

Come and experience the joy of pure expression

In the dictionary we learn that dance is "a series of rhythmic and patterned body movements usually performed to music." But anyone

Africa, Singapore and Iceland. Like many others in the dance world, Cleo's mission is to teach and inspire others. She has never

Eddy Talton-Jackson, from Las Vegas, Nevada, began his dance training at the University of Las Vegas and the Black Stage Dance Studio. Morgan Williams has been a member of the Ensemble for three years. Ms. Williams is a native of California and her first taste of dance was at Mira Costa High School in Los Angeles.

Michael Woolfolk, born in Washington, D.C., has been a member of the Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble for three years. Mr. Woolfolk is a graduate of the Duke Ellington School for Perform-

In addition, the Ensemble will hold auditions for local dancers interested in performing in one of the pieces to be presented in the company's evening performance. The open audition will be held Thursday, Feb. 27 from 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. in the Kenneth R. Williams Auditorium on the WSSU campus.

A special component of the performance on Feb. 29 will be the featured appearance of The Spirit of Life Community Choir. Composed of children from throughout Winston-Salem, the choir will perform in the evening's final piece "Spiritu-

ARTS REACH



By REGGIE JOHNSON

who has ever danced knows it is so much more. Dance is a language that transcends all cultural, class and age boundaries. Cleo Parker Robinson tells us, "Dance prepares us to take risks. Also it gives us a ritual. It says, we're going through this together." On February 29, Winston-Salem and Forsyth County will have the opportunity to "come together" and experience the joy of pure expression when the Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble performs at the Kenneth R. Williams Auditorium on the campus of Winston-Salem State University.

The Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble celebrates diversity. The 12-member company based in Denver is from all over and their repertoire is drawn from many of the cultures that breathe within our country. The Ensemble encourages community involvement in their programming. Ms. Robinson, the founder and artistic director, has never wavered from the belief that the arts are the common denominator of all people, and so must be made accessible to all.

Cleo Parker Robinson began teaching college level dance at the University of Colorado. She taught dance through high school and went on to Colorado Women's College to study under Rita Berger, a former dancer with George Ballanchine. Ms. Robinson started her own dance school in her junior year at Colorado Women's College, and spent her summers studying under Merce Cunningham and Murray Louis, at Dance Theatre of Harlem with Arthur Mitchell.

Ms. Robinson's talents as a teacher and choreographer have led her and her Ensemble around the globe. She has taught workshops and classes at Northwestern University, Morehouse and Spelman Colleges, University of Arizona, San Diego State and University of Denver, among many others. She has also taught in Hawaii, Belize,

wavered from her belief that the arts are the common denominator for all people and so must be accessible to all. Ms. Robinson's passion and commitment have made her a pioneer and a focal point and pivotal figure in the nation's cultural milieu.

The Ensemble itself is a diverse group of individuals with varied backgrounds and experiences. Marceline Freeman, a native of Decatur, Illinois, is the rehearsal director and principal dancer for the Ensemble. As the lead performer with the company, she has danced in Jeffrey Osborne's *Borderline* video, has been featured in stories and ads in *Ebony*, *Jet*, *Ms.*, and *Essence* and has toured nationally and internationally. Lisa Johnson has been a member of the Ensemble for four years. Ms. Johnson, from Washington, D.C. is a graduate of the Duke Ellington School of the Arts, who studied at Jones-Hollywood School of Ballet and received a B.F.A. in modern dance from the University of Arts in Philadelphia. Aldawna Morrison, born in Kingston Jamaica, began dance training at age ten at the Bernice Johnson Cultural Dance Studio. Mr. Morrison attended the New York High School of the Performing Arts, while training at the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre and Feld Ballet Studios. Susan Richardson, from Dallas, Texas, has been training and performing in New York City for four years. This is Ms. Richardson's second year with the company.



The Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble

ing Arts. Gary Abbott is a seven year member of the Ensemble. A native of Atlanta, Georgia, he has danced with several companies in Atlanta, Tennessee and California. Torya Beard is a native of Detroit, Michigan where she trained with Andrea Hanes Johnson. This is Ms. Beard's second season with the Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble. Randy Brooks is from, Florida, Alabama and Georgianna Davis is a native of Jamaica. Ali Dixione was born in New York City and began his dance training at the age of thirteen at the Alvin Ailey American Dance Center.

Special classes will be open to the public and free of charge at the Kenneth R. Williams Auditorium on February 27 - 28.

Zora not to be missed

In a tribute to honor African-American Womanhood, the North Carolina Black Repertory Company, in association with the National Black Touring Circuit and the National Black Theatre Festival proudly presents *Zora*, the vivid and provocative life and times of the "Queen of the Harlem Renaissance," Zora Neale Hurston.

A special Opening Night Gala Pre-Show reception will be held on Feb. 27, at 7 p.m. *Zora* will be performed at the Arts Council Theatre, 610 Coliseum Dr., in Winston-Salem, Feb. 27, 28, 29 and March 5, 6 and 7 at 8 p.m., with a special 3 p.m. matinee on Sunday, March 1 and 8.

Zora, the hit play of the 1991 National Black Theatre Festival, takes you on a journey traveling the peaks and chasms of the life of Zora Neale Hurston, a provocative novelist, noted anthropologist, outspoken champion against racial injustice, stalwart feminist. *Zora* mesmerizes you with the spinning of folk tales, and bone bearing social commentary.

Zora shares her heart warming and heart wrenching moments recalling family and youth and the men in her life. *Zora* promises to explore the range of your emotions with the wit-wisdom shared by a colored female struggling and determined to have her African-American womanhood and human rights dignified. *Zora* is a historical odyssey that whips you through the Roaring Twenties, one of the most prolific decades of this century and landmark eras of African-American History.

Zora stars the brilliant, dynamic and vibrant Elizabeth Van Dyke, whose tour de force portrayal of Zora Neale Hurston still reverber-

ates bravos from the worldwide audience who had the privilege of attending this powerful epic during the week of 1991 National Black Theatre Festival. Van Dyke won the coveted AUDELCO Best Actress award in 1991 for her portrayal of *Zora*. *Zora* also was awarded AUDELCO'S Best Production Award in 1991. Van Dyke's one-woman-show, *Lorraine*, has toured this country. "Lorraine" was shown on Group W Cable for which it received the prestigious Ace Award and Gold Award at the Houston Film Festival. Van Dyke appeared in the Broadway production of *Checkmates*. Her Off-Broadway credits include: *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Anna Lucasta*, and *Daddy*. Van Dyke made her debut on episodic television this past season on *L.A. Law*. She also appeared on *All My Children*, and *Ryan's Hope*.

This epic play was written by the renowned playwright, Lawrence Holder. Holder began working on *Zora* only 13 years after Zora Neale Hurston died. Holder is the author of 75 plays. He is most noted for *Zora* and *When Chickens Come Home to Roost*. Through his work, Holder has worked with such celebrities as Harry Belafonte, Denzel Washington, Phylicia Rashad, Ornette Coleman, Yvonne Taylor, Ellen Stewart, and Jacquie Berger.

Appearing as the many faces of the men in *Zora's* life is the versatile, captivating Joseph Edwards. Make plans today to see *Zora*, the portrait of an African-American woman who was the very embodiment of womanhood.

Admission is \$15 for adults, \$10 for senior citizens and students. Special group rates and fund raising opportunities are available. MasterCard and Visa are accepted. For



Elizabeth Van Dyke

information and reservations call (919) 723-7907.

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The Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble
with special guest
The Spirit of Life Community Choir

February 29, 8:00 p.m.
Kenneth R. Williams Auditorium
Winston-Salem State University

Tickets \$6 in advance/\$7 at the door
Available at The Arts Council, WSSU Alumni office & Urban League
Call 722-2585 for more information.

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The Arts Council
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Winston-Salem and Forsyth County
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