

Children's Theatre Comes to Schools

The Children's Theatre Board is a local arts agency that is also working hard to expand cultural literacy and in so doing, bring the diverse cultures found in our community together through art. The 1992-93 season of the Children's theatre is highlighted by a newly focused effort on increasing the involvement and awareness of diverse cultures and races. This effort involves all aspects of the agency including how it sees itself as an organization, the performers they present and the audiences they reach.

In the Public School series, In-Theatre series and Family Series, the Children's theatre will present: Joyce Grear, storyteller; the United State productions of "Straighten Up & Fly Right" and "Lipstick, Fish-traps & Moanin' Biscuits" (in which African American folktales are brought to life); the African American Dance Ensemble, who will be

leading introductory workshops on dance, music and culture of Africa; and the Carpetbag Theatre, which is presenting international black folktales. Each of these groups offer entertaining as well as educational performances that explore African American culture and traditions.

Through their Public School

same is true as part of the In-Theatre program, which brings the children to The Arts Council Theatre as part of their school day.

Even as they work to make this diverse programming available to as wide an audience as possible, the Children's Board Theatre is facing financial obstacles going into the

will have to establish a fundraising campaign.

The state of North Carolina has legislated that the arts be integrated into the school curriculum through a document known as the Basic Education Plan. The Children's Theatre operates to fill the gap between what our legislators have approved but have yet to appropriate funds to implement the arts curriculum component of this plan.

There is research which reveals scholastic benefits to children who have participated in the arts. The critical and creative thinking skills that are fostered and developed in the arts environment have been shown to correlate to higher SAT scores.

For more information about any of The Arts Council programs mentioned above, call 722-5293

ARTSREACH

By REGGIE JOHNSON

Series, the Children's Theatre takes performers, workshops, and lecture/demonstrations into the schools, thereby reaching all the cultures and ethnic groups on our community by presenting to their children as part of their school curriculum. The

1992-93 season. Having reached some 25,000 students last year through the Public School Series, they are now faced with finding new sources of funding to make up this shortfall. This marks the first time in 35 years that the Children's Theatre



Brown-Houston Honored in L.A.

Bobby Brown and Whitney Houston Day

MCA Recording artist Bobby Brown and Arista Recording artist Whitney Houston, received a wedding present they will never forget, when Bailey Broadcasting Services and Blackmon-Bailey Advertising & Promotions, and Los Angeles' Honorable Mayor Tom Bradley got together and came up with a truly unique wedding gift.

July 18, 1992, the day the couple wed, was proclaimed "Bobby Brown and Whitney Houston Day" by the city of Los Angeles. The proclamation wishes happiness and prosperity to the music industries first couple.

They were presented with the proclamation recently at the MCA party held to promote Bobby Brown's new album titled "Bobby."



Lee Bailey, Whitney Houston, Bobby Brown, Diane Blackmon-Bailey

East Coast Family is a Pool of Promise

Brand-new-funk junkies are coasting high. The latest name sending out a buzz in the streets, over the airways, on the charts is Biv 10 — a label, not a band — run by youngest-in-charge pop mobster Michael "Biv" Bivins, who is also a member of platinum performers Bell Biv DeVoe and New Edition.

New York-based and Motown-distributed, Biv 10 was formed this July, with a blueprint for success through eclecticism and adventure. "We're gonna be putting out good records and great artists," says Bivins. "We'll come off because we won't compromise our instincts."

So far, Bivins' instincts haven't been wrong. Drop your jaw in awe of what he's discovered, imaged, and guided towards gold and platinum paradise in Planet Pop: Boyz II Men, Another Bad Creation, M.C. Brains. These artists are managed by Bivins, through Biv Entertainment, and signed to Motown Records.

"Michael has just been so on," says Motown president and CEO Jheri Busby. "He has an uncanny ability to recognize talent and market them."

Busby views Bivins, 24, as "a young executive who can hit the long ball," and calls Motown's involvement with Biv 10 "an arrangement centered in belief and trust — not a high-risk venture."

The opening salvo of Biv 10 releases is "East Coast Family Vol. 1," a compilation of remixes (by Boyz II Men and Another Bad Creation) and new jams, including "Listen Closely (Bozack)," by Tam Rock, and "All These Wanna Be's (Tease)," by Another Bad Creation.

The centerpiece of the album is the first single and video "1-4-ALL-4-1," which brings together Biv's latest young discoveries: Tam Rock, Whytize, Cale Brock, Tom Boyz, 1010, Yvette Brown, Hayden Hajdu, Fruit Punch, Lady V, Mark, Rico and Finesse and Anthony Velasquez.

It's from this pool of promise that Biv 10 will draw its ammunition for aural assault. With a youthful confidence learned from role models like Andre Harrell, Russell Simmons, and Busby. Bivins says, "We're gonna deliver. The public won't be disappointed with what we'll be coming with."

So Biv 10 has only just begun. And as the record spins, Michael "Biv" Bivins will keep growing by following his dream of building careers. "Years from now," Busby says, "people will be talking about this entertainment exec who groomed himself at Motown. I'll feel proud to be a part of that."



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