

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

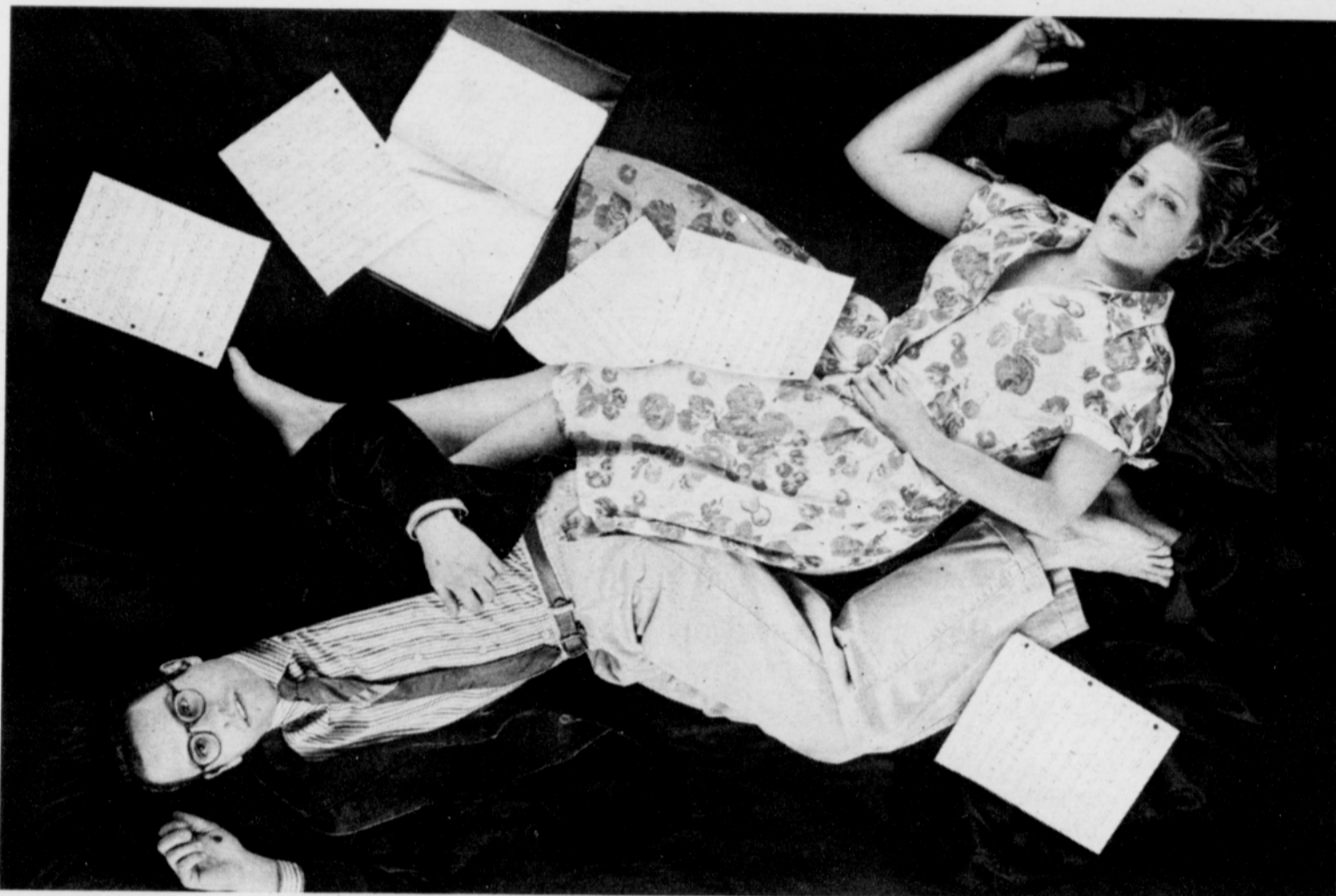


PHOTO BY PATRICK WEISHAMPEL

The Last 5 Years

Merideth Kaye Clark and Drew Harper in 'The Last Five Years' an emotionally powerful and intimate musical about two New Yorkers in their twenties who fall in love. Shows continue through June 22 at Portland Center Stage. For tickets and information, visit pcs.org.

Connecting with Hip Hop

National conference to open dialogue

Members of the Hip Hop community are joining representatives of black media during a national conference aimed at breaking down communication barriers and leveling the playing field for African Americans in politics and economics.

"The Greatest Mix" conference on Saturday, May 3 in Miami Beach, Fla., will bring together The National Newspaper Publishers Association—The Black Press of America—and the Hip Hop Union, the largest DJ coalition in the world.

Jineea Butler, president of the Hip Hop Union, said the event will help connect the dots to the places that Hip Hop does not explore.

"Hip Hop often carries a stereotypical stigma of misogyny, violence and ignorance, which unfortunately sometimes is true. What gets lost in translation is why people continue to gravitate and support the culture despite the downsides," Butler said.

"This is an opportunity for us to learn from each other and build on our strengths and eliminate our weaknesses as a collective unit. We have represented the black voice in



Jineea Butler

America for over 187 years and we want to continue to magnify our mission and work more closely with the Hip Hop community by featuring more articles and ads that speak directly to Hip Hop citizens," says Cloves Campbell, the black publisher group's chairman.

A "Road to the Core" song submission contest is another way for the conference to connect with the Hip Hop community. Hip Hop and R&B Artists can submit their music to be listened to and voted on by top Core DJ's during the conference. Log on to hiphopunion.org for contest rules, prizes and details.

"We want to provide an arena where we are helping uplift the culture and expanding the opportunities," said Campbell.

To register for the Core DJs Worldwide 10th Anniversary Conference, go to coredjsworldwide.com.



GOOD (GettingOutOfDebt)

Teamwork Parties conducted by John Olive of **TEAM 1**

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