

COMMUNITY FOCUS

Winston-Salem Greensboro High Point

The Choice for African-American News

SECTION C

AUGUST 1, 2002



Community Calendar

Meeting scheduled for Ebony Fashion Fair contestants

Each year, the Mr./Miss Ebony Fashion Fair Scholarship Competition is sponsored by the Winston-Salem Urban League Guild.

An interest/orientation meeting for contestants and their parents will be held on Aug. 15 at 5:30 p.m. at the Winston-Salem Urban League, 201, W. Fifth Street.

There will be one orientation (no exceptions). The deadline for submitting names is Aug. 14.

The Winston-Salem Urban League Guild will sponsor the 45th Annual Ebony Fashion Fair on Nov. 1 at 8 p.m. at Kenneth R. Williams Auditorium, Winston-Salem State University.

Contact the Winston-Salem Urban League or any guild member for tickets or information. Joan Cardwell is general chair of 2002 Ebony Fashion Fair and Velma H. Friende is president of the Winston-Salem Urban League Guild.

AARP will host ice cream social

Members of AARP's Forsyth County chapter have invited people 50+ to join them at 3:15 p.m. on Aug. 13 for an old-fashioned ice cream social at the Shepherd Center of Greater Winston-Salem.

The ice cream social will offer local AARP members a chance to get acquainted with each other and with AARP's local activities. In addition to free ice cream and AARP publications, the meeting will feature an update on the work of North Carolina's Senior Tarheel Legislature and a visit from the associate state director of AARP's state office in Raleigh.

Elaine Handley of Senior Services Inc. said, "We have formed an outstanding partnership of AARP, Senior Services Inc., and the Shepherd Center to bring AARP's programs and services to the community. This ice cream social is our way of offering local seniors a chance to have some fun, get to know each other, and learn about AARP's many outstanding community service programs and free publications."

There is no charge for the event, but advance reservations are suggested. More information is available by calling 748-0217 or sending an e-mail to ncaarp@aarp.org.

Open house

Just 4 Kicks Studio of Dance will have its second annual open house on Aug. 10 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at 1901-C Mooney Street. Come and register your child for classes. The school is accepting registrations for the new school year (2002-2003). Classes will begin the week of Aug. 12.

Specialty classes are also offered. Call (336) 794-0056 for more information.



Photos by Felecia McMillan

The writers and cast members of "Home and Hood" prepare to take a bow.

'Home and Hood'

Students of First Summer Film and Theatre Arts Institute perform at SECCA

BY FELECIA P. McMILLAN, PH.D.
COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

More than 600 supporters of non-violence attended the live performance and film production "Celebrate Home & Hood: A True Vision From Winston-Salem Youth" held at the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art (SECCA) July 25-27.

Ten youths from Happy Hill Gardens, Cleveland Avenue Homes, Piedmont Circle, Kimberly Park and the South Side area participated in the summer institute and wrote the script from poems, raps, songs, prayers, shout outs, dances and letters they composed during the five-week institute. The students were Jeffrey Davon Edwards, Savanna Chanel Hines, Allen Kieger, Dorsey "DJ" Lemon, Danyiel Jeffries, Darius DeWayne Shepard, Raymon Shepard and Broadus Taylor.

Playwright Nathan Ross Freeman compiled, edited and adapted the script. Tonya Sheffield filmed and edited the footage with the help of co-directors/mentors Frank Eaton, Zack "T.J." James, Kerwin Graham, Dorrell Brayboy, Lamont Brayboy, Jamole Hannah, Brandon Johnson, Derrick Ward and Tenisha Watkins.

The theme song, "Home and Hood," written by Derrick Monk and Kerwin Graham, was performed by the entire cast, and Brandon Johnson rapped the lead. The cast delivered the message: "Criticism is a reality. We have purpose, We do good. We celebrate our home and 'hood.'"

The production was made up of 30 poems, stories and songs that expressed the youths' thoughts and emotions about their neighborhoods and family environments. Many familiar scenes appeared in the video,

including children swimming, men and sons at the barbershop, card games, Double Dutch matches, police cars and churches. Several images of entrapment were recorded in their words such as "trapped in the rain and mud"; "left to burn in hell"; "my voice a slave's"; "lost in the ocean"; "hatred inside of me"; "I have to escape... doors blocked, locked"; "tired of rapping about hell"; "struggling mother...still too young to be called grown"; "broken home...parents gone...I still face the same unfriendly fire."

There were also images that expressed peace and love in the family such as "take a peace pill"; "soul food...carrot cake, red velvet, cheesecake all home-baked"; "Dear Mom, I want to let you know how much I care about you...I will give you anything...I love you, Mama!"; "I know y'all been changed."

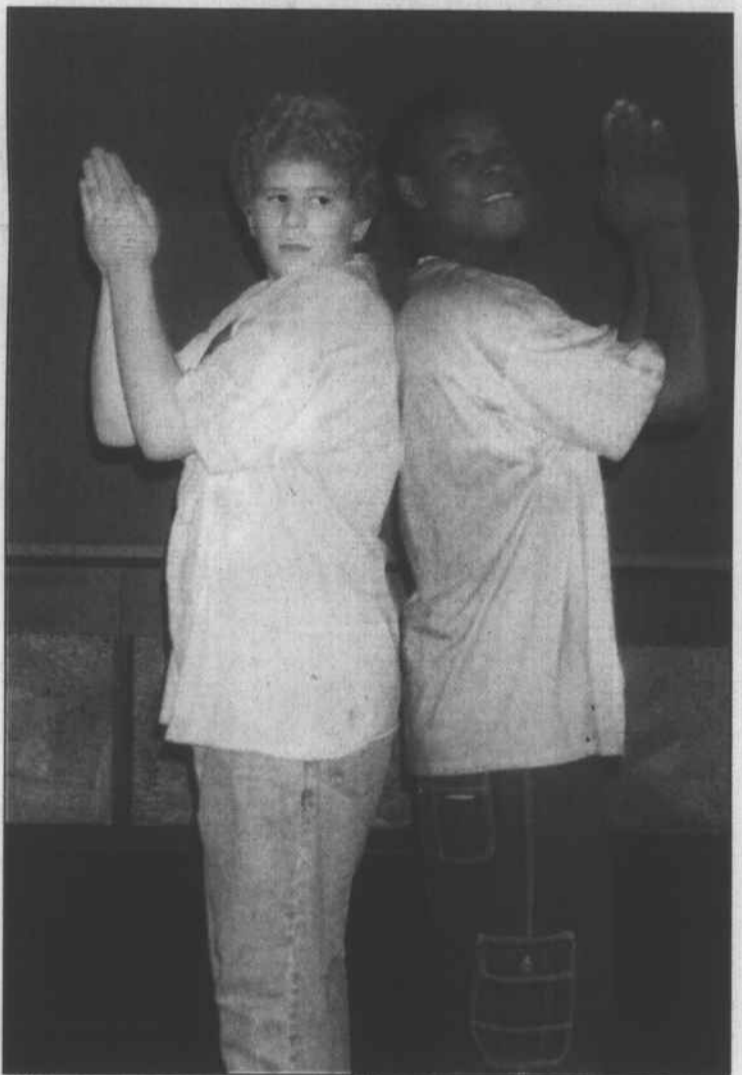
Edwards learned the RIFF method, and it helped him to be more expressive.

"When you use the RIFF method, you take a word and make a run-on sentence and you keep stretching it. For example, I am like a dove sailing across the ocean trying to reach a destination...."

When Allen wrote his poem, "School Fire, Ocean Fish," he was writing about events from his past.

DJ enjoyed learning about "sense" words during the institute.

"We had to learn to use our five senses to describe an apple or another object. Mr. Freeman would shout out an object and we had to use our senses to write about how it smells, tastes, sounds like, looks like and what it feels like."



See Play on C2 Allen Kieger and Jeff Edwards perform the poem "Church."



Nathan Ross Freeman directs the cast.



DJ Lemon and Brandon Johnson practice the rap "Home and Hood"