

Vendors market offers items for all tastes

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Who says all the action at the National Black Theatre Festival takes place on the stage?

The thousands who find refuge at the vast International Vendors' Market know better. The market has become an integral part of the festival, providing

Location: Benton Convention Center (corner of Cherry and Fifth streets)

Merchandise: everything imaginable

Hours: Aug. 6 through Aug. 9 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and then from 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m.



File Photo

2001 NBTF volunteers shop in the International Vendors Market.

theater lovers a place to go during their down time.

The International Vendors' Market will open on Aug. 6 and operate through the close of the festival on Aug. 9. The market has gained a reputation as one of the most exquisite commercial exhibitions to be seen anywhere. The market is popular with vendors because the festival draws thousands of out-of-towners to the city. The festival also attracts folks who live here downtown, where the market is located (in the Benton Convention Center). Vendors have had great

success with festival crowds, many of whom wait for their favorite vendors to return so that they can purchase specialty items.

As the name says, vendors from all over the world will hawk their wares. Virtually everything will be offered, from arts and crafts, to books and music, to clothing and home furniture.

There also will be door prizes, a silent auction and other special promotions offered throughout the market's stay. For example, High Point-based

Atrium Furniture has donated two vacation getaway packages that will be given away on the last night of the festival. Visitors to the market will be able to register for the getaways and other prizes.

Other sponsors of the market include: Ebert Sign Co.; A New Leaf; Ryan's Village Tavern; Balloons, Bunnies & Beans; Krispy Krems; Catawba Furniture Mall; and the Summit School.

Barbara Eure is coordinating the International Vendors' Market. The market is free and open to the public.

Louis Armstrong exposed!

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Louis Armstrong, or Satchmo, as he is known to millions, is the euphony of jazz to many fans of the genre. Beginning in the 1920s, Armstrong took jazz to a whole level with his recordings. Armstrong's big smile and distinctive voice also graced the stages of Broadway and the big screen.

A play being staged at this year's NBTF will attempt to show the Louis Armstrong that few people know. "A Tuff Shuffle: Backstage with Louis Armstrong" is a production of the Charlotte-based Aniya Theatre Company. Written by Danny Mullen, who also stars as Armstrong, the play examines the story behind Satchmo's great



Louis Armstrong

music. Told in a backstage dressing room before a show, the production looks at the challenges Armstrong faced when he took courageous stands for civil rights.

The one-man show has already been produced by the Black Repertory Group Theatre in Berkeley, Calif.; Hallwalls' Black 'n' Blue Theatre in Buffalo; and the Neighborhood Theatre in Charlotte. During its Charlotte run, the play received two theater nominations from the publication Creative Loafing.

Preston Lane directs "A Tuff Shuffle: Backstage with Louis Armstrong."

Venue: Adam's Mark, Mark Ballroom 2

Schedule: Aug. 5 at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.; Aug. 6 at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Price: \$35 (The Aug. 5 shows also include performance of "Free Jujube Brown.")

love community



love cable

Time Warner Cable is dedicated to helping our community. We not only provide jobs for your neighbors, friends and family, we also make sure a portion of every cable dollar is put back into the local economy. Our goal is to make North Carolina a better place to live and work, and we are pleased to support the National Black Theater Festival.

TIME WARNER CABLE

Now anything's possible...