

**..Of Drama**

# ACCT Teaches Children To Learn Through Experience

"My child was so shy before attending your camp, I just couldn't believe that was her performing on stage."

Barbara Ferguson, founder of the Afro-American Children's Theatre (ACCT) summer workshop and camp, has heard that same comment many times in the four years since starting ACCT. Each time upon hearing it, she still lights up with satisfaction.

"We started the summer camp so that children could learn to feel good about themselves through the experience of drama," she explained.

The ACCT staff conducts a three-week camp for children between the ages of 8 and 15 years old and a two-week junior camp for those ages four to seven. The program runs June 11-29th (June 18-29th for the juniors) at Johnson C. Smith University. It is funded by a grant from the Arts and Science Council.

"We develop skills in

music-voice, writing, set production, movement and dance, and video production along with field trips," noted Mrs. Ferguson. "We seek to develop an outlet for the camper's self-expression, expose them to role models to enhance self-image and confidence and to instill a respect for the Art."

ACCT has received a helping hand from the Charlotte Friends of the Arts as well as volunteers such as Dee Dee Murphy who designed this year's brochure.

Charlotte teacher Doris Frazier has served as creative director since ACCT's inception.

Professional singer Sammy Stevenson (The Charlotte Opera's "Sampson and Delilah") is

working with the staff this year. Past staff members included Demetrius Parker, Michael Porter, Steven Watson and playwright Karen Jones-Meadows.

The highlight of each summer's camp is a public

production.

"All participation in the show is voluntary, but we have yet to have a student not enthusiastically volunteer," cited Mrs. Ferguson.

The show, in which each student performs a solo

act, is presented to an enthusiastic audience of relatives, Johnson C. Smith University summer school students, Upward Bound and Project EXCEL students on campus. This year's edition will be presented at 7:00 p.m. on

the Biddle Auditorium stage on Thursday, June 28th.

"We'd love for anyone interested to come and join us," invited Mrs. Ferguson. "I'm sure everyone will have a delightful time."

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**Fri., June 22, 7:30 p.m.**  
**Gladys Knight and the Pips**  
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**Stanley Turrentine and Shirley Scott**

**Sat., June 23, 7:30 p.m.**  
**Al Jarreau, David Sanborn**  
**Patti Austin with the Tom Scott Band**

**Sun., June 24, 3:00 p.m.**  
**Patti LaBelle, Pointer Sisters**  
**Bob James, Pieces of a Dream**

**Ticket Prices:** \$15 and \$14 per night, per person  
All seats reserved

**Ticket Information**  
Tickets for all shows are available at the Hampton Coliseum and all Ticketron outlets in the Peninsula and Tidewater areas  
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For ticket information call (804) 838-4203

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