

FATA Holds Awards Night

By RUTHELL HOWARD
Staff Writer

It wasn't exactly the Tony Awards Program, but for the nine award recipients at the Touch of Class disco last Friday night, it was the next best thing.

A high-spirited crowd celebrated the second annual Flonnie Anderson Theatrical Association (FATA) Awards and Fund-raising Ball with music, dancing and just plain old good-times.

Organizer Flonnie Anderson presented awards to FATA members and to theatre talent who participated in different FATA productions during the group's 1983 season.

"This is our second annual awards and fund-raising ball," Mrs. Anderson says, "and at this time, we try to recognize those persons who have made the greatest contributions to FATA, whether (through) Dr. Fred Tanner, sound technical, producing or ac-

ting, or even if it is contributions through fund-raising programs."

Last year, the ball was to recognize the contributions of the Friends of FATA. But this year, the awards were in recognition of those who made large contributions toward the success of the organization's theatrical productions.

Mrs. Anderson praises the success of FATA's citywide traveling productions, which reaches a number of people in the community. She also says FATA has had a successful year, competing in the N.C. Theatre Conference of Community Plays -- winning three of the five acting awards that were presented.

Awards were given Sunday night to Miss Tee Tee Hairston, acting award of merit; Miss Janice Ferguson, technical proficiency and superior acting skills; Sherrick Adams and the cast of "Pearlie," and Dr. Fred Tanner, sound production for "Pearlie."



Award recipients at the Flonnie Anderson Theatrical Association (FATA) Awards and Fund-raising Ball are front row, from the left, Stephanie Swaim, Janice Ferguson and Pat Muler. Middle row, from the left, are Tee Tee Hairston, Sherrick Adams, Deirdre Anderson, Flonnie Anderson and Jeanette Lewis. And in the rear, from the left, are FATA principals Howard L. Shaw and Mel White (photo by Ernie H. Pitt).

Most proficient rendering of FATA production awards were given to Ron "Mr. FATA" Andrews, sound and lighting design for "Medea," and Mrs. Pat Mueller, costumes for "Medea."

Mrs. Sandra Branch was recognized for her contribution through babysitting and Miss Stephanie Swaim, who will begin studies at N.C. School of the Arts for the summer, was also recognized.

Miss Deirdre Anderson was cited for her excellent performance as "Medea." Also recognized were two-year-old Michael Branch and Christopher Russell, who received certificates of appreciation.

Mrs. Jeanette Lewis, president of Friends of FATA, commended the group for its contributions through selling tickets and coordinating social affairs for the organization.

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she says her duties entail much, much more.

"As team mother, I do a little bit of everything," says Ms. Smith, whose son Jonathan plays for the Mets. "I do some fundraising; I make sure the kids get back and forth from practice, and I try to help provide transportation for parents to and from games."

Another reason the league has been able to survive despite its constant financial difficulties is the "give-something-back" attitude of former players like William Westbrook Jr.

"I think about the opportunity the league provided me when I was a young," says Westbrook, who coaches one of the four teams in the Pony League. "I figured that, by coaching, I could give something back."

John Jowers was a member of one of the teams during the league's first year. His son Chris now plays for one of the little league teams.

"I think the Twin City League is a big asset for black kids," says Jowers. "There is certain concern and personal attention they get here that they may not get in other leagues. In some of the other leagues, unless a black kid is a super athlete, he may not get the right kind of training."

Under rules in the Twin City League, all players are required to get at least one chance in the field and one at-bat, every game.

League officials say that a lack of financial support from black businesses and a lack of volunteer help from parents have been the major disappointments.

But there are a number of loyal fans. Come out to Hanes High School or Kennedy High School fields, where the Pony League games are played, or to Rupert Bell Park, where the little league games are played, during the weekday evenings and all day on Saturdays and you'll find supporters like Daisy Mae Good and Harold Sampson cheering for all the teams.

"I've been coming out here to see these children play since about 1969," says Mrs. Good, 78, sitting in her lawn chair perched atop a hill in Rupert Bell Park. "I love to see these little children play. I wouldn't miss it for the world."

"Every summer I look forward to these baseball games," says Sampson, 65. "I love baseball and have all my life. Sometimes I watch it on TV, but I'd much rather watch these youngsters play because it's something special about it. It's good to see Negroes working together for something like this."

Harriett Wins

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jab and follow up with a good strong right hand. If he does this, he has a great chance of winning."

Harriett echoes his coach's feelings: "I think I can win it all. I have had the experience of 37 fights (32 wins, five losses) and I think I can go all the way."

Harriett says that, after the Junior Olympics, he plans to fight in the open division and hopefully enter the professional ranks.

"I think he can be a good pro as a middleweight", says Lowry, who fought professionally as a middleweight himself.

Lowry says that more than \$900 in contributions has been gathered to sponsor the trip to national competition and adds, "When we fly out of here on Sunday, we will have one thing in mind: bringing a national title back to the people and the city of Winston-Salem."

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