

# ARTS & LIFESTYLE

## Of Interest ...

### Keyshia Cole and others share their adoption stories

LOS ANGELES - Jamie Foxx, Faith Hill and Keyshia Cole hope to help children find homes for the holidays.

Speaking backstage last month after filming their appearances for the CBS special "A Home for the Holidays," which aired on Dec. 23, Foxx, Hill and Cole shared how they coped with being adopted and why they performed for the show, which offers a mix of musical entertainment and information about child adoption.



Soul diva Keyshia Cole

"I was lucky," said the Oscar-winning Foxx ("Ray"). "I was adopted at 7 months, but the lady who adopted me also adopted my mother, so I had a relationship with my biological parents, also."

Country superstar Hill was also adopted as an infant, but after hitting adolescence had to fight off the adoption stigma. "When kids would call one another names, they'd say, 'You act like you're adopted.' And I'd always get 'em good, because I'd say, 'Well, I am adopted. So what do you think about that?'" she said.

The special was the brainchild of Dave Thomas, the Wendy's restaurant founder. Thomas, who was adopted, created the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption in 1992.

Soul diva Keyshia Cole said, "My personal story was my mother was on drugs all my life and she didn't get a little bit better until I became 'Keyshia Cole the Celebrity.' Maybe it was a good way for her to see herself - that your daughter has become so much and she's become so big."

The show will featured musical performances by Hill's husband Tim McGraw, as well as Kristin Chenoweth, Gavin Rossdale and Melissa Etheridge.

### N.C. Arts Council grant application deadline approaching

The deadline for arts organizations across North Carolina to request grant funds from the state Arts Council is Monday, March 2, 2009.

The North Carolina Arts Council provides a wide array of rich arts experiences for residents and visitors of the state through grants to non-profit organizations.

The Arts Council invested close to \$7.4 million in grants for arts programming in all 100 counties in the state during the 2008-2009 fiscal year. Normally, every \$1 spent by the state is matched by \$18 from private and non-state funds giving residents an excellent return on their money.

These grants support exhibitions, concerts, theater and dance productions, festivals, literary reading series, artist residencies in schools, operating support for established arts organizations, community public art projects, and documentation of folk and traditional arts.

Organizations interested in applying for a grant should review the guidelines available on the Arts Council's Web site at [www.ncarts.org](http://www.ncarts.org) and contact the staff member listed for their area of interest. Staff members are available to help organizations make their applications as competitive as possible.

For more information on the North Carolina Arts Council or application instructions for the Organizational Grants, visit [www.ncarts.org](http://www.ncarts.org) or call (919) 807-6500.

### A&T's Williams will release book on Civil Rights Movement

A North Carolina A&T State University senior administrator has recently authored and published a book on the lives of eight popular African American leaders who risked their lives for the cause of the 1960s Civil Rights Movement.

Dr. Lea E. Williams, associate vice chancellor for academic affairs, institutional planning, assessment and research, will release the second edition of "Servants of the People: The 1960s Legacy of African American Leadership," later this month.

Williams book examines the repressive climate of racial hatred in America that spawned the 1960s civil rights movement but also galvanized a generation of bold, persuasive, driven leaders who embodied the qualities of servant leadership. These passionate and committed African Americans emerged to lead a generation from the cruelties of segregation to the revolution of civil rights reform.

Beginning with the 1954 Brown v. Board of Education Supreme Court case, the book follows the lives of figures such as A. Philip Randolph, Adam Clayton Powell Jr., Fannie Lou Hamer, and Ella Baker. This revised edition also reflects on the dramatic changes in the African American political landscape since its initial publication.

Williams is the former executive director of the National African-American Women's Leadership Institute, Inc. (NAAWLI), a leadership program for women committed to community service. After completing her doctorate in higher education administration, Williams began her career in higher education at the United Negro College Fund headquarters in New York City.

For more information visit [www.leawilliams.com](http://www.leawilliams.com).



Williams

## Murrell to perform at New Year's Eve show

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Hometown favorite Chris Murrell will headline the Winston-Salem Symphony at its annual New Year's Eve Celebration.

Murrell was the lead singer of the acclaimed Count Basie Orchestra for more than a decade. He also toured the nation with his own seven-piece gospel group, The Christian Disciples. A former University of North Carolina School of the Arts professor, Murrell is not only a singer but a pianist, composer, arranger and producer, as well.

In 2002, he released a solo album, "Reprise." In the liner notes of the CD, Tony Bennett called Murrell "one of my favorite singers." A graduate of Wake Forest University, Murrell has shared the stage with the likes of Bennett and legends like with Joe Williams, Rosemary Clooney, Billy Eckstine, George Benson, Clark Terry and Dizzy Gillespie.

At next week's concert, Symphony Music Director Robert Moody will lead his musicians in the Big Band music of Count

Basie, as well as songs that were popular during World War II, movie themes, light classics and Viennese waltzes. As a special treat, several lucky couples will be selected from a drawing to dance the last waltz of the year on stage with the orchestra. Audience members will also be provided with party hats, tiaras, noise makers, horns and balloons.

The Neos Dance Theatre will also perform. The company is composed of diverse individuals who share the common goal of creating "atmospheric, theatrical energy on the stage and in the studio that communicate their lives, social responsibilities, and call to work." Artistic Director Robert Wesner choreographs most of the repertoire, in collaboration with the company's dancers.

The show will be on Wednesday, December 31 at 7:30 p.m. at Reynolds Auditorium. Tickets are \$15 - \$55 and are available by calling the Symphony Box Office at 336-464-0145, or online at [www.wssymphony.org](http://www.wssymphony.org).

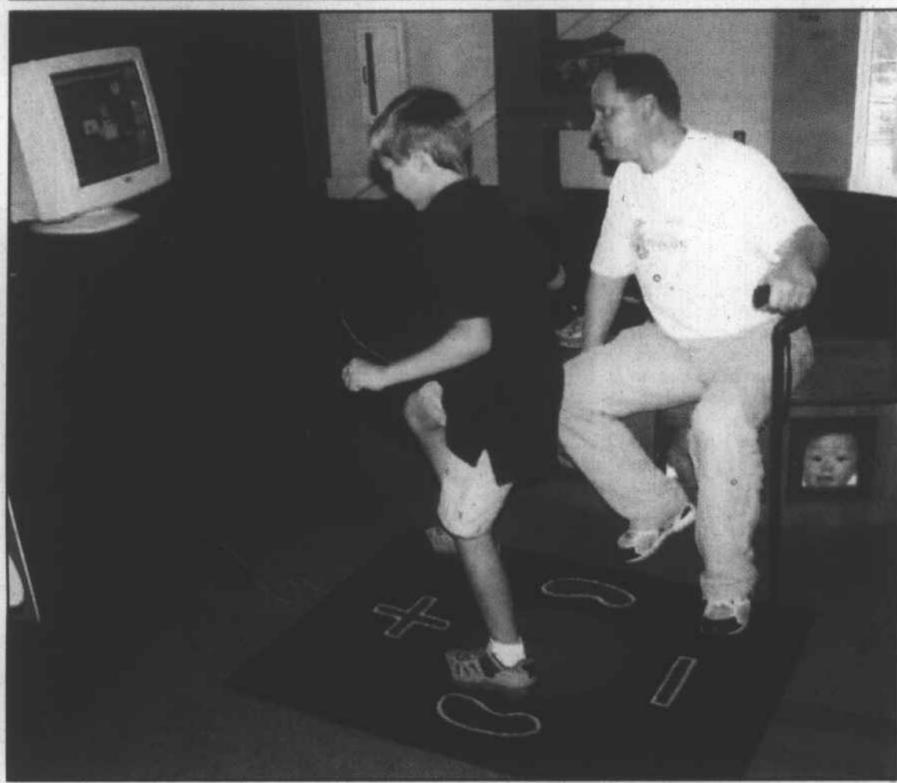


File Photo

Singer Chris Murrell is a local favorite.



Moody



File Photo

A youngster gets a workout early this year at one of the exhibits at the Children's Museum of Winston-Salem, one of the new Arts Council members.

## A whopping 10 members join Arts Council in 2008

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The arms of the Arts Council of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County are stretching even further this week. The agency accepted 10 new member organizations this year. Rarely has the agency accepted so many new members in a single year.

The new members are: the American Singers Opera Project, the Arts Based Elementary School, the Carolina Ballet, the Children's Museum of Winston-Salem, the Mozart Club, Stained Glass Playhouse, Terpsicorps, Winston-Salem Festival Ballet and Winston-Salem Writers. Triad Cultural Arts was also added. The non-profit is responsible for putting on many African-American-themed events, including the annual Juneteenth Celebration.

With the newbies, there are now 67 members of the Arts Council. To qualify for membership,

arts and cultural organizations must have 501-(c)(3) nonprofit tax status and demonstrate consistent efforts to achieve excellence in programs and services to the community.



Rhodes

"These new members strengthen us as an organization, and the diversity they represent speaks well for the vitality of the arts community in Winston-Salem and Forsyth County," said Milton Rhodes, president and CEO of the Arts Council. "We are The City of the Arts, where there is truly something for everyone."

Member organizations are eligible to apply for Arts Council grants and an advertising program that allows member organizations to promote their events through local media organizations at discounted prices.

"Then there is the intangible element of being an integral part of The Arts Council family and network and its ongoing activities," said Rhodes.



Earvin "Magic" Johnson

## Trumpet Awards will go to high achievers

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

A wide-range of notables will be honored early next year with Trumpet Awards, which celebrate African-American achievers in fields like law, medicine, business, politics and entertainment.

The 2009 honorees were announced last week. They include Dr. Alvin Crawford, actress/singer Raven-Symoné, sports legend Earvin "Magic" Johnson, Atlanta Police Chief Richard Pennington, Businessman Michael Roberts, actor Chris Tucker and the Tuskegee Airmen, who will receive the Heroes Award.

The 17th Annual Trumpet Awards will be held at the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre in Atlanta on Monday, Jan. 25. The show will be hosted by "The View" co-host Sherri Shepherd and "Law and Order" star Anthony Anderson.

President and CEO of the Trumpet Awards Foundation Xernona Clayton is the executive producer of the show, which will be broadcast on Turner Broadcasting System (TBS). Clayton also founded the Trumpet Awards in 1993.

## Still a Blackout in Hollywood for Blacks

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Hollywood has a diversity problem. That was the main finding of the NAACP's latest probe into how the television and movie industries treat people of color.

The NAACP Hollywood Bureau released the report, "Out of Focus, Out of Sync—Take 4," last week. It shows that the entertainment industry, particularly television, continues to fall seriously short in achieving diversity.

According to the 44-page report, there is an ongoing trend where African-Americans and other minorities continue to be under-rep-

resented in nearly every aspect of the television and film business, while largely being denied access to significant positions of power in Hollywood.



Jealous

"At a time when the country is excited about the election of the first African American president in U.S. history, it is unthinkable that minorities would be so grossly under-represented on broadcast television," said NAACP President and CEO Benjamin Todd Jealous.

Specifically, the report reveals that hiring, promotion and acting opportunities for minorities are directly tied to highly subjective practices, a closed roster system and



ABC Photo

"Grey's Anatomy" is one of the few shows with blacks in front of and behind the camera.

See Report on A12