Freda Payne to appear in 'Blues in the Night'

The very beautiful and talented recording artist and actress, Freda Payne, will star in the North Carolina Black Repertory Company's production of the Broadway musical, "Blues in the Night" at the 1991 National Black Theatre Festival.

"Blues in the Night" will open on August 5th at 8:30 PM in the Steven's Center as part of the Opening Night Gala package which will feature Oscar-winner Denzel Washington. The opening-night package which includes Dinner with Mr. Washington at the M.C. Benton Convention Center is \$65.00.

Additional performance dates of "Blues in the Night", a red-hot evening of blues and jazz conceived by Sheldon Epps are August 9th and 10th at 8:00 PM. Tickets are \$20.00 in advance. Call (919) 723-7907 for reservations.

The definition of sophistication would come in the embodiment of Freda Payne - a woman whose talents redefine that word. Starting her career off early singing radio commercial jingles in her hometown Detroit, Michigan, Payne had already captured the attention of her peers including that of songwriter, record producer, Berry Gordy, Jr. Freda went on to share the stage with many greats: Pearl Bailey, who gave Freda her first professional job (at the age of 17), Duke Ellington, Lionel Hampton, Sammy Davis, Jr., Smothers Brothers, Bob Hope, Billy Eckstein, Quincy Jones, Bill Cosby, Don Rickles, Jerry Lewis and many others.

Freda was the young protege of Quincy Jones during his big band era. They toured together playing theatres such as the world-famous Apollo in New York City, and the Regal Theatre in Chicago, Ill. She then went on to record her first 1.p. for a jazz label called Impulse Records, a subsidiary of ABC Records.

Her first love being jazz music, Freda felt this was it - tobecome a great jazz singer like those she had admired, like Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughn, and Billie Holiday. But fame evaded her until she became reunited with her hometown friends, Brian Holland and Lamont Dozier. Eddie Holland, Brian, and Lamont, known to the world as Holland, Dozier, and Holland were setting out to establish their own record label. The company was named Invictus Records. It was with Invictus that Freda finally found success in two gold single recordings "Band of Gold" was an international hit. Then came "Bring the Boys Home". Other songs charted were "Deeper & Deeper", "Cherish What's Dear to You", and "You Brought the Joy". Albums recorded on the Capital label were "Stares & Whispers", "Super Natural High", and "Red Hot". On the ABC label, "Payne & Pleasure" and "out of Payne comes Love".

Ticket buyers must now use Ticketmaster

When you're buying tickets after Friday, June 14 to events at Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Winston-Salem, or tickets to events in major arenas across the state, you'll begin using Ticketmaster ticket centers.

In Winston-Salem, the Ticketmaster ticket centers are at the
coliseum box office and
Tracks/Record Bar in Hanes
Mall. Statewide, tickets are
available in over 30
Tracks/Record Bar stores.

If you are going to the Hank Williams Jr. concert at the Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum June 29, for instance, you will be able to purchase tickets until 5 or 6 p.m. Friday, June 14 through Ticketron, the old system. But you purchase of tickets starting Saturday morning June 15 must be through Ticketmaster.

To charge by phone anywhere in the state, call (919) 834-4000 or (704) 522-6500. For events at Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum only, you may charge by calling (919) 725-JOEL.

Freda has starred in a TV special called "Freda Payne and the Stylistics", The Legendary Ladies of Rock" for HBO and Cinemax, and "Soul No. 2 America's Music". For two years, she hosted her own TV talk show, a nationally syndicated and network affiliated series called "Today's Black Woman". The Rev. Jesse Jackson, Kareem Abdul Jabar, Don King, and Natalie Cole were guests on the show in a format that covered many topics.

on the Broadway stage. She understudied Leslie Uggams in the hit Tony Award-winning musical "Hallelujah Baby". Freda got to perform the lead role five times. And on the first night she went of for Leslie, she received a standing ovation. She played the role of Linda in Kurt Weil's musical production "Lost In The Stars" off Broadway. She has shared acting credits with Raymond St. Jacques and Philip Michael Thomas in an

Avco Embassy film, "The Book of Numbers". Freda played in a segment from the Police Story series — starring Lou Gossett, Howard Duff and James McKittchen. She had a starring role in the musical "Daddy Goodness", "Ain't Misbehavin", and has starred in "Duke Ellington's Sophisticated Ladies".

Freda lives in the city of Beverly Hills, California with her son Gregory Abbott Jr., and keeps fit by doing Hatha Yoga. "I own a lifecycle that I hardly ever use, but

Yoga really does her trick." She confesses "I love going to the movies, cooking, playing a little tennis, and fishing is a favorite sport of mine" she says. "There was a time I thought I might become a professional dancer, but singing won out." "You see, at the age of eleven, I studied ballet for 2-1/2 years, then I took modern jazz for eight years. Right now, I am in an acting class studying with Al Mancini at the Beverly Hills Playhouse.



Freda Payne

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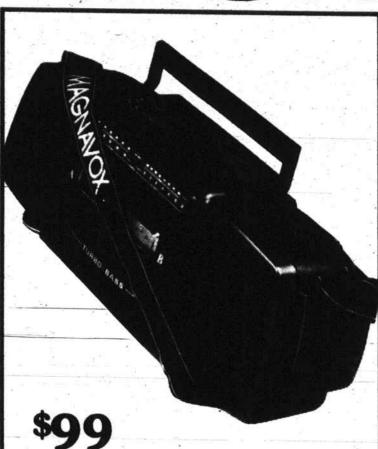
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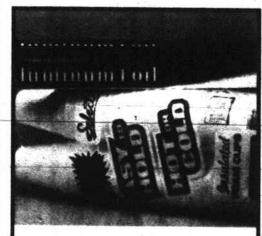


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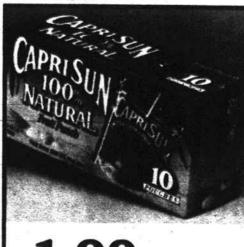
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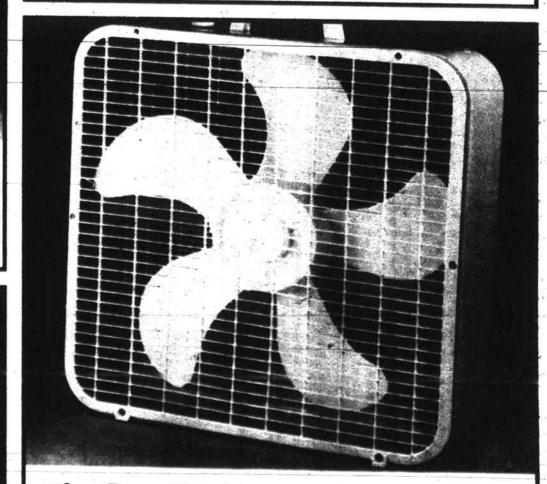
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