

Entertainment

Vanessa Bell Armstrong Returns With Gospel/Soul

One of gospel's most respected and accomplished female vocalists, Vanessa Bell Armstrong, has released her new album entitled, *Something On The Inside*. The album's title track, is an exciting duet with the Rev. John P. Kee.

The single, like the album, captures Vanessa's truest ability to deliver a gospel LP with the exciting combination of styles while still remaining traditional and true to her gospel purist followers.

The collaborative effort between Vanessa and involved producers takes music to another realm, carrying the listener through her tender vocalizing, declarations of her faith and soul-stirring emotions. Carvin Winans, 18-year-old producer, Vincent Herbert and the late Thomas Whitfield are among the list of spectacular producers who contributed their stories and styles to the LP. While the current trend is for artists to compose their own music, Vanessa explains why she chose not to do so this time around. "It's easy to portray what you write, but it's more a challenge when you feel what another writer is trying to get across."

Many may recognize Vanessa's commanding and powerful voice from the theme song for the NBC sitcom "Amen" or from her smash in the Broadway gospel musical "Don't Get God Started." Among other accomplishments Vanessa has received a Grammy and Dove Award nominations and won Soul Train and Stellar Music Awards. Her past collaborations include musical objects with the Winans and Jonathan Butler.

In addition to her forthcoming release of *Something On The Inside*, Vanessa is touring with the play "Only The Strong Survives" in which she plays a leading character. "Only The Strong Survives" is a theater piece about God, family, gangs, friends, enemies and the devil with great gospel music. Along with Vanessa, gospel group, "Commissioned" grace the stage with their vocals and also render acting performances.



Vanessa Bell Armstrong



Not Just "Typical Reasons"

The worlds of rap and dance met center stage at the "I love DC" concert to benefit the Statehood Fund at Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C. Columbia recording artist Prince Markie Dee (r-c) and co-producer Cory Rooney (l-c) of Prince Markie Dee and the Soul Convention are pictured here "trippin' out" with the MTV Dancers after the Prince of the evening rocked the house with his single "Typical Reason"

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Ashe Film & Lecture Series

DIGGS GALLERY at WINSTON-SALEM STATE UNIVERSITY presents



TWO FILMS

Nellies Playhouse: *The Art of Artist Nellie Mae Rowe*

Boneshop of the Heart: Folk offerings from the American South featuring artists from the exhibit in Diggs Gallery, Ashe: *Improvisation & Recycling In African-American Visionary Art.* Part 2 of Series

Where: Diggs Gallery at WSSU

When: Thursday, March 11th 7:00 p.m.

Free and open to the public in conjunction with the exhibit

Call Diggs Gallery for more information 750-2458

Arts Council Presents The Third Annual Triad All Star Jazz Jam

The third annual Triad All Star Jazz Jam brings together the finest jazz musicians in the area for one night on Sat., April 10, at 8 p.m. in the Stevens Center, 405 West Fourth Street, Winston-Salem.

The "Jazz Jam" showcases the great diversity of styles and musical traditions found in jazz. The evening's activities also offer a "who's who" of regional jazz performers including Keith Byrd, Galvin Crisp, Charlie Culbreath, Gregg Hyslop, James Houlik, Melva Houston, Matt Kendrick, Steve Kirkman, Federico Pivetta, Janice Price, Herbert Stephens, and James Ervin Stowe.

Unique in the concept of bringing such talent together on one stage, the event promises to provide the

best jazz this city has to offer. The featured musicians perform throughout the United States as well as in their own "home town." As a group, they fuse together the swing of the blues with the electricity of fusion and the explosive rhythms of bebop for one unforgettable night.

Concert tickets are on sale at The Arts Council offices at 305 West Fourth Street. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$8 for students and senior adults. On the day of the performance, all tickets will be \$12. Special group rates are also available.

The international performing arts series is supported through contributions to the United Arts Fund Drive and by a grant from the North Carolina Arts Council.

Arts Council Holds United Art Fund Drive

The Arts Council of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County is currently conducting its annual United Arts Fund Drive. Why, you may ask, is the United Arts Fund Drive so important to this community? In short — gifts from this drive will be used to support the cultural, educational and historical programs we've all come to enjoy and expect. However, the most important reason to support the Arts Council is more basic — do it for the children.

As the song goes, "We believe that children are our future... Teach them well and let them lead the way." Here at the Arts Council, we believe that our children and the youth must be taught an understanding and awareness of the arts. That is why we have initiated the Arts In Education program in partnership with the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County public schools, The Young Black Writers Program, and Cartwheels: Children's Art On Wheels. These programs as well as many others are the opportunities that can change lives. The arts experience not only helps build self-confidence in our young people, but also makes the educational process much more exciting and interesting and provides skills that will be useful in life. An educated, literate society of the next century must be culturally prepared to interact in any situation. The arts are a very important part of that preparation.

And it is through the arts and these arts experiences that we as a

civilization impart our values to the next generation and make a strong statement about our beliefs to our children.

The third annual Triad All Star Jazz brings the finest jazz musicians in the area for one night on Saturday, April 10 at 8 p.m. in the Stevens Center, 405 West Fourth Street, Winston-Salem. Tickets are

ARTS REACH

By REGGIE JOHNSON



\$12 in advance and \$10 for students and senior adults. On the day of the performance all tickets will be \$15. This performance is supported by a grant from the Arts Council of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County's annual United Arts Fund Drive.

The Arts Council's community Outreach Department is also gearing up for its summer programs including Cartwheels (Children's Art On Wheels) and Evenings in the Neighborhoods. Any community that is interested in co-sponsoring one of these events should contact the Community Outreach Department of The Arts Council at 722-2585.

Taking place during July and August, Cartwheels is a unique pro-

gram that brings visual arts to the neighborhoods of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County. The program enables children 12 and under to learn about the visual arts through hands-on experience and introduces the children to a variety of artistic disciplines.

Also taking place during July and August, Evenings In The

Neighborhoods brings jazz, bluegrass, country, gospel, R & B and beach music to area residents throughout the summer. These concerts provide an opportunity for families to attend "performing arts happenings" in their own neighborhoods and serves as an avenue for local performers to showcase their talent.

And don't forget the final concert of the "CultureShock Series" this Saturday at 8 p.m. in the Brendle Recital Hall on the campus of Wake Forest University.

This concert features the African-American Dance Ensemble and Ensemble Europa.

For ticket information please call 722-2585.

The Arts Council of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County congratulates

Reggie Johnson

Curator of African-American Art and Culture

Maya Angelou

Woman of the Year

Ben Piggott

Man of the Year

and other award winners

who will be honored at the

10th Annual Awards Banquet of the

Winston-Salem Chronicle

on March 6, 1993

We appreciate your outstanding support of arts and culture in this community.

