

people

Social Notes, Service News, Club News

Close-up

Theatre Addresses The Issues

By ROBIN ADAMS
Staff Writer

Last week, Larry Leon Hamlin, founder of the North Carolina Black Repertory Company, spent every waking moment going over details of his upcoming production, "Ceremonies In Dark Old Men."

It had to be right. Everything had to be perfect. And from watching Hamlin in action, he would not stop until things were as near perfect as they could be.

"This is a good production," Hamlin said last week as the cast was running through the last stages of rehearsal. "We are way ahead of schedule. It only took the actors one week to learn their lines and we were rehearsing after a week without the scripts. That has given me an opportunity to deal rapidly with character development and the creative processes started earlier."

But despite all that luck, Hamlin is still not happy. He spent last Friday making sure that each actor performed to perfection. In fact, as the actors went through their lines, he stood on the sidelines carefully watching their movements and expressions and listening to their dialogue.

"Now Adele," Hamlin said as one of the lead characters said her lines in one of the major scenes, "you have to say that word and let my audience know exactly everything you are feeling about this particular situation. The playwright didn't give you any other words. You have to do it with this one 'yes.'"

And if verbal instructions were not enough to pull out of the actor just what Hamlin wanted, Hamlin himself would swiftly move into the role of the character and show the actor how it must be done.

In addition to his duties as producer-director, Hamlin portrays one of the play's leading characters, Mr. Russell B. Parker. The other two lead roles are played by New York City professional actors Lawrence Evans, who plays Theopolis Parker, and Donna-Marie Peters, who portrays Adele Eloise Parker. Local actors taking part in the production are J.W. Smith, who plays Mr. William

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-- Larry Leon Hamlin



New York actors Donna-Marie Peters and Lawrence Evans run through rehearsals for this weekend's production of "Ceremonies In Dark Old Men," presented by the North Carolina Black Repertory Company (photo by James Parker).

Jenkins; Johnny Gardner, who plays Blue Haven; Emily Bailey, who plays a young girl; and Bobby Campbell, who portrays Bobby Parker.

"Ceremonies In Dark Old Men," written by Lonnie Elder III, was first performed by the Negro Ensemble Company at St. Marks Playhouse in New York City on Feb. 4, 1969. The award-winning production was also made into a television movie.

Hamlin said he intends to continue to do justice to the play with a professional local rendition. But why is Hamlin so concerned about something that was meant for entertainment?

"Entertainment is the key word," Hamlin said. "While entertainment is all fine and good, we (Black Repertory Company) believe that because of the condition of black people in this country and Winston-Salem, we have a responsibility not only to entertain, but to raise the level of consciousness and to improve the quality of life for black people."

"Black artists have a responsibility to do this," he said. "We cannot afford the luxury of doing plays just for the sake of doing plays. There is too much work to be done. If all the black artist did was entertain just to entertain, then the accomplishments made by all former black artists would be lost."

And since the Black Repertory Company started in 1979, they have been trying to accomplish that goal, Hamlin said. But what does this production have to say to the audience?

"We would like for black fathers to take a close look at the family and to do that sincerely," Hamlin said. "And if something is lacking, then start now doing all they can to guarantee their family's happiness instead of waiting until a tragedy strikes."

"We need to realize that the family, especially the black family, is the backbone of the community," he said. "And before the total community can come together as a family, we have to get individual families together."

Hamlin continued: "We have to do productions that are relevant to today. Our last production, 'Zooman and The Sign,' dealt with crime. Black theatre must be able to address the relevant and current problems. And we are not afraid to jump into the confusion and chaos in this community. Somebody has to do it."

"Ceremonies In Dark Old Men" will be presented Dec. 2-4 at the Arts Council Theatre at 8:15 p.m. A special matinee production will be shown at 3:15 p.m. Dec. 4. Tickets are \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door, and can be purchased at the Stevens Center box office.



"Give me all you got."-- Larry Leon Hamlin (photo by James Parker).

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1

*Yugoslavia will be the subject of the library's third travelogue to be presented at 7:30 p.m. in the main library auditorium, 660 W. Fifth St.

*The Winston-Salem Chapter of the National Women of Achievements, Inc. is sponsoring a meeting with Forsyth Memorial Hospital representatives to discuss concerns of the hospital reorganization plan at 6:30 p.m. at the Francis L. Atkins Building on the WSSU campus.

*YWCA Body Dynamics classes will be held at 9 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. throughout the month of December. The class offers excellent body conditioning, shaping and toning, without aerobics. For more information call 722-5138.

*St. Timothy's Episcopal Church of Parkway Drive will sponsor its annual Lupus Bazaar today from 1-8 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. An auction will be held from 5-7 p.m. Saturday at the church.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2

*"Christmas at the Folly" will be held at Korner's Folly on South Main Street in Kernersville today from 2-6 p.m. It will also be held Saturday and Sunday from 1-6 p.m. Tickets are on sale for \$2.50 at the Kernersville Chamber of Commerce, from any Korner's Folly member and at the door.

*The YWCA Basic Workout, a new exercise class, is for the woman who wants a complete vigorous workout. Classes begin today and Monday at the Y. For more information call 722-5138.

*The Winston-Salem Fiber Guild will sponsor its seventh annual Christmas Show and Sale today and tomorrow from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Unitarian Universal Fellowship, 2873 Robinhood Road.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

*The Gingham Dollhouse, a non-profit organization of 25 local women, will sponsor a holiday craft show and sale from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Parker House Building at 316 West End Blvd. Please see page A8

The Chronicle welcomes Community Calendar notices. Announcements should be concise and typed or neatly printed. They should include the day, time, place and sponsors of the event, plus a number to call for additional information. Announcements should be addressed to the Winston-Salem Chronicle Community Calendar, P.O. Box 3154, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27102. The deadline for announcements is Mondays at 5:30.

Social Notes

Employees Promoted

Six employees at Wachovia Bank & Trust Co. in Winston-Salem have been promoted.

Donna W. Johnson has been elected assistant vice president. Jean H. Thomasson has been elected systems officer.

Karen S. Walsler has been moved to accounting officer. W. Steven Becker has been elected assistant vice president in the Personal Trust Group. Judy M. Simpson and Bernice C. Toney have been elected trust officers.

Mrs. Johnson has worked in the International Banking Group since joining Wachovia in 1980. She is currently account officer for the Latin American group. A native of Sewickley, Pa., she earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Tulane Business School.

Mrs. Walsler, a native of Clemmons, joined the bank in 1972. She works as payroll-operations analyst in the Control Group.

Kennedy Appointed To Special Commission

Rep. Annie Brown Kennedy of Forsyth County has been appointed by House Speaker Liston B. Ramsey to a special commission to study the confidentiality of legislative communications.

The Legislative Research Commission study will consider "whether the scope of confidentiality should be

expanded to include requests made by legislators to all state employees, state officers and retained consultants and counsel to any state agency."

Mrs. Kennedy, a Winston-Salem attorney, represents a portion of Forsyth County in the 39th House District.

Page Receives Honor

Ernest Page, a graduate of Winston-Salem Bible College, was selected Alumni of the Year by fellow alumni and faculty of the college.

The award was presented at the annual Winston-Salem Bible College Banquet with the Rev. Willie Jones, pastor of the Carver Road Christian Church, as the guest speaker.

The selection of Page as the winner was based on his active role as a faithful member of the First Baptist Church on Highland Avenue and his active participation in the alumni association of Winston-Salem Bible College, where he serves as the chairman of the alumni association.



Bernice C. Toney

WSSU Drama Guild Puts On Williams' Play

The Winston-Salem State University Drama Guild presented Tennessee Williams' drama "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" Nov. 29 and 30 in the Kenneth R. Williams Auditorium on campus. Admission was free.

A play which won the rare double accolade of the Pulitzer Prize and the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award, "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" deals with extreme human emotions. Against the playwright's favorite background of the Mississippi Delta region, he tells about members of a family who have been lying to each other and are all brought up harshly to face the truth.

Other cast members were Charlie Askew, David Berry, Carol Brannon, Richard Carson, Sharon Edmond, Miriam Frazier, Craig Johnson, Janet Martin and Ricardo Suarez. Dr. Fred Eady, professor of speech and drama, directed the play.

American Legion Sponsors Symposium

The American Legion Post No. 220 and the Auxiliary sponsored a Sickle Cell Anemia Information Symposium on Sunday, Nov. 27, at 4 p.m. at the Post home. Mrs. Mary Thomas was the mistress of ceremonies.

Members from the Pediatric's Sickle Cell Anemia Program from

Bowman Gray School of Medicine gave information on sickle cell counseling, medical care and education.

Dr. Christine Johnson, program director; Mrs. Jo Ann Gambill, program coordinator and Henry Harper, fund-raising coordinator, participated in the program. A \$500 donation was presented to Johnson

by Post Commander W.L. Wright. Remarks were made by Mrs. Martha F. Gillis, auxiliary president.

A question and answer period followed the information symposium. The Ralph R. Morgan American Legion Post No. 220 and the Auxiliary also donated 50 Thanksgiving cheer baskets to needy

families. This is an annual community service project sponsored by the Post and Auxiliary.

Paul Ferguson was the project chairman and other officers are, Ms. Cassis Myers, auxiliary community service chairman; Wright, Post commander and Gillis, auxiliary president.

Burke Named To Affirmative Action Committee

Northeast Ward Alderman Vivian Burke has been named to an affirmative action committee by North Carolina Democratic Party Chairman David Price.

The committee will sponsor the information and outreach program to encourage full

participation in Democratic caucuses and conventions at the precinct, county, district, state and national levels.

"There is nothing more important to the Democratic Party than full and open participation in its

activities," Price said. "It is that participation that makes the party great and makes it as strong as it is. This committee represents one more step to assure that our party remains the party of the people."

All sections of the state

are represented on the committee, which is chaired by Dr. Donald Ensley of Greenville.

A total of 88 delegates and 29 alternates will be selected from North Carolina to attend the 1984 National Convention.

Club News

Shriners Lend Helping Hand At Thanksgiving

The Daughters of Isis and Nobles of the Arabic Order of the Mystic Shrine prepared 18 Thanksgiving

baskets and delivered them to needy families in the community. The help that Sethos

Court No. 105 Daughters of Isis, the women's auxiliary to Prince Hall Shriners, gave to the needy families

during Thanksgiving is only one of the many projects that the group sponsors. Please see page A7