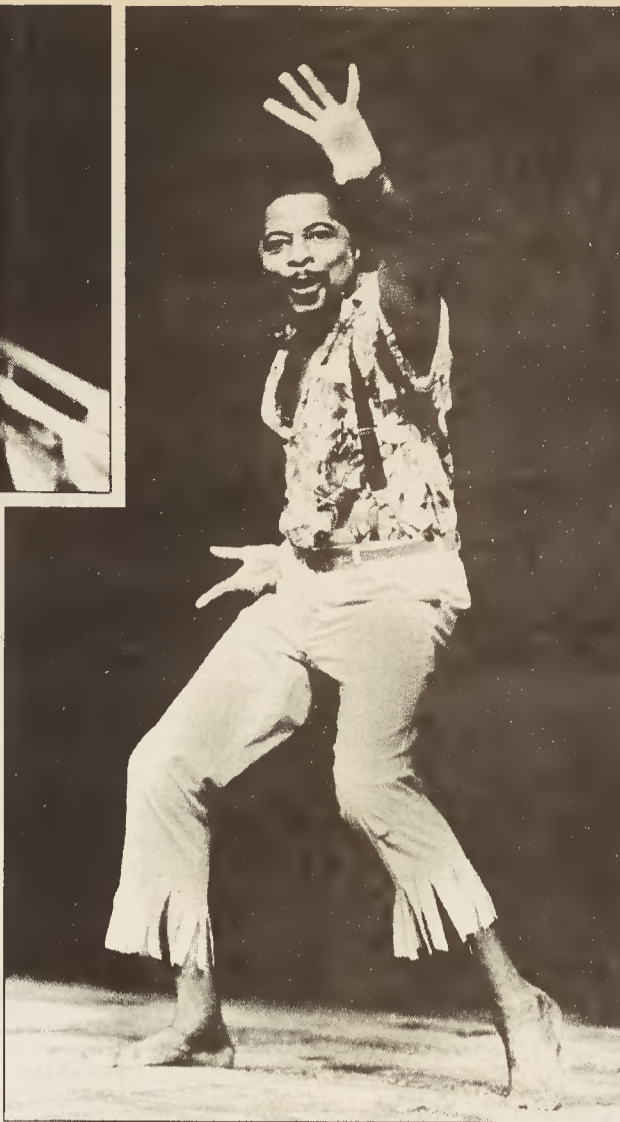


Photo-essay by James Parker.



Above, Sydney Hibbert acts out humorous and dramatic scenes from "The Lane" during his recent performance of "Anansi and Muntu" at the Salem College Fine Arts Center.

Sydney Hibbert gives life to his 'Anansi and Muntu'

Sydney Hibbert, a member of the School of Drama faculty of the North Carolina School of the Arts, recently presented a three-day performance run of his "Anansi and Muntu" at the Salem College Fine Arts Center.

Hibbert has also released a book of the same title, which is a collection of dramatic vignettes and poems selected from a series of one-man shows begun in 1976.

The performance is a mixture of humor and pathos and offers a critical view of the Caribbean soul.

In the book's foreword, Cliff Lashley writes, "Sydney Hibbert's stories and poems articulate and help resolve a particular dilemma. Jamaicans who grew up in the '40s and '50s, during the struggle against colonialism, found themselves pulled in opposite directions. The colonial standard English education ... encouraged self-denigration. Simultaneously, the nascent nationalism gave us an intense faith in the future possibilities of our people. Many

of us compounded this spiritual agony by voluntary exile since we were adventurous and our society didn't seem to have space for us on terms we could accept."

A Caribbean-American, Hibbert received a classical education at Excelsior College in Kingston, Jamaica, which led to civil service posts in Jamaica and Washington.

After traveling to London, Hibbert pursued his interest in theater and its literature. He graduated from the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

Hibbert completed graduate studies in speech communications and theater arts at Illinois State University.

In 1983 and again in 1986 he received the highest acting recognition on the West Coast, the Los Angeles Drama Logue Critics Award.

Hibbert has also chaired the drama departments at Livingston College and Rutgers University. Please see page A11

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