Winston-Salem Chronicle Thursday, December 12, 1991 Page A8



The Lake Park homes were open to the public at the grand opening held Sunday, Dec. 8.

Lake Park unveiled at grand opening

By YVETTE N. FREEMAN **Community News Editor**

City and community leaders are hoping that a new development of homes in the Winston Lake Estates community will be the cata-Winston.

The development, called Lake

Winston so that we can make East and West no different," said Newell, "We want this to be the beginning of some of the greatest homes and the greatest developments anywhere in this city."

If successful, Lake Park will lyst for future development in East not only bring in more families to the East Winston community, but also more dollars. That, in turn,

take part in a special buydown program sponsored by the city.

Community leaders had hoped more of the homes would be completed before now, but because of bad weather, construction was delayed.

All 42 homes are expected to be completed within three years or sooner.

Stevens Center Something for Everyone For ticket information Call 721-1946

DON'T MISS!!!! CELEBRATIONS: AN AFRICAN ODYS

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

READ THIS!!!

With book & lyrics by Ricardo Pitt-

Wiley, music by Pitt-Wiley, Kent Brisby

& Lawrence Czoka, "Celebrations" is the

story of a young and beautiful African

princess stolen and enslaved in America

while trying to solve the mystery of the

"Lost Baby King." The production

features African spiritual and Gospel

music combined with the traditional

Winston-Salem, N.C.

[The following is a review from the 1990 production of "Celebrations: An African Odyssey"]

Friday evening's performance of "Celebrations: An African Odyssey" was in many ways like Frederick Douglas' 1845 Narrative in which the author chronicled his dramatic triumph over that "peculiar institution" known as slavery.



power if the individual - a nation to transcend even the direst of circumstances, so does "An African Odyssey," which fuses music, dance, singing, playing, acting, and storytelling into a powerful drama, compelling its audience to "celebrate" the triumph of the human spirit!

Not to get too far ahead because there is plenty to see, hear, and talk about in this production, however, there is one scene that I will never, ever forget as long as I live - but more about that later.

This sparkling production presented by the North Carolina Black Repertory Theatre Co., directed and choreographed by Ms. Mabel Robinson, produced by Larry Leon Hamlin, further confirms that fact that there is a reservoir of extraordinary talent in the City of

Under the very gifted eyes, ears, hands, heart and soul of none other than Ms. Mabel Robinson (a veritable "Who's Who" on Broadway in the world of

musical-dance theater), the entire cast, including the technical crew which created a brilliant set & lighting design, effectively transported its audience back to the early 1990s to experience life first, as it might have been in the small West African M'Cuta Village, then later as slaves on an American plantation.

The contrast between he two is very important.

As an audience, we were introduced, then immersed, surrounded and engulfed in the African "Ceremonial Ring" where we each became a part of the energy of the "new time celebration."

While bathing myself in the emotions

of my ancestors, portrayed by "Big John" Heath, Carlotta Samuels-Flemmings, Kenny Mallette, Sharon Frazier, LaTonya Black, Sherone Price & Company, I also heard their fortuitous words of wisdom . . declaring to all who would listed, "appearance is buy a small part of leadership; no gift should be given with the expectation of receiving a gift; and all things lost can be found."

Oh, if only we would listen more often more often to the words of our ancestors!

Now, about that scene! It occurs atthe conclusion of Act I when the young princess is kidnaped by the "people stealers," sold into slavery, and transported on a ship thousands of miles away . . . as that old hymn goes, ". . . long as I live and trouble rises" . . . it was the visual image of the young princess (my daughter, your daughter, sister, niece, cousin, friend, anybody), trapped like an animal, yet fighting, struggling with all of the intellect of one's might, captured, only as Mabel Robinson could, through dance, song, sets, and lighting. (Even as I write to you of my experience, recalling this scene fills me with emotion.)

After having searched for the past eleven years, the North Carolina Black Repertory Theatre believes that "Celebrations" is the right holiday musical to reflect the culture and history of the the African-American family and community.

Go see it for yourself. I will tell you this, after he stopped crying, my ten-yearold son felt that everybody - black, white, or otherwise - should see "Celebrations." And a little child shall lead them!

The North Carolina School of the Arts Broadway Preview Series brings you







Alderman Vivian Burke (left) and Wachovia Vice President Ward Miller look on as Alderman Virginia Newell cuts the ribbon to one of the new homes in the Lake Park development.

Park, was unveiled Sunday by would help the community to devel-Wachovia Vice President Ward Miller, Winston-Salem Mayor Martha Wood, and aldermen Virginia Newell and Vivian Burke.

"It is indeed our sincere hope that this premiere community will be the catalyst for other projects of this kind," Miller told a crowd of about 100 gatherers at the grand opening of the development. "Our goal is to retain and to attract those in the community who will help to enhance community life and Winston East, spiritually, economically, politically, and socially."

Lake Park, which currently consists of three homes at 90% completion, has been under construction for well over a year now. It is hoped that the success of the development will provide a jumpstart to other construction projects in East Winston, so that the area can continue to develop economically and socially.

op more economic clout, thus possibly resulting in the construction of more homes and businesses in East Winston.

One particular project in East Winston which community leaders hope will be positively affected by Lake Park, is the New Walkertown Shopping Center. Originally intended to be the catalyst for future development in East Winston, it has been at a standstill for over a year now because of lawsuits, countersuits and a twice postponed foreclosure sale on an ABC store, which is the only store in the shopping center.

Community leaders are now relying on the success of Lake Park to revitalize development in East Winston.

Once completed, there will be a total of 42 homes in the Lake Park Development, all priced in the \$150,000+ range. However, the "Things are happening in East first 12 homeowners will be able to

DNUADWA **IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD** DIVIDING THE ESTATE by HORTON FOOTE

4 time Academy Award winner Horton Foote wrote the screenplays for TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD, TENDER MERCIES and THE TRIP TO BOUNTIFUL as well as many other well known films and plays.

VARIETY calls DIVIDING THE ESTATE "a fascinating and remarkably simple study of the changing South ... with a powerful narrative that has sufficient depth, poignancy, and originality to move audiences ... the end result is a delightful play with the potential stature of an American classic."

DECEMBER 27 - JANUARY 8 STEVENS CENTER, WINSTON-SALEM FEATURING STARS OF STAGE, SCREEN & TELEVISION



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African-American Cultural Celebration comes to PBS

than 15 million African-Americans celebrate Kwanzaa, a unique and colorful holiday rooted in the rich traditions and symbolism of Africa.

In Kwanzaa: A Cultural Celebration, airing Christmas Day at 9 p.m. on North Carolina Public Television, host Ademola Ekulona examines this special holiday with a thought-provoking and entertaining look at how Kwanzaa is observed in the African-American community. focusing on the flavor, the intensity, and the values of the week-long observance. The half-hour program provides an historical perspective on the holiday, which was created by Dr. Ron Karenga to unify black communities in America. Participants explain how the celebration of Kwanzaa is meant to engender a

From Dec. 25 to Jan. 1, more sense of tradition for future generations of African-Americans.

> Each day of Kwanzaa honors one of the seven principles of the "Nguzo Saba," a value system at the heart of this festive ritual. Ekulona visits several community institutions in Baltimore, Md., where the principles, which include Umoja (unity), Ujima (collective work), and Kuumba (creativity), are exemplified. In serving as a colorful counselor to its intergenerational participants, Kwanzaa weaves together the young and old through poetry, dancing, storytelling, feasting, and ceremony. North Carolina Public Television is the program service of The University of North Carolina Center for Public Broadcasting, which operates 10 stations throughout the state.