

Arts Council Celebrates The Diverse Cultural Heritage

In celebration of the diverse cultural heritage that is unique to our community and to the Triad, The Arts Council is presenting the third and final concert in the "Cul-

"Peace, love, respect for every body." is much more than a catchy way to end a concert and the African American Dance Ensemble is much more than just another

agency of positive social change and reinforcement of the best of human values. A concert by the Ensemble is at once entertaining,

enlightening and emboldening. Dramatic staging, exciting rhythms, masterful choreography and colorful costumes combine with consistency

world. Concert tickets are on sale at The Arts Council offices at 305 West Fourth Street. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$8 for students and

senior adults. On the day of the performance, all tickets will be \$12. Special group rates are also available.

ARTS REACH

By REGGIE JOHNSON



tureShock: Traditions in Music and Dance" series. This concert will feature the African-American Dance Ensemble and Ensemble Europa. The concert will be held on March 6, at 8 p.m. at Brendle Recital Hall on the campus of Wake Forest University.

The 17-member African-American Dance Ensemble will offer music and movement inspired by the varied cultures of West Africa. The founder and artistic director of the group, Chuck Davis, travels to different parts of Africa yearly to study. His motto is, "To understand the culture, study the dance. To understand the dance, study the people."

The story of the African-American Dance Ensemble begins with Chuck Davis, a native of Raleigh, North Carolina, whose path from Raleigh's all black Ligon High School through Howard University's Theatre and Dance and Program eventually led him to New York City and the world of professional dance. With his first job as a regular member of a professional troupe in 1959, Davis began years of study when he learned from the best including Thelma Hill, Elco Pomare, Jean Leon Destine and Katherine Dunham.

In 1968, the Chuck Davis Dance Company was founded in New York City with Chuck Davis as the Artistic Director. The company performed to rave reviews in the New York area and elsewhere in the United States, gradually establishing itself as one of the nation's premiere African-American dance companies. This was the company that came to Durham, North Carolina in 1980 at the invitation of the American Dance Festival. The company remained and each season from 1980 to 1984, the Chuck Davis Dance Company was in residence with the American Dance Festival's Community Services Program.

By 1983 it had become obvious that there was a developing core of local dancers whose levels of proficiency were approaching those of the professionals from whom they were learning. The African-American Dance Ensemble was born. The Ensemble's "birth" came in February 1984 when they gave their first full concert as an independent professional company.

NAACP Pays Tribute

The Winston-Salem Branch of the NAACP will pay tribute to the late Justice Thurgood Marshall by having a forum titled: The tribute will be held at the Anderson Center on the WSSU campus, Feb. 28 at 5 p.m. The late Thurgood Marshall was appointed by President Lyndon Johnson in 1967. He was the first black justice on the nation's highest court, where he often led the dissenting opinion. During his 23 years as the legal director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Marshall argued 32 cases before the Supreme court. He won 29. He argued and won the case that outlawed segregated schools, *Brown v. Board of Education*. Marshall retired in 1991. He succumbed to heart failure Jan. 24, and was mourned across the nation.

The panel discussion with audience participation will feature varied perspectives from Afro-American legal professionals and law students on the impact of Justice Marshall's life on Afro-American, as well as American history.

dance troupe. The Ensemble is an



enthusiastic audiences to create an artistic experience difficult to forget.

Sharing the March 6 program will be Ensemble Europa, a group that performs traditional European music and song. Presenting the music of the wandering gypsy bands of Eastern Europe, their repertoire includes folk music from Croatia, Serbia, Rumania, Hungary and Poland. Their music focuses on a region dominant in the news today. Weaving in background history and geography as well as insight into the cultures of this war-torn area of our



THE FINE ART OF BLACK HISTORY

Civilizations come and go, often leaving their art as the only record of their accomplishments. It has been said that a nation that doesn't express itself in art is a contradiction in terms; like a person without a personality. A nation, like a person, must identify with its past as well as its future.



U.S.A.

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