

Young Black Writers' Program gears up

According to Websters, language is "a systematic means of communicating ideas or feelings by the use of conventionalized

duced to role models/mentors that have used literature to touch all our lives. The Programming Department of The Arts Council

1400 members. Its stated purpose is to provide programs and services to a wide range of writers, writers' groups, bookstores, libraries, arts councils, etc.

In Winston-Salem, 25 high school-aged black students will be recruited to participate in a series of ten, two hour creative writing workshops led by two professional workshop leaders. The workshops will be held every other Saturday morning from 10-12 starting in January and ending in early June. The workshops will be held in the Art-Is House at St. Benedict's Catholic Church at 1625 East 12th Street in Winston-Salem.

Through this program, young adults are given the opportunity to write poems, plays, short stories, and even scripts. In this way, they explore the great variety of forms available for expression. In addition, the students learn the skills and tools of writing, and have the unique chance to learn more about the rich heritage found in the works of African-American writers.

The program encourages young people to explore their own creativity; provides opportunity for them to participate in this long overlooked artform; encourages their exploration of the arts as a career choice and provides positive outlets for young people to express emotion.

Writing students face appalling odds in attempting to become established authors.

Major publishing houses publish far fewer works by African-American writers than by other segments of the population, and literary journals and small presses print only a small percentage of work by black writers. This project may encourage some participants to pursue a writing career and make a difference to the status quo.

More importantly, it will help all participants to build the skills they need to become successful communicators. In a professional light, it brings the youth in close contact with professional authors who serve as positive role models.

If you are interested in more information concerning this program, contact the Programming Department of The Arts Council at 722-2585. Pre-registration is required.

ARTSREACH



By REGGIE JOHNSON

signs, sounds, gestures, or marks having understood meanings."

As a community, it is through our art, especially the literary arts, that we find the means to communicate the ideas and experiences of our collective experience. Language in the written form, provides us with the tools and foundation to create a lasting structure — housing the history and heritage of African-Americans as well as the ideas of the future. Go to any library and find the works of Langston Hughes, Maya Angelou, August Wilson, Alice Walker, James Baldwin, and Sonia Sanchez and you find a living history of our lives and the lives of our parents and grandparents.

As a community, it is our responsibility to make sure our children are exposed to African-American literature. Equally important, our children should have the skills and ability to express themselves and be intro-

of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County recognizes a need for a supplementary enrichment program to the public school's curriculum that nurtures writing students of today in order to develop excellence in adult writers of tomorrow. To meet this need, The Arts Council offers the Young Black Writers' Program.

Young Black Writers is a series of seminars for high school-aged adults which focuses on teaching a new generation about literature. It also provides specialized instruction so that these young people can learn the craft of writing.

The project is co-sponsored by the North Carolina Writers' Network and is an important part of this organization's effort to promote literacy and build an audience for literature throughout North Carolina.

The North Carolina Writers' Network is a statewide literary service organization with over

Cast selected for Holiday musical

When the North Carolina Black Repertory company presents its second annual religious Holiday musical, *Celebrations: An African Odyssey*, which opens December 6 at the Arts Council Theatre in Winston-Salem, it will feature an ebullient singing, dancing, and drumming ensemble.

The cast selected includes the Reverend John Heath, as King Atomi, Wendy Smith as Princess Jaharri, LaTanya Black as Queen Shaale, and Kenny Malette as the Elder of the Tribe.

As this touching story of a young and beautiful princess who is stolen from her native West Africa unfolds, veteran NCBCR performers, Carlotta Samuels-Fleming, J.W. Smith, Sharon Frazier, Sherone Price, Randy Johnson, and Robin Littlejohn-Franklin join several NCSA students and local performers in this joyous celebration of "life, birth, and rebirth." Other cast members are Brian Coats, Dwana Smallwood, Natasha Williams, Tim Reid, Calvin Lee, Tiffany Williams, Tanya Price, Charis Johnson, Aaron

Salih, Britney and Erin Hines, and Weusi Chapman. Musicians are Hashim Salih, George Glenn, Charles Green, and Michael Williams.

Celebrations: An African Odyssey, directed by Mabel Robinson and produced by Larry Leon Hamlin, will be presented December 7, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, and 21 at 8 p.m., and December 8, 15, and 22 at 3 p.m. only...at the Arts Council Theatre, 610 Coliseum Drive in Winston-Salem. Call 919/723-7907 for reservations and group rates.



D'Walla Simmons
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An exhilarating story of a young and beautiful African princess who is stolen and enslaved in America while trying to solve the mystery of "The Lost Baby King", combines African spiritual and Gospel music with traditional African dance and movement.

Directed and Choreographed by
Mabel Robinson

Book & Lyrics by
Ricardo Pitts-Wiley

Music by

Ricardo Pitts-Wiley, Kent Brisby & Lawrence Czoka

Traditional Movement by

Sherone Price

December 6-7-12-13-14-19-20-21 8pm

8-15-22 3pm

Arts Council Theatre 610 Coliseum Drive, Winston-Salem

\$15 Adults \$10 Students/Senior Citizens Call 723-7907 for reservations & group rates

SO BRING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS (ESPECIALLY THE CHILDREN) AND BE A PART OF THIS HISTORIC AND ANNUAL HOLIDAY TRADITION!!!

Produced by Larry Leon Hamlin



WINSTON-SALEM • FORSYTH COUNTY

The NCBCR is supported by the United Arts Fund Drive of the Arts Council, Inc. The Theatre Arts Section of the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Department of Cultural Resources, provides grant assistance to this theater-organization from funds appropriated by the North Carolina General Assembly and the National Endowment for the Arts in Washington, DC, a federal agency. Additional support received from Experience Arts of the National Endowment for the Arts in Washington, DC, a federal agency, and the Lenoir Foundation.

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