

# Community

## Celebrities Share Special Moments with Area Children

### ▲ Acting is teaching, says "Homefront" Star

By MARK R. MOSS  
Chronicle Staff Writer

At the kick-off event for the 1993 National Black Theatre Festival on last week, several people participated in the program, but none got the attention of the audience like the actress Hattie Winston.

Winston, a star of ABC-TV's "Homefront," spoke about theater, of course, but it was her passion for the subject that had the gathering listening in quiet rapture. Raising her voice to almost a shout, she told how much the theater has meant to her. She called theater a "healing force" and said "that it is in my heart."

"There's nothing like this in the world," she said, referring to the festival, which will be held Aug. 2-7 at a variety of sites around the city.

"I feel like I'm coming home . . . Thank you for including me!"

That enthusiasm for the theater, for life in general, was also obvious during an interview the *Chronicle* held with Winston at the Best Choice Center Inc. There, she and Dick Anthony Williams, Winston's co-star on "Homefront," wound up their day in the city talking to the children enrolled in the center's day-care program.

Winston, who was born in Lexington, Miss., moved to the lower east side of Manhattan when she was 16. But it was while she was in elementary school that she discovered she liked singing. She was good enough to win a vocal scholarship to Howard University, but her chosen major didn't exactly get the blessing of her mother.

"What's all this acting, singing stuff?" she quotes her mother as telling her before she went off to school. Besides a degree in vocals, she also has one in education — something to fall back on in case her acting career didn't work out. She never had to use it to get a full-time job, although she said she was once a secretary for about a week.

For several years, Winston appeared on the PBS children's program, "The Electric Company." Her film credits include parts in "Clara's Heart," "Show of Force"



Two of the stars of ABC-TV's "Homefront," Dick Anthony Williams (left) and Hattie Winston (3rd from right), helped announce plans for the 1993 National Black Theatre Festival to be held Aug. 2-7. Also pictured are Larry Leon Hamlin (right), the festival's founder, producer and artistic director; James W. Johnston (2nd from right), chairman and CEO of R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.; Will Jenkins (2nd from left), president of the N.C. Black Repertory Theatre; and Herman LeVern Jones (3rd from left), special assistant to the festival's producer.

and "Bolero."

The quality of her singing has landed her roles in such Broadway productions as "The Tap Dance Kid," "Two Gentlemen of Verona" and "I Love My Wife."

"Acting is teaching," she replied in response to why she chose acting over any other profession. "In fact, all art is teaching."

To support her position, she mentioned August Wilson, the playwright, who is using the theater to elucidate 20th century African-American history.

"And then there's Amiri Baraka and Lorraine Hansberry," she said, referring to other black writers. "If there hadn't been a 'Dreamgirls,' people might not have known any-

thing about the Supremes."

What advice does she have for those who want to pursue acting as a profession?

"Be serious about it," she said. "Make sure it's something you really love. It's a craft. And you need to study it."

She also advises aspiring thespians to go to school and get a degree.

"Persistence, hardwork and preparation are the secrets to success in this business," she said.

Winston lives in Van Nuys, Calif., with her husband, composer Harold Wheeler and her 10-year-old daughter.

### ▲ Actor tells kids about image of blacks

By DAVID L. DILLARD  
Chronicle Staff Writer

Veteran actor Dick Anthony Williams of the ABC television series "Homefront" says his role reminds him a lot of his own family.

The star of the one-hour weekly drama that deals with social issues including race and religion portrays a butler who eventually opens his own restaurant.

"It's one of my more favorable roles," Williams said in an interview last week at the Best Choice Center, where he spoke with kids while in town for the kick-off of the 1993 National Black Theatre Festival. "I'm very proud of these people (domestic workers). They have sacrificed a lot so we can enjoy life."

Williams has starred in several feature films, as well as television and theater. He said the transition from theater to television was easy because "acting is acting."

"The difference is in theater you have to amplify your voice to be heard, but television will pick up breathing," Williams said. "Acting is like sculpture, but the tool is the entire body."

Williams said African-Americans are being cast in better roles in today's films and television because of the "black theater explosion" during the 1960s.

"We are now beginning to control our own image," he said. "The black theater explosion helped to put us on both sides of the camera. Now there are black producers, directors and screenwriters. We know enough to do it all ourselves."

He has made appearances in feature films including "Mo' Better Blues," "Tap," and "Edward Scissorhands." He has also done a number of PBS projects including "Freeman," "Keeping On," and "The Meeting" in which he portrayed Malcolm X.

Williams is co-founder of New York City's New Federal Theatre and is the founder and artistic director of Concept One Theatre.

### Community

## EVENTS CALENDAR

**How to Schedule Your Events:** Send your information, concisely and neatly printed or typed, to the *Chronicle* Calendar, 617 N. Liberty St., Winston-Salem, N.C. 27102, before 5:00 p.m., the Monday preceding the week in which your event will occur. Our FAX number is (919) 723-9173.



## June



#### \*SATURDAY, JUNE 12

7 a.m. — USAir's "Giant Flea" will be held until 1 p.m. at 799 Hanes Mall Blvd. (across from Lowes). The rain date is June 19. There will be old and new items, crafts, food and fun. To rent a space, call Denise at 661-8242 between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. All proceeds from space rentals go toward USAir's community service projects.

10 a.m. — The Tiny Viking football team will hold registration for players and cheerleaders at Mineral Springs Middle School on June 12 and June 26 until 2 p.m. Bring a certified birth certificate and registration fee. For information on the boys' team, call Anthony Moore at 922-1137 or Johnny Oglesby at 788-1817. For girls, call Renee Oglesby at 788-1817 or Mary Ellen Stupakewicz at 767-4064.

12 p.m. — Citizens United for Justice will sponsor a Support Rally at Emmanuel Baptist Church, located at 1075 Shalimar Drive. Come out and support Larry Womble, other community leaders and Citizens United for Justice to help stop racism, violence, senseless killings, joblessness, poverty, drugs, police brutality, and religious, ethnic and political intolerance. Strive for freedom, human dignity, justice, tolerance, nonviolence, peace and community harmony. For information call 788-7023.

12 p.m. — The Atkins High School Class of 1943 Planning Committee will meet at the East Winston Branch Library, located at 1110 E. Seventh St., to plan its 50th anniversary to be held July 23-25. All classmates are urged to attend. For information call Arabelle Watts Parker, chairman of the committee, at 722-0705 or Nathaniel Colson at 650-1323.

#### SUNDAY, JUNE 13

5:30 p.m. — The Atkins High School Class Reunion Group 1946-1951 will meet at the home of Amos W. Harper, reunion coordinator. Persons planning to participate in the Atlantic City Weekend Fun Trip are urged to attend.

#### TUESDAY, JUNE 15

12 p.m. — Forsyth Memorial Hospital's social work department will present the seminar "Nursing Home Placement: Issues and Answers" in the second-floor patient/family solarium. The free seminars will be held each Tuesday in June and will include light meals. The June 22 session will be held at 5:30 p.m. The June 29 session will be held at 12 p.m. Call 718-5510 to reserve a space.

#### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16

8:30 a.m. — "New Beginnings - New Families" is an educational event for new parents and parents-to-be that will be held until 12 p.m. at the Forsyth County Agriculture Building. Presentations will include: "What is a normal newborn?" "Prenatal nutrition," "Coping with anxiety associated with a new child," "Exercise during and after pregnancy," "Planning an affordable nursery," and "Financing the new arrival." There will also be a maternity fashion show and exhibits by agencies. There is no charge, but pre-registration is required by calling 767-8213. For information call Martha Isenberg.

#### THURSDAY, JUNE 17

6 p.m. — The WSSU Friends of the Library will hold their annual membership meeting at O'Kelly Library on the campus of Winston-Salem State University. The meeting will feature Lorenzo "Logie" Meachum on guitar.

#### ONGOING

• Senior Financial Care hopes that the Senior Adults of Forsyth County are not too busy handling financial and health insurance matters to enjoy their summer activities. If you would like SFC to help you stay in the swim of things, call 725-1972 for an appointment. SFC is a United Way agency.

• The Arts Council sponsors "Outta the Bag" lunchtime concerts at Winston Square Park, next to the Sawtooth Building, located at 226 N. Marshall St. in downtown Winston-Salem throughout the month of June, weekdays from 12:15-1:15 p.m. The concerts are free and open to the public and feature local musicians performing jazz, bluegrass, Top 40, R&B, folk, country and beach music. A surprise rally will be held weekly. Prizes include free lunches from downtown restaurants and gifts from local businesses.

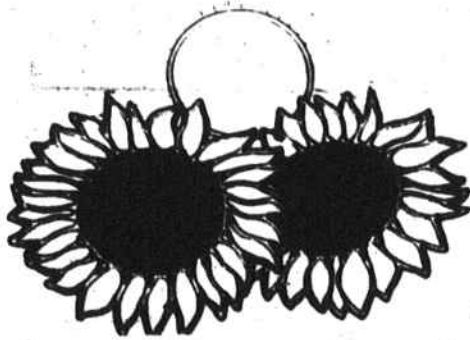
#### UPCOMING

• The Shepherd's Center of Greater Winston-Salem will hold "Adventures in Learning" classes for seniors on June 15 and 22. Courses will include "Hearing: My Loss or Yours?" "Summer Flower Arranging," "Natural Healing," "Joining Malcolm X and Martin Luther King," and "AARP 55 Alive/Mature Driving." There is a registration fee. For information call 748-0217.

• The Arts Council will hold Super Saturday for Kids June 19 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Winston Square Park, next to the Sawtooth Building, located at 226 N. Marshall St. in downtown Winston-Salem. The mini-arts festival is for children 6 to 12 years old and their parents. Enjoy a morning of music, drama, storytelling, magic, clowns and arts and crafts. The event is held the third Saturday of each month during the summer. The event is free and open to the public. For information call the Arts Council at 722-2585.

• The YWCA is offering a seminar to teach you how to can and freeze your summer produce on June 29 from 12-1 p.m. To pre-register call 722-5138. The YWCA is located at 1201 Glade St. The seminar is free and led by Martha Isenberg, home economics extension agent with the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service's Forsyth County Center.

• The Atkins High School Class Reunion Group 1946-1951 is sponsoring a "Weekend Fun Trip" to Atlantic City, N.J. Aug. 6-8. The bus will leave at midnight on Aug. 5 and return Sunday night. If interested, call Annie P. Wilson at 723-8149, David N. Peay at 788-3697, Hattie Elliott at 767-6385, or Amos Harper at 722-1244 by June 15.



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