

VIBES ART · MUSIC · REVIEWS · PEOPLE

SPOTLIGHT

One of the most prominent black families in daytime television is Carla and Ed Hall on "One Life to Live." The couple is played by standouts Ellen Holly and Al Freeman.

Ellen Holly joined "One Life to Live" as an original cast member in 1968 and has built a reputation as one of the most durable black stars in daytime television while playing the role of Carla Hall. She came to the program from a flourishing career in the theatre, and she is an accomplished author and is an articulate spokesperson on the subject of black people in media.

Ellen first received critical attention for her Broadway debut opposite Barry Sullivan in "Too Late the Phalarope." Alan Paton's study of apartheid in South Africa. Other major Broadway roles followed in "Face of a Hero," "Tiger, Tiger, Burning Bright" (in which she worked with "One Life to Live" co-star Al Freeman, Jr.) and "A Hand in the Gate." As a leading lady in the New York Shake-

speare Festival, she has played the roles of Titania, Desdemona, Lady Macbeth, Kate, Regan, Princess Catherine and Varya in "The Cherry Orchard."

On television, Ellen has guest starred on "The Nurses," "Dr. Kildare," "Sam Benedict" and "The Defenders." Her movie roles include "Take a Giant Step" and "Cops and Robbers."

Ellen's work as a writer has appeared in several magazines and she is the author of a series of articles on blacks in media which appeared in the New York Times.

A project closest to Ellen's heart is the ambition to produce a screenplay she has written. It's a psychological thriller about a woman pianist traveling in Haiti who stumbles on the history of Henry Christophe, the black emperor credited with driving Napoleon Bonaparte's forces from the western hemisphere.

"I'm going to get it done," the ambitious actress says, "even if I have to go to the Carib-

Al Freeman, Jr. and Ellen Holly (Carla and Ed Hall)



bean myself and shoot it with a super-8 camera. But right now, I'm still holding out for Panavision and stereophonic sound."

The hazel-eyed Holly is a native of New York. She's a Capricorn (birthday Jan. 16.)

From the sound stages of Los Angeles to the footlights of Broadway, Al Freeman, Jr. is

known as one of the most versatile practitioners of the acting craft. A veteran of eight Broadway plays and musicals, he has as many movie roles and guest appearances on television to his credit and, in 1979, received the Emmy Award for Outstanding Actor in Daytime Drama Series.

Al considers San Antonio, Texas, and Col-

umbus, Ohio, as his dual hometowns, having moved back and forth several times as a youth. He entered Los Angeles City College as a pre-law major but his extracurricular involvement with the school's theatre group became more important to him than preparing for a law career. He dropped out of school to join the Air Force, made friends with a student actor and made up his mind to abandon the courtroom for the stage.

After a brief stint as a disc jockey in San Antonio, Al returned to LACC as a theatre arts major and joined the Ebony Showcase Theatre, where he learned acting and other facets of theatre production. His early career combined acting (a live production of "GE Theatre" with Ronald Reagan, and a pilot, "Bantu, the Zebra Boy") with working in an Orange Julius stand and parking cars in Beverly Hills. But better days were coming, and during rehearsals for his first Broadway role in "The Long Dream," Al

married his wife, Sevara.

Over the next few years, Al moved back and forth from Los Angeles to New York. On Broadway, he played in James Baldwin's "Blues for Mr. Charlie," "Golden Boy," "Look to the Lillies," "Tiger, Tiger, Burning Bright," and "The Dozens." Also in New York, he appeared in several Shakespeare in the Park and off-Broadway productions, including "Medea" and the LeRoy Jones plays, "Dutchmen" and "The Slave," among others.

Television audiences have seen Al perform in "The Defenders," "Judd for the Defense," "Kojak" and "The Mod Squad." The movies in which he appeared include "Castle Keep," "The Lost Man," "Finian's Rainbow" and "The Detective." Al received an Emmy nomination for his work in "My Sweet Charlie" and he has received considerable acclaim for his portrayal of Malcolm X in ABC's Novel for Television, "Roots: The Next Generations."

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'An Evening of Comedy'

By Yvette McCullough
Staff Writer

The North Carolina Black Repertory Company will be presenting its second production, "An Evening of Comedy," Friday, August 24 at Kenneth R. Williams Auditorium at 8 p.m.

The production will consist of two plays, "A Day of Absence" by Douglas Ward and "Old Judge Moss Is Dead" by Joe White.

"This will be an extremely hilarious evening of comedy," said Larry Hamlin, the founder of the repertory company. "It will be thoroughly entertaining and at the same time give a message."

"A Day of Absence" is about a small southern town, where the white people wake up one morning to find that all the black people are missing. The white people go into hysterics because they fear they may have to do the work that the black people were doing. It is the disaster of the century because no one can find the blacks. At the end, when the first black is seen, the whites are elated that "they're" back.

"The play shows what an important part black people play in this country," Hamlin said. "In a great many ways we most surely, certainly, would be missed if we all left."

"Old Judge Mose" is also set in a small southern town. It is about two blacks who go to work in a local funeral parlor. They take the job of washing and waxing floors for \$2 an hour. In the funeral parlor is the body of Old Judge Mose who sentenced one of the blacks to 90 days in jail for a crime he didn't commit. The blacks seize the opportunity to let the Judge know how they feel about him.

The production will also feature at least nine local performers. Hamlin said the two plays will give the local performers valuable training and acting experience.



Larry Hamlin, Bryan Corley (in white face) and William Kennedy rehearse a scene from the play "Old Judge Mose Is Dead." The play will be part of the North Carolina Black Repertory production of "An Evening of Comedy" to be presented Friday, August 24 at the Kenneth R. Williams Auditorium.

"The actors will learn a great deal of techniques and by the end of the shows they will have a great deal of knowledge about theater and acting that they didn't have when they came," Hamlin said.

STARSCOPE

Clare Answeil



AQUARIUS — January 21 - February 18
Sports activities do a great deal to perk up your general attitude — and your looks — right now. Weekend includes an encounter with someone you're avoiding — and you're pleasantly surprised.

PISCES — February 20 - March 20
If you're traveling now, there can be lots of surprise benefits — especially ones that are romantic in nature. New person in your life shocks you after the weekend.

ARIES — March 21 - April 20
It's easy to become so involved in domestic problems that you forget you need more outdoor relaxation. Let loved ones pamper you now. Postponements on Monday are for the best.

TAURUS — April 21 - May 22
More obligations are cramping your style and some of the many entertainments scheduled will have to be shifted. Ideas are bright now, but absentmindedness can strike on weekend.

GEMINI — May 23 - June 21
Shift in roles can take place with your romance or business partner. Evenings are quieter than they've been of late. A recent financial query is answered — and to your satisfaction.

CANCER — June 22 - July 22
Add some elegance to your appearance; in fact, more panache in your general style will win you admiration — and affection. Weekend focuses on work. Monday - Wednesday accent romance.

LEO — July 23 - August 22
It looks like a big battle is brewing — but it fizzles out, and hostilities turn to renewed friendship. Money-making opportunities open up; be sure you know what kind of investment is required.

VIRGO — August 23 - September 22
You're a shrewd Virgo this week, pulling strings at the very right moments. Still, an ambitious financial plan may need additional review before you put it into action.

LIBRA — September 23 - October 22
Week's key word is diversify: take on new interests and hobbies, and look for new responsibilities at work. Minor shifts in financial affairs and domestic obligations take place now.

SCORPIO — October 23 - November 21
When it comes to practical matters, you're shining now. But emotions, on the other hand, can easily run out of control. Unconventional decorating ideas can be too offbeat — even for you.

SAGITTARIUS — November 22 - December 22
You tend to be unrealistic until the weekend — and yet you still manage to get results. Relatives may be claiming more time than you're prepared to give. Speak up — promptly.

CAPRICORN — December 23 - January 20
Watch out that you're not becoming a nag — loved ones need more breathing space than ever now. Mentally, a bright time for you with a strong interest in public speaking on Tuesday - Wednesday.

BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK
Modest, tidy, analytical, good-natured, calm — and with a definite air of mystery. But you're also seen as a fussybudget and a loner. Mingling is essential in coming months. There is an abundance of possibilities — financial, romantic, social — but you have to be around to be appreciated.

AGUST 23rd, French King Louis XVI; Napoleon's mom, Letizia Bonaparte; 25th, composer/conductor Leonard Bernstein; 26th, Prince Consort Albert; 27th, actress Martha Raye; 28th, actor Charles Boyer; 29th actress Ingrid Bergman.

LUTHER By Brumsic Brandon, Jr.



WORDS & MEANINGS

By Dorothea Josephine Coates
Unmix the letters in the boxes to form a word. Then circle A, B or C for the correct meaning (or definition).
Score yourself as follows:
4 Correct-Excellent 2 Correct-Fair
3 Correct-Good 1-0 Correct-Poor

- ROT**
A. SCRAP B. SHOULD C. HUT
- NAZY**
A. CRAZY B. HILLY C. FOAMY
- CINEW**
A. CRISP B. PRY C. CRINGE
- GINORI**
A. ENGINE B. START C. STATE

ANSWERS: 1. ROT - A 2. NAZY - A 3. WINE - C 4. ORIGIN - B

FINDIT!

Find 14 things that hold things. Words run across, down, or diagonally in any direction. Word list below.

E R E D L O F S
T N H S I D B U
A R V A S E A I
L N A E K O G T
P B X Y L C T C
E O B O A O A A
B W O N C U P S
K L E R R A B E

Word list: Bag, barrel, bowl, box, can, cup, dish, envelope, folder, plate, sack, suitcase, tray, vase. Leftover letters make one more holder.

Cory