

ENTERTAINMENT

Pulitzer prize winner presented

“Look Homeward Angel” opens drama season

By Lynne Chapman
Staff Writer

The University Players, Elizabeth City State University's drama troupe, will present the Pulitzer Prize winning play “Look Homeward, Angel” as the opening production of the academic year. Based on the famous novel by North Carolina writer Thomas Wolfe, the comedy-drama will be presented in the Little Theatre on November 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9, Wednesday through Sunday evenings at 8:00.

Generally considered to be an authentic American classic, “Look Homeward, Angel” centers around seventeen-year-old Eugene Gant and his family as they struggle through love, joy, and pain in Asheville in the year 1916. Eugene is the prototype of a young man desperately searching for his identity and longing for independence. Drama critic Richard Watts praised “Look Homeward,

Angel” as being “one of the finest plays in American dramatic literature.”

Shawn Smith, director of the production, has assembled a varied cast of ECSU students, staff members, and faculty to fill the play's twenty roles. Stephen Michael Allen, a freshman from Yonkers, New York, will make his acting debut in the role of Eugene. Eliza Gant, Eugene's strong-willed mother, will be played by Rosa B. Sawyer. A veteran actress who makes her home in Edenton, Ms. Sawyer is secretary to ECSU's Department of Music.

Fitzgerald Warren, a senior from Goldsboro, will appear as W.O. Gant, Eugene's stone-cutter father. Warren has appeared with the Players in the title role of the musical “Purlie” and as John Proctor in “The Crucible.” Appearing in the role of Laura James, Eugene's girlfriend, will be Traci LaTrelle, a freshman from Landover,

Maryland. Gary Shearod, a junior from Goldsboro, and Sean Sharpe, a junior from Beaufort, S.C., will play Eugene's brothers, Ben and Luke Gant.

In the role of Helen Gant, Eugene's sister, will be Sheila Reid, a senior from Elizabeth City; and James H. Gibbs, a junior from Engelhard will portray Helen's dapper husband, Hugh Barton. In the role of Dr. Maguire will be Charles Jennings, a junior from Goldsboro. Another experienced actress, Dreena Birdsall, a junior from Greensboro, will play the colorful Madame Elizabeth.

Other prominent roles will be preformed by Myrtle R. Rivers as Mrs. Clatt; Louis V. Nadeau, retired Professor and former Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Af-

fairs-Special Programs, as Mr. Ferrel; Renita M. Giles as Mrs. Pert; Vincent Ruffin as Will Pentland; David Michael Holman as Jake Clatt;



Vincent Ruffin as Will Pentland and Rosa Sampson as Eliza Gant in the University Players' presentation of “Look Homeward Angel.”

Nancy Porter as Mrs. Snowden; Harriet R. Martin as Miss Brown; Lynne Chapman as Florry Mangle; Donte Crowell as Mr. Tarkington; and Terrell Reid as Soaks Baker.

Stage manager for “Look

Homeward, Angel” is Vincent Ruffin and James Gibbs is technical director. Paulette Peterson is production costumer and Alexis Stanley is art director.

Admission to the produc-

tion is \$2.00 for the general public. For additional information, call the University Players' office, 335-3436.

The University Players is part of the Department of Language, Literature, & Communication.

Homecoming Concert:

ECSU's homecoming concert will feature The Force M.D.'s and Shirley Jones at 8:15 in Vaughn Center.

The Force M.D.'s are the 1984's answer to Frankie Lymon & The Teenagers. The young New York based group skillfully blend street corner harmonies with polished production to create a distinctive new sound that is full of romance and rhythm Doo Wop-Hip Hop.

The Staten Island quintet broke into the New York nightclub circuit as a rap group. They played at the Roxy, Harlem World, and at Afrika Bambaataa's annual Zulu Nation anniversary party in the Bronx. Known primarily as a rap group, they were also adept at harmonizing. Many New Yorker's knew the Force M.D.'s from riding the Staten Island ferry where the group would often break into impromptu performances on the boat.

Their debut cut, “Let Me Love You,” was released in March of this year and became an overnight success in N.Y. and Philadelphia. Their stage act combines a strong visual choreography with a cappella singing. With their trademark letter sweaters and marcel waves, they have reincarnated the glory days of talent showcases at Harlem's famous Apollo Theatre.

Their second single, a ballad called “Tears,” already dominates New York and Los Angeles airwaves as it moves up the charts. Their first album, “Love Letters,” is scheduled for release soon.

Shirley Jones, one of the ECSU's special homecoming entertainers, recently debuted with a solo album called Always In The Mood on Manhattan Records.

Shirley is not new to music fans. With her sisters

The Force M.D.'s ★★★★★★★★★★ Shirley Jones

Brenda and Valorie, she was the lead singer of the Jones Girls—for many years Diana Ross's background group as well as a very successful recording act of their own.

A measure of their impact on Diana's show was that they were given their own 10-minute spotlight number in her performances. They were so impressive that Diana told them they were too good to be background singers for her, and suggested they fashion their own careers.

Their R&B-based pop sound was an instant sensation. The Jones Girls' very first national single, “You're Gonna Make Me Love Somebody Else,” sold over a million copies and earned them a gold record. They also had hits with “I Just Love The Man,” “Children of the Night,” “Nights Over Egypt,” and “Dance Turned Into Romance.”

Shirley's decision to go

solo was influenced by her sisters, who wanted to take a break from show business.

She quickly began session work with Teddy Pendergrass, Angela Bofill and George Duke. Last fall, Philadelphia International signed her to a contract and recording for Always In The Mood began in February.

Born and raised in a religious Detroit home, music was an integral part of Shirley's life. Her mother, Mary Lee, was a gospel singer and her father a minister. She remembers singing in church when she was only three years old.

Shirley's voice isn't the only knockout about her. A finalist in the Miss Hollywood beauty pageant, she's also an actress, having appeared on the soap operas “The Young and the Restless” and “Capitol” and in a Sony commercial with Stevie Wonder.

WRVS-FM “HOT 15” FOR OCTOBER

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| <p>Record, Artist, Label</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Word-Up, Cameo, Atlanta Artist 2. Pop Goes My Mind, LaVert, Atlantic 3. Stay Awhile Child, Loose Ends, MCA 4. Typical Male, Tina Turner, Capitol 5. When I Think of You, Janet Jackson, A&M 6. I'm Chilling, Kurtis Blow, Mercury 7. Lady Soul, Temptations, Gordy 8. Heaven in Your Arms, P.J. Latest Arrival, Manhattans 9. What Does It Take? Kenny G, Arista 10. Old Friend, Phyllis Hyman, Philadelphia Intl. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. Can't Wait, Five Star, RCA 12. Human, Human League, A&M 13. Earth Angel, New Edition, MCA 14. Two of Hearts, Stacey Q, Atlantic 15. Virginia Gone Go Go, Code Red, CFM <p>Songs to Watch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Going to the Bank - Commodores Last Night I Needed Somebody-Shirley Jones Prove Me Right - Shannon Someone Like You - Sylvester Tight to fit - Chaka Kahn <p>Courtesy of WRVS</p> |
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Lyceum series

ECSU kicked off its 1986-87 Lyceum series on October 14 with the Mitchell-Ruff Duo in the Williams Hall Gymnasium.

The Mitchell-Ruff Duo, the oldest continuous group in jazz without any personnel changes, was formed in 1955 when pianist Dwiki Mitchell and bassist and French horn player Willie Ruff, left Lionel Hampton's band to strike out on their own. The duo's ori-

gins go back even further to 1947 when they were servicemen stationed at Lockbourne Air Force Base near Columbus, Ohio.

- The Jubilation Dance Company**
February 12, 8:15 p.m.
“One More Time”
A Broadway Musical
March 26, 8:15 p.m.
The Honors Convocation
April 16, 8:15 p.m.

Band requires self-discipline

By Richard McIntyre
Staff Writer

The fall in college means more than just football. Not only is the Viking football team striving for excellence, the Viking band is too. Willy McElroy, ECSU's band director, is optimistic about the band's future prospects.

“The band is larger this year than in three years,” said McElroy, who is in his fourth year as director. “One of our goals is to retain our players for next year.”

The Viking band now has 130 spots, including flags and auxiliary members. McElroy's goal is to have 136 instrumentalists.

Unlike some high school marching bands, which practice three out of five school days, the college marching band practices daily. The ECSU band members have classroom instruction first, then shortly before nightfall go to the practice field behind the University Center for playing, marching and dancing drills under the lights.

“I have a lot of respect for the band members,” said McElroy. “It takes a sense of responsibility for these kids to make it through two sessions. They are a well-disciplined group.”

While McElroy picks the music, the choreography is done by band members such

as Reginald English with the director's approval.

The band's present repertoire includes Janet Jackson's “Control,” the New Edition's “I'm With You All the Way,” and Cameo's “Word Up.” According to William Bridges and Timothy “Chaz” Armstrong, the band plays a little of everything.

Plans are now underway to participate in many activities next year including possible halftimes shows for the Washington Redskins or the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Viking band fans can still see the band take the field a few more times before the CIAA football season closes.

