

Popa C.W. Brown entertains and educates

By KAREN HANNON
Special to the Chronicle

Theater goers were treated to an entertaining and educational performance by Larry Leon Hamlin over the weekend. Produced by Hamlin and the N.C. Black Repertory Company, the one-man show entitled, *Popa C.W. Brown Stars In: It's Time, Time to Make Change*, combined historical and current events of racial issues that not only opened the minds of the audience, but also inspired and uplifted them.

The play focused on Popa C.W. Brown, an old, worldly storyteller who shares his experiences through humorous, yet thought-provoking storytelling. He attempts to offer hope to those who consider themselves disadvantaged, and challenges them to make decisions that will bring about change in their communities. According to Brown, today's youth feel hopeless because they do not know their historical beginnings as leaders and trendsetters in ancient Africa. And he equates his role as a storyteller to the "keeper of the stories" in ancient Africa.

In fact, his tales begin with the Africans' contributions of architecture, and arts and sciences to the world.

"Blacks have given kings and queens, doctors, philosophers, and artists. We need to find out what we've done, so we can pass it on to our youth. Then we have something to be proud about," said Brown.



Photos by Mike Cunningham

Three faces of Larry Leon Hamlin as he portrays the character of Popa C.W. Brown.

Hamlin's character also combined racial issues in the U.S. with local events. "Things have been separate, but they sho' ain't been equal," he said.

He also referred to the 1910 "First Segregation Law of Neighborhoods" passed by the Supreme Court, which made it illegal for one race of people to live in the same community with another race.

"Baltimore, Maryland was the first city to adopt this law," Brown said. "And guess who was the second? Winston-Salem." Brown also informed the audience that there were 60 black-owned businesses in Winston-Salem in the year 1890. "There were restaurants, a cigar maker, an undertaker, two doctors, a

colored hotel owned by Ms. Nannie Bell on East Seventh St., nurses, school teachers, and an engineer," he recalled.

Brown then told how the black community is slowly losing its future. "We're losing our young black males to drugs, guns and bullets, and jail. And we're losing our females to drugs. There are too many babies having babies," he said.

To solve the problem, Hamlin's character suggested that blacks need to implement new programs, ideas, and approaches to save the community.

"We need to make sure our race has a future. Young people are our future," he continued.



Brother and sister duo, BeBe and CeCe Winans, received standing ovations at Friday's concert.

Winans perform for an audience of nearly 3,000 at LJVM Coliseum

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The Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum was filled with soulful gospel music last Friday as BeBe and CeCe Winans, W.C.T.S., and the Spirit of Life Community Choir performed for an audience of nearly 3000 fans.

Performing from their latest album entitled, *Different Lifestyles*, BeBe and CeCe Winans, the Grammy-award-winning brother and sister duo, spread their message of

spiritual love through their hit songs such as *Heaven, Lost Without You*, and *Celebrate New Life*. Perhaps the most inspiring selection was *I'll Take You There*, in which the crowd sang along with the duo, sending a melodious sound of unity and love throughout the halls of the coliseum.

"We invite young and old people of all ages to experience a Christian lifestyle, one that saves souls," said CeCe Winans, during an interview before the concert. "Our main message to our listeners

is love, God's love. If everyone knew about His love, this world would be a better place."

Although the duo's background has a firm foundation in Christian music, BeBe and CeCe, who began recording together in 1987, have been able to reach Rhythm & Blues and Top 40 audiences with their most recent albums.

Their performance in Winston-Salem was one of their first since kicking off their U.S. tour earlier this month.

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Week of June 21, 1992

ARIES (3/21 - 4/19):
Pay extra attention to finances. Stay aware of checkbook balance. Inventive ideas may inspire new way to look at controversial situation. Be creative.

TAURUS (4/20 - 5/20):
Keep an open mind when listening to loved ones defense in argument. Constructive criticism could be your best alternative. Scenario highlights travel to far away place.

GEMINI (5/21 - 6/20):
Focus on balance and harmony within yourself and with others. Intricate work with your hands will be rewarding. Keep close contact with people who can make a difference.

CANCER (6/21 - 7/22):
Focus on sentimentality, sharing emotions with mate. Your moody nature may cause a problem at home. Be apologetic and try to rise above your quick temper.

LEO (7/23 - 8/22):
Realize the responsibilities you carry that belong to you while eliminating those that belong to others. You can't bear the weight of the world, even though you try.

VIRGO (8/23 - 9/22):
A period of extended travel could be helpful in dealing with major decision. Consider all alternatives and what is best for everyone involved, including spouse, family.

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LIBRA (9/23 - 10/22):
You will play the role of mediator in family conflict. Be fair but objective. May be a good time to sever ties with long distance relationship. Your prince or princess is still out there.

SCORPIO (10/23 - 11/21):
Use your power of understanding when to forge ahead and when to refrain in making important decision. Your tendency to destroy obstacles in your path may backfire.

SAGITTARIUS (11/22 - 12/21):
With confinement can only come rebellion. Seek the freedom at work and home that you need to function efficiently and affectionately.

CAPRICORN (12/22 - 1/19):
Priorities need to be assessed and reorganized. Sweetheart may be suffering due to lack of attention, variety of life. Consider doing something radical to your nature.

AQUARIUS (1/20 - 2/18):
As the champion of your cause you will gain new followers, supporters. Be the leader you know you are. Legal matter will result in your favor.

PISCES (2/19 - 3/20):
Let your imagination take over when formulating ideas and setting goals. The impossible may turn into the possible. Luck is surely on your side.