

Johnson To Be Presented In Concert

Winston-Salem Native Building Reputation

By M.A. Pharr

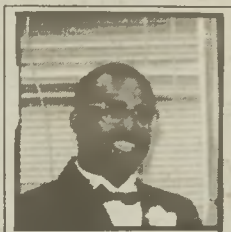
Entertainers from all walks of life will be the first to say that to be successful in the business one has to endure, persevere, be patient and then maybe... just maybe you will get the big break. For many years *Luther Vandross* did background vocals for various artists. "Babyface", although quite a success presently as writer, producer and performer, had to pay some heavy dues before actual success knocked. The talented duo of *Ashford and Simpson* (Nick and Gal) did a lot of things in the background before they reached the stardom that we recognize today.

Randy Johnson may not be a household name today, but tomorrow he could be on the cover of *Jet Magazine*.

Randy is a Winston-Salem native that is rapidly building a reputation throughout contemporary and gospel music circuits within the Triad. This gifted vocalist, like so many of his predecessors, has gone through lean times career-wise, but his Christian faith has helped him to keep his dreams alive. He gives thanks to the Lord for giving him a gift (voice) and a caring mother, Dr. Alice Johnson.

As a second-grader at a local community elementary school, Randy started singing for quarters in back of a neighboring high school. He was greatly influenced by the lyrics and music of artist such as *The O'Jays*, *The Temptations* and *The Spinner*.

Randy's elementary school music teacher,



Randy Johnson

Mrs. Foy was so impressed by his potential that she began coaching and encouraging him to participate in the school operettas. Randy must have benefited from the teaching of Mrs. Foy because he responded by winning best vocalist for six consecutive years.

Upon reaching high school age he became very active in sports and engaged his outside interest in performing with

a local band. Randy also worked a part-time job after school in order to earn enough money to buy his stage costumes for on-the-road performances.

Presently he has found himself doing such engagements as community fund raising benefits, weddings, pageants, private parties and funerals.

Aside from winning an assortment of talent shows locally, he has performed with the *North Carolina Black Repertory Company* in there very successful *National Black Theater Festival* and just recently sang with a local ensemble which backed *The New Kids On The Block* in Winston-Salem's Grove Stadium on one of their numbers.

Randy is also very active these days in the local gospel circuit. On

Patterson Ave. in Sunday, October 28 at 4:00 Randy Johnson will be presented in concert with the Cathedral Choir at Goler Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church, located at 630

Winston-Salem, N.C.

The proceeds from this effort will go to the Building Fund for the anticipated building of their new church.

Farrakhan To Speak At A&T

Louis Farrakhan, the dynamic leader of the Nation of Islam and of the most articulate and influential black men in America today, is scheduled to speak November 9, 1990 at N.C. A&T State University.

Minister Farrakhan's visit is sponsored by A&T's chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity. Admission is \$5 for students and \$7 for all others. He is scheduled to speak at 7 p.m. at the

Corbett Sports Center on campus.

University officials say Farrakhan's visit is not a university-sponsored event. They are leasing space to the fraternity.

Mark-Anthony Middleton, the coordinator of the visit, said his organization (Alpha Phi Alpha) invited Farrakhan "to provide an opportunity for the many people who haven't heard him to...make and informed judgement about him."



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