

# MEMORIES OF HOMECOMING 1989



Recording Artist Regina Belle poses with WSSU student Derick Whitehead

photo by: Tuttle

## Regina Belle Rocks The House

by Craig Thomas

To kick off this year's Lyceum Cultural Events Program series, an outstanding performance by stylish, rhythm and blues songstress Regina Belle rocked K. R. Williams Auditorium.

After a 35 minute delay, Belle opened the show with a soaring rendition of her first hit, "Show Me the Way", from her debut LP, ALL BY MYSELF. Dressed to perfection in a stunning, figure-fitting, red and silver sequined evening gown, she fascinated the audience as she showcased a fine display of her vocal capabilities.

"I'm tired, this dress is tired, these lights are hot," she told the audience before presenting her next song. Despite her comments, she still pumped bursts of energy and emotion into "So Many Tears", which she dedicated to her husband.

Backed by her two impressive backup singers, whom she referred to as her "divas", the petite powerhouse sang her heart out and completely charmed the audience with her unique stylings of gospel undertones mixed with rhythm and blues and a touch of jazz.

As her performance continued, she sang "Good Lovin'", an up-tempo dance tune and then changed the tempo to a slower more relaxed pace when she slid into "What Goes Around", a song she

described as "1989 blues."

She then surprised the audience with a medley of songs dating from the 60s to the present. "In order to know where we're going in the future, we must know about our past first," she gave as the reason for composing the medley. "Sweet Love", "Don't Ask My Neighbor", "Midnight Train To Georgia" and "Respect", were songs in the medley.

Perhaps the highlight of the evening was a duet entitled, "All I Want is Forever". Although the song originally featured James "J.T." Taylor (formerly of Kool and the Gang) singing the male lead, his absence was well-compensated for by Belle's musical director, Christopher Walker. The audience was mesmerized as the two displayed perfect vocal harmonies accompanied by intimate even humorous scenes of romantic bliss.

"Now it's showtime," Belle announced and immediately she went into her final act of the evening, singing "Baby Come To Me", her latest hit. Currently, this hit has been holding the number two position on the music national charts.

Many of Belle's fans like to compare her to sultry singer, Anita Baker. As one of her fans stated, "Belle like Baker, create 'mellow music to the ears.'" On the other hand, Belle sees no need for competition between the two of them. "Anita is a friend of mine, she is somebody who's up there with class." "However, Anita is who she is and Regina is who she is. I think people can make the distinction, but as long as critics have somebody to compare us to, they will. But as long as you're being compared to the best, why complain?"



EuGenia Caroline Williamson, Miss WSSU and Barry Johnson, Mr. RAM at the 1989 Coronation Program.

photo by: Tuttle

### It's Time

*It's time to unite  
It's time to scream  
Because the Mighty Rams  
will be on the scene  
They will duck and dive  
and be all the way live  
While the fans in the stands  
will be shooting the jive  
The time is right  
The time is now  
When the red & white  
will stand out proud  
Come one, come all  
HOMECOMING means  
It's time to have a ball*

-JEM