

Musical storyteller visits Elon

Lori Haley
A&E Editor

He is a one-man, one-drum, one-name jazz percussionist artist, along with a back-up band.

His name is Vincent De' Jon Parrette, and he is known as Vinx.

On Nov. 18, this male percussionist will be performing in Whitley Auditorium sponsored by the Young Artist Series, Black Cultural Society and Student Union Board.

Vinx has performed with various artists including B.B. King, Branford Marsalis, Bonnie Raitt and Bruce Hornsby. He was the opening act for Sting's "Soul Cages" World Tour.

Vinx also performed on Herbie Hancock's 1990 Showtime special, "Coast To Coast."

His music is considered to be jazz blended with an Afro-Cuban percussion. It is unique because it is jazz-percussion with a dance flavor to it.

Sophomore David Bynes, president of BCS, is excited about Vinx's performance. "I'm excited because I've read reviews from other schools where he has performed and received high ratings.

"Since he is one-man, one-drum artist, he must be something. He has performed at pretty highly rated schools," he said.

Vinx presently has three albums recorded, "Rooms in My Fatha's House," "I Love My Job" and "The Storyteller."

In a press release, Vinx said he chooses "to offer my audience the full spectrum of my musical influence. In this journey I have combined salsa with jazz... rap with opera. Samba and falmenco combined with lush R&B vocals seem to blend like a family reunion."

Barb Hanke, director of student activities, said she saw him two years ago



Vinx plays his percussion.

File Photo

at a National Association of Campus Activities Conference in Dallas, where he was showcasing. "I loved him," Hanke said.

"At that point, I decided to sell him to everyone and bring him to Elon. His CDs sound just like he is performing on stage," she said.

Senior Nick Cooper is enthusiastic about Vinx's performance.

"I think it is wonderful. It's not often we get a jazz person with an African tinge. I'm thrilled that he has worked with a lot of famous artists including Stevie Wonder," Cooper said.

He was raised in Kansas City and attended Kansas State University, where he joined the school band. With the band, he traveled to Switzerland and met Taj Mahal who invited Vinx to join his band.

At that same time, Vinx was training for the 1980 Olympics to compete in the triple-jump, and his musical career was on hold. Because of the U.S. boycott that year, Vinx was unable to compete.

Lara Lofton, president of Student Union Board, said she has spoken to people who have seen Vinx on tour with Sting. "They said that Vinx nearly stole the show away. We are excited to have him here at Elon," she said.

Emanons : music to our ears

Gina Isaac
Staff Reporter

The Emanons, Elon College's jazz ensemble, performed many big band and contemporary jazz tunes in McCrary Theatre to a nearly full house Monday night.

"After many hours of listening to music and rehearsals, the payoff was the concert. I was very pleased with the group," said Director Dr. Thomas R.

Erdmann.

Lead saxophonist Jennifer Banks thought the concert also went well. "I enjoy doing it so much. In fact that's why I came to Elon," she said.

The program featured works by Count Basie and Pat Metheny. The ensemble performed several group pieces and one solo by the saxophones.

The program ended with a group arrangement featuring Banks singing.

The ensemble hopes to be attending a jazz festival held at Notre Dame in the

spring. Senior Charlie Smith on drums and percussion was optimistic about their chances.

"I think we have a good shot. Going to the festival would definitely be a highlight of the year for us. We would be competing with the big guys," he said.

The performance's recording will be sent as application and the results will be known later in the school year.

The ensemble will bring these tunes as well as others to other parts of North Carolina and W. Virginia when they tour during winter term.

ON THE SCENE

Our Choice

→ A photography exhibit honoring Ken Hassell's work will open Nov. 21 in the Isabella Cannon Room of the Fine Arts Building. There will be a reception that day and admission is free.

Musicals/Plays

♫ The Elon College jazz faculty will have a recital on Nov. 21 in Yeager Recital Hall. Admission is free.

Heading To Concerts

♫ *Vertical Horizon* will be performing Nov. 18 at Ziggy's in Winston-Salem.

♫ *Real Too Real and Slickerbilly* will be in concert Nov. 18 at the Longbranch in Raleigh.

♫ *Smashing Pumpkins* will be performing Nov. 18 at The Ritz in Raleigh.

♫ *Relax Atmosphere* will be performing at The Lighthouse on Nov. 19.

♫ *Groove Bucket* will be in concert Nov. 20 at The Lighthouse.

♫ *The Blue Dogs* will be in concert Nov. 24 at the Pterodactyl Club in Charlotte.

♫ *Johnny Quest* will be in concert Nov. 24 at Ziggy's in Winston-Salem.

♫ *Purple Schoolbus* will be performing Nov. 26 at Ziggy's in Winston-Salem.

At The Movies

Terrace Theater- *A Nightmare Before Christmas, The Beverly Hillbillies, Robo Cop 3, Look Who's Talking Now, The Three Musketeers and Carlito's Way.*

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

The memories that friends have made together grow stronger with every passing day.