

C2371 W78e1



THE CHRONICLE

• See Opinion/Forum pages on A6&7 •

• See Sports on page B1 •

Volume 45, Number 44

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.

THURSDAY, August 1, 2019

NBTF marches into town



Put on your purple and black, the festival is back! Gala kicks off 16th biennial National Black Theatre Festival

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

The 2019 National Black Theatre Festival got off to a Marvtastic start earlier this week with the

star-studded opening night Gala. On the evening of the event, the lobby of the Benton Convention Center screamed black excellence with attendees wearing dazzling gowns and

inspired paintings, stars like Andre De Shields, Bill Cobb, Vanessa Bell Calloway, Keith David and countless others mingled with local elected officials, business owners, and even



Keith David smiles as he enters into the Gala at The Benton Convention Center.



Margaret "Suge" Avery, 2019 NBTF co-chair, makes her way into the ballroom during the Opening Night Gala.

lin. Founded by Hamlin in 1989, the National Black Theatre Festival is a six-day celebration of African American theatre and those who continue to push the culture forward through the arts. The gala, which is traditionally held on the first night of the festival, serves as an awards ceremony where actors, playwrights, directors, and other creatives are celebrated for their contributions to the cause of preserving Black Theatre. To jumpstart the gala, comedian Michael Colyar and former WXII news anchor Wanda Starke kept the crowd going with a few jokes. After dinner and the traditional processional led by drummers and performers from Otesha Creative Arts, greetings from city officials and celebrity co-chairs Margaret "Suge" Avery and Chester Gregory, the awards ceremony officially got underway. Special Recognition Awards were presented to Rhodessa Jones, Idris Ackamoor, and Herman Levern Thompson-Jones. Living Legend Awards were presented to Roscoe Orman, Thambi Mtshali, Marjorie Moon, and Art

See NBTF on A2

formalwear of purple and black. While members of the Carver High School Marching Band kept the music going outside, inside the Benton on a backdrop of various African festivalgoers who just wanted a quick picture. As they made their way to their seats, it seemed as if everyone stopped and took a look at the giant hand-painted portrait of the late Larry Leon Ham-

www.wschronicle.com

WTTXS-E-RES & SERIALS MGMT
DAVIS LIBRARY CB # 3938
PO BOX 8890
CHAPEL HILL, NC 27515-8890 90

ASSURED STORAGE
of Winston-Salem, LLC
(336) 924-7000
www.assuredstoragews.com
Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm; Sat 9am-3pm
Gate Hours: 5am-10pm
4191 Bethania Station Road • Winston-Salem

U-Haul
We Rent U-Haul Trucks!
Professional self-storage.
MOVE IN SPECIAL \$25 (incl. tax & fee)