



## Mo' Better Blues gets a "Mo' Better" review

By Leonard Johnson  
Contributor

This summer has been another summer of more movies, more music, more sex, more violence, and of course, "mo' better blues". Spike Lee has once again performed his magic on the silver screen and with it he has brought another great soundtrack of music for his audiences to enjoy.

Jazz is what it's called, and the "mo' better blues" soundtrack is loaded with lots of it. All the music on the soundtrack is new and original and is superbly performed by the Branford Marsalis Quartet featuring the smooth trumpet sounds of Terence Blanchard. Also, the mellow voice of Cynda Williams is introduced on the soundtrack. We can hear her wonderful melodies as she sings the first song on the soundtrack entitled "Harlem Blues".

The instrumental cuts on the album are all good with a variety of styles. For instance, "Say Hey" and "Knocked Out The Box" are both up-tempo cuts with a modal jazz flavor featuring excellent trumpet and saxophone solos by Terence Blanchard and Branford Marsalis, respectfully.

However, the tempo slows down with "Again Never," a smooth and mellow piece, written by Spike Lee's father, Bill Lee, performed on trumpet with a heavy blues feel. The title cut "mo' better blues" surprisingly has an eight bar blues format (verses the standard twelve bar blues) which adds to both its simplicity and its catchy tune. After listening to the song "mo' better blues," with its easy and almost childlike melody just once, it stays

with you for hours as you hum it to yourself. "Pop Top 40," which is a highly unique cut, features the star of the movie, Denzel Washington, on vocals. "Pop Top 40" has an interesting mix of jazz and modern-day rap. The song, "Pop Top 40," presents a satirical approach to both songs played on modern-day radio and the way they present the idea or concept of L-O-V-E. A very entertaining, yet thought provoking tune, "Pop Top 40" has a strong jazz feel with a highly syncopated be-bop, and modified hip-hop rhythm. "Jazz Thing," which seems to summarize the entire album (and the movie as well), is a tribute to jazz, and the artists which have made jazz an American institution. More importantly, it promotes the feeling and concept of jazz being the true music of the African-American. "Jazz Thing," unlike the other songs on the album, is a true "rap" with drums, sampling, and sequencing, and has a powerful dance beat that propels you to the dance floor.

Overall, the soundtrack for "mo' better blues" is excellent, especially if you are a connoisseur of jazz or just good music. The variety in the styles of music caters to any mood and is good listening anytime, and anyplace. I strongly recommend it to everyone, especially if you didn't get to see the movie. This soundtrack is truly a treat to music and jazz lovers alike everywhere. Spike and Bill Lee have done it again—with a little help from some friends they've brought us another great collection of movie tunes. Fellas, I can't wait for the next one!!

Leonard Johnson, a recent UNC graduate, plays guitar/trumpet for Soul Expression-- a local jazz band.

## Ebony Readers stage a great year

By Erika F. Campbell  
Editor

The Ebony Readers Onyx Theater is a group of students dedicated to promoting African and African-American poetry and prose. The group is comprised of approximately 30 to 40 students who perform at various functions both on and off campus throughout the year. Ebony Readers President Kimberly Williams said this year should be a very good and productive one. "We have a very talented group. Each of us brings different aspects to the group but we all share a common desire to perform African and African-American theater."

Although the group often performs as guest at many functions sponsored by campus organizations, Ebony Readers often accepts invitations to

perform in other cities. Last year the group accepted an invitation to perform their compilation of poetry and short stories entitled "A Walk Down 125th Street" at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. In addition to this show, they also received invitations to perform in Raleigh, Butner and other cities.

Each year, in addition to accepting invitations to perform, Ebony Readers stages a major performance with the assistance of an artist-in-residence. Last year's artist, who also happens to be a professor in the UNC speech department, Dr.D. Soyini Madison compiled and directed *Mandela: The Land and The People*. The show was centered around the struggles of the South African people and included excerpts from the speeches of African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela and from the memoirs of his wife, Winnie.

Nevena Graves, 1990-91 artistic director for the group, was pleased with the success of last year's *Mandela* show and plans to cultivate the same type of quality performances in the upcoming year. Graves, who has been artistic director for the past two years, said "With the *Mandela* project, Ebony Readers became more of a social voice on campus. Before the group was more of a performance channel. However, *Mandela* aroused the social consciousness of the group and as artistic director, I plan to gear the group toward more social oriented performances in the future."

In order to become a member of Ebony Readers, one must audition. The first audition will be held in fall and the exact times and dates and for auditions will be announced in Black Student Movement general body meetings.

## Express your idea of freedom with Opeyo

By Monica Skinner  
Contributor

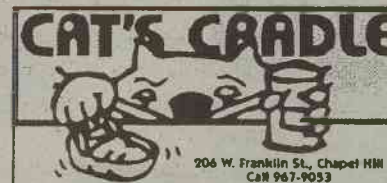
Opeyo?! Many of you ask what is Opeyo? Opeyo is Swahili for freedom and freedom is exactly what the Opeyo dancers express when we perform. As a subgroup of the Black Student Movement, the Opeyo dancers serve to promote African-American culture at UNC as well as throughout the triangle and triad areas. We perform a wide variety of dance steps including jazz, ballet, modern, and hip-hop. Our group consists of approximately 16 people but we hope to expand the number of members within the next year.

In order to be a member of the Opeyo dancers, one need not have any dance experience. Tryouts for the 1990-1991 school year will be in mid-

September. Those who would like to tryout will be required to learn two short dance pieces, one jazz and one modern. During tryouts, an impromptu piece may be added for those who choose to express ideas through their own choreography. In order for Opeyo to be a well rounded group, we are encouraging men and women alike to tryout.

During the 1990-1991 school year, we hope to expand by traveling to other college campuses to perform. For those of you talented individuals who want to express your idea of freedom, we encourage you to express it with Opeyo.

Monica M. Skinner and Jackie Chadwick will serve as the Artistic Directors for Opeyo during the 1990-1991 academic year



### AUGUST

- 24 (Fri) Echoes Farm (10-2)
- Alpha Phi Alpha Party (2-6)
- 25 (Sat) The Veldt
- 26 (Sun) Antiseen and the Brickbat
- 27 (Mon) Gibson Brothers
- 30 (Thur) Kappa Alpha Psi Party 10-2
- 31 (Fri) Johnny Quest

### SEPTEMBER

- 1 (Sat) The Usuals (Original Raleigh Rock)
- 2 (Sun) Kenny Mann and Liquid Pleasure

POSTERS • ROCK & ROLL • T-SHIRTS  
IMPORT & VINTAGE • REGGAE • SKA •  
PSYCHEDELIC • FUNK • FRESQUATE •  
GUATEMALAN TAMS, BAGS • INCENSE  
ACCESSORIES • BRACELETS • ESSENTIAL OILS  
POSTCARDS • MANI-PEDICURES • BAJA SHIRTS  
STICKERS • GRATEFUL DEAD • INDIA PRINTS  
BUTTONS • PERMANENT RELIX MAGAZINE  
PATCHES • UNDERGROUND COMICS  
USED BOOKS, LPs & TAPES  
COLLECTIBLES • CALENDARS

**STATIONER**  
102-A W. MAIN ST.  
CARRBORO

## Soul Expression

"Jazzing It Up in Style"

Music for All Occasions  
URBAN CONTEMPORARY JAZZ • BLUES • FUNK

Fred Holmes 919-929-7325  
Leonard Johnson (LJ) 919-929-0602  
108 Taylor St., Chapel Hill, NC 27514

