nation!

"Somebody Oughta' Tell GOD Thank You!"

Coming to the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall
One Show only! Friday, January 8, @ 8:00 P.m.
 Tickets available at the Box office, all TicketMaster Outlets, One Stop Records, The Best of All Worlds, and House of Sound.
 For group sales and best available seats! call
Dee Baker
(503)285-4009