

Notes



Stephanie Berry in "The Shanteequa Chronicles."

Funny Blunder??

Stephanie Berry gets the award for best sense of humor at this year's National Black Theatre Festival. An acclaimed actress of stage, screen and television, Berry has brought her Obie Award-winning one-woman show "The Shanteequa Chronicles" to the NBTF. The show, which is directed by Jeffery V. Thompson, debuts tomorrow (Friday, Aug. 7) at 8 p.m. at the Black Box at the Reynolds Auditorium. It will also hit the stage at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 8.

When actor Horace Rodgers, a longtime NBTF supporter, introduced Berry to the managing editor of The Chronicle (who shall remain nameless) on Monday, Rodgers mentioned that the photograph that ran with a profile of "The Shanteequa Chronicles" in the paper's popular NBTF Special Section was not of Berry. To confirm whether his statement was true or false, the trio tracked down one of the special editions and feverishly found the page in question. **IT IS NOT HER!!!!**

Berry and Rodgers had a big laugh over the gaffe, while The Chronicle's managing editor looked for a place to bury his head, shame and embarrassment. The photograph is from the play "Katrina: The Bridge," a University of Houston School of Theatre and Dance production in which Berry did star. But the image is of another actress in the play. A still laughing Berry said that she would send a copy of the section to the actress so that she too could get a laugh or two.

Our sincere apologies to Ms. Berry, who has shown that she is a real pro in every sense of the word.

Tickets to her show, which is being staged with "The Resurrection of Alice," are \$37 and can be purchased in advance at the Benton Convention Center ticket desk or at the door (if they are still available) before the performance.



Photo by Kevin Walker

Theater icon Woodie King Jr.

Poitier gives shout-out to King, NBTF

Fittingly, the presenter of this year's Sidney Poitier Lifelong Achievement Award was Poitier himself - well sort of.

The trailblazing actor sat down with up-and-coming director/actor Karamu Kush in Los Angeles soon before this year's NBTF started and taped a tribute to Woodie King Jr., who received the honor this year. The video was to be shown during Monday's Opening Night Gala, but the sound system failed, so Poitier's message was not shown in its entirety.

Festival organizers corrected the oversight on Tuesday by screening it in the lobby of the downtown Marriott, the NBTF's central hub. King is a highly-respected producer, director and founder of the New Federal Theater in New York, which launched the careers of too many stars to name. He was present at the make-good screening, smiling humbly as Poitier - with his trademark articulate, lyrical voice - praised King for uplifting black theater, calling him "a source of inspiration that will inspire the movement of African-American theater for generations to come."

"You are a credit to your profession," said Poitier of King.

Poitier also had kind words for the National Black Theatre Festival, an event he attended several years ago.

"Black theater would not be standing as tall if it were not for the New Federal Theater and the National Black Theatre Festival," said the screen legend.



Photo by Ralph Meadows

"Good Times" cast members John Amos, Bern Nadette Satnis and Ralph Carter pose after the gala.



Photo by Ralph Meadows

Actress and Winston-Salem native Faye Hauser, left, poses with actress Barbara Montgomery.



Photos by Kevin Walker

Left: NBTF Superfan Sylvia Kimbrough poses with actor Lamman Rucker.



Right: Dallas' Lucy Ewing, actress Charlene Tilton.



Photos by Kevin Walker

Winston-Salem-born actress/talk show host Rolonda Watts with her mother, the accomplished Dr. Velma Watts.



Starletta DuPois gets excited as she recites Langston Hughes' "Mother to Son."



Photo by Ralph Meadows

Dorien Wilson with "Extremities" co-star Wendy Raquel Robinson.



City native Ken Lewis, who just announced his intentions to run for the U.S. Senate next year, with his wife, Holly, and sister, Robin Lewis (far left), an accomplished local nurse.



Chester Gregory, star of the NBTF classic, "The Jackie Wilson Story."



Broadway legend Andre De Shields.



Sesame Street's Gordon, actor Roscoe Orman.



NBTF favorite Ella Joyce.



Actor Hawthorne James.



Magnum, P.I.'s Roger E. Mosley.