

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Grants Deliver Gifts of Passion, Art

There are so many talented and creative people throughout Winston-Salem who only need a little support to share their artistic gifts with the community. Writers, musicians, theatre performers, craftsmen and artists of all kinds find this support from the various grants given by The Arts Council of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County. Performers such as Robin Voiers share their passion for the arts to entertain and educate young people.

Through an Arts-in-Education award granted by The Arts Council, Voiers provides 10 live theater performances to K-12 graders. All the plays are based on the works of noted authors such as Emily Dickinson, Mrs. F. Scott Fitzgerald, and Truman Capote.

Her work within the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School system breathes life into classroom discussions of these renowned authors.

Voiers' current performance of "A Christmas Memory," by Truman Capote can be seen by everyone at the Reynolda House Museum of American Art, beginning Dec. 19. Largely autobiographical, "A Christmas Memory" is about a Southern writer's poignant remembrances of Christmas with his beloved cousin, Sook. The play is a wonderful work that the whole family can enjoy.

Voiers is one of the many artists who are assisted financially by grants from The Arts Council. Applications are now being accepted for the Project Assistance Grant, the Regional Artist Project Grant, and Arts-In-Education Grant.

Project Assistance Grants seek to assist not-for-profit cultural organizations in providing high quality cultural programs and services to the citizens of Forsyth County and to assist in the development of emerging organizations. Applications are due by March 2, 1998.

The Regional Artist Project



**Arts Reach**  
Gloria Lindsey



Robin Voiers' performance of "A Christmas Memory," by Truman Capote, can be seen at Reynolda House beginning Dec. 19.

Grant program is designed to recognize and provide financial support for committed artists and is intended to support a specific project pivotal to the advancement of the artist's career. Applications are due by March 2, 1998.

The Arts-In-Education Grant program is jointly designed, administered and supported by the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County school system and seeks to assist not-for-profit cultural organiza-

tions and individuals in providing arts education programs in the public schools. Applications are due by Feb. 2, 1998.

Applications are available at The Arts Council, 305 W. Fourth St. Contact grants director Jeffrey Swaim at 722-2585 for more information.

For more information about Robin Voiers' performance of "A Christmas Memory," contact the Reynolda House at 725-5325.



Pamela Murill, seated, and her staff are responsible for the 'Arise After Five' series.

## 'Arise After Five' program to feature live gospel jazz and poetic scripture

By AURELIA HILL  
Special to THE CHRONICLE

GREENSBORO - Pamela Murrill, the originator and producer of "Arise After Five," was able to see the vision that God shared with her become reality Saturday, Dec. 6.

That vision was to provide adult Christian entertainment to the community as well as showcase local writing and instrumental talent.

The premier of "Arise After Five" was the first of a series of live gospel jazz and poetic scripture reading soirees that will take place at the Carolina Theater, in the Renaissance Room, every first Thursday of the month starting Jan. 1. The program will continue throughout the year, from 7 p.m. until 10 p.m.

Murrill has worked in various

church roles, which she feels have help prepare her.

They include public relations, marketing, advertising, committee member and coordinator of fellowship activities. Murrill thanks God for "allowing her to be a part of His vision for fellowship."

The premier included poetic scripture readings by Denise Garner and Helen Hughes, a gospel jazz selection by Nigel Smith, musical producer, and opening and closing prayer by evangelist Kymira Callaway.

The poetic scripture reading by Garner was written with the help of Murrill and God. As Garner read, nods of agreement could be seen and "amen" could be heard from the crowd.

Hughes' original work "When I . . . It Was You" left participants feeling as if the spirit of God was in the room. With lines

like, "When I thought that life wasn't worth continuing on, it was you Lord who restored me, and helped me be strong," brought tears to the eyes of some.

The live gospel jazz was spiritually uplifting. Smith's prayer to "help the community grow musically as well as spiritually, through "Arise After Five" is off to a great start.

Not only does "Arise After Five" provide the perfect atmosphere for Christian fellowship and an elegant evening, 10 percent of the tickets sold will be donated to a different local organization each month.

Anyone interested in showcasing his or her spiritual talent can give Pamela Murrill a call for poetic scripture consideration at 273-4716, or Nigel Smith for musical consideration at 668-4901.

## The 'Star' comes to Winston-Salem

The award winning children's play "The Star That Hangs Closest to the Earth," by C. Maria Macon, carries the theme "Difference is not inferior." The play serves as the backdrop to the playwright's exploration of her own views while wrestling with the black/white issues of today. It is also the tool she uses to help teach youth to have healthy views about race relations.

The play introduces Jes, a kindly giraffe, and Ayo, a zebra with no stripes. The two find themselves the talk of the jungle as their animal friends are divided over their pending romance. With the involvement of several different animals and a sankofa bird, there is only one place to go for advice, and so goes the story of "The Star That Hangs Closest to the Earth."

The children who become transformed into the characters of this delightful play are primarily Winston-Salem/Forsyth County school students who answered the "call to audition" in October. The transformation takes place during a 10-weekend period of theatrical workshops in preparation for opening night — Dec. 27, at 8 p.m. at the K.R. Williams Auditorium on the campus of Winston-Salem State University.

The 10 weekends of workshops provide a theatre curriculum that brings in professional artists in the field of storytelling, drumming, voice, music, costume design, stage managing, choreography and directing to give the youths a full theater experience and bring to life the 13 animal characters, the storyteller and, of course, the star.

The play's presenters are nine North Carolina artists who call themselves Star Productions. At the helm of Star Productions is C. Maria Macon (board president and CEO) a Charlotte playwright and one of the nine artists who tour with the production.

"The play uses the African Griot storytelling method of employing animals to express the feelings of humans" says Macon. "We are blessed to have storyteller E.J. Stewart, who adds her own style and flavor to our efforts." (Stewart is on the North Carolina Arts Council's roster of touring and resident artists. She is also training a Forsyth County school teacher, Ann Jenkins, who has

aspirations of becoming a storyteller.)

"We are in hopes that this is the beginning of a national festival of children's theater for the youth in all of North Carolina," said Rosly Meaders, who serves as the stage manager for the performance and

as executive director for Star Productions.

The artists will stage a dress rehearsal and press party for the young performers Dec. 13 from 2:30 to 4 p.m. The play will run for two performances: Dec. 27 at 8 p.m. and Dec. 28 at 3 p.m.

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The Sawtooth Center is a funded member of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Arts Council and receives major support from the Lila Wallace/Readers' Digest Community Arts Education Initiative Fund.

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