

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## National Public Radio's 'This American Life' hosts to perform at SECCA

Sarah Vowell and David Rakoff, regular contributors to National Public Radio's "This American Life," will perform at the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art's McCaskey Scott Dunn Auditorium on Saturday, April 13, at 8 p.m. A book signing will follow featuring recent writings by both Vowell and Rakoff. The performance is a part of SECCA's New Voices/New Visions Live! performance series, which brings high caliber performances, including, dance, music, performance art, reading and multimedia events to the Winston-Salem area.

Sarah Vowell has written about everything from her father's homemade cannon and her obsession with the "Godfather" films to the New Hampshire primary and her Cherokee ancestors' forced march on the Trail of Tears. Thanks to her first book, "Radio On: A Listener's Diary," Newsweek made her its "Rookie of the Year" for nonfiction in 1997, calling her "a cranky stylist with talent to burn." Reviewing her second book, the essay collection "Take the Cannoli: Stories From the New World," People Magazine said, "Wise, witty and refreshingly warm-hearted, Vowell's essays on American history, pop culture and her own family reveal the bonds holding together a great, if occasionally weird, nation."

Vowell is at work on her third book, "See America," which will be published by Simon and Schuster later this year.

In addition to his regular commentary on "This American Life," David Rakoff is also a frequent contributor to The New York Times Magazine, a correspondent for Outside magazine and has written for GQ, Salon, New York Magazine, Harper's Bazaar, The New York Observer and Wired, among others. Rakoff has worked in theater with David and Amy Sedaris as both an actor and as a director. His television appearances include "Cosby," "As the World Turns," "Late Night with Conan O'Brien," and "Late Night with David Letterman." Rakoff's new collection of essays, "Fraud," was published in May 2001 by Doubleday.

Admission is \$20 for SECCA members, students and seniors, and \$25 general admission. Group discounts are available for parties of eight or more. For more information or for tickets, call SECCA at (336) 725-1904 or e-mail [general@secca.org](mailto:general@secca.org).

## Award-winning international circus superstar Gregory Popovich to perform

He's a master juggler and an expert pet trainer. Does that mean Gregory Popovich juggles cats?

"No...no...no," said Popovich, horrified by the irreverent thought. "I do nothing against nature. It's like I say: Animals are people, too."

Popovich and his furry entourage - 10 cats, six dogs and eight white rats - will entertain North Carolinians on Saturday, April 6, at 8 p.m. as part of this season's Family Series, presented by the High Point Theatre. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$6 for youths (up to age 12), and can be obtained from the High Point Ticket Center at (336) 887-3001, noon to 5 p.m. weekdays. Group and corporate sales: 883-3097.

A native of Russia, Popovich performed for 15 years in the Moscow Circus and in 1988 won the coveted Monte Carlo Award for juggling while standing on a ladder. In 1991 he came to America and began a long-run engagement at Circus Circus, in Las Vegas, where he developed his wildly successful "House Cats" show into what he now calls "Comedy and Pet Theater." His unique pet act was named "Best of the West, 1999" by Sunset magazine and has been featured on the Jay Leno and David Letterman late-night talk shows.

There's no doubt that Popovich respects and adores his fellow entertainers. Every one of the performing cats and dogs is a rescue animal, acquired from shelters. He learned quickly that, unlike some members of the animal kingdom, cats aren't good at taking orders and can't be bribed with food.

So he developed a different approach to coach his feline friends to perform on cue. "When I teach them a trick, it's not work for my cats; it's a continuous game. It's the only way they'll do it. If it's not fun, they don't want to play."

## Music returns to downtown streets for fifth consecutive season

The Downtown Winston-Salem Partnership has announced that Winston-Salem Events' Music in the Streets is back for another year, bringing live entertainment to downtown Winston-Salem. Brian Cole and Richard Emmett of Elevation Unlimited will again manage and produce the highly successful weekend music series, now in its fifth consecutive season.

Music in the Streets will kick off on Thursday, May 2, at "Alive After 5" with the classic Memphis soul and Southern R&B sounds of Liquor House Soul Revue. "Alive After 5" will be held from 5-8 p.m. at Corpening Plaza, at the corner of First and Liberty streets. On Friday, May 3, "4th Street Jazz and Blues" will be back, featuring the soulful sounds of Melva Houston. Festivities on Fourth Street will happen between Poplar and Spruce streets from 6:30-9:30 p.m. And, on Saturday, May 4, in the heart of the arts district at the intersection of Sixth and Trade, "Summer on Trade" will begin the season with bluegrass favorite the Old Hollow String Band from 7-10 p.m. The series will continue for 18 consecutive weeks through August. Winston-Salem streets will be alive with people, food, fun and rock, jazz, blues, reggae, roots, bluegrass and old-time music.

Music in the Streets began in 1998 with "4th Street Jazz & Blues." The performance series had an estimated attendance of 15,000 the first year. Since that time, the program has offered 210 nights of entertainment and attracted more than 200,000 people to the downtown core. Well-known national performers have included Doc Watson, the Krueger Brothers, Lonesome River Band and Walter Wolfman Washington, to name just a few. Regional and local performers have included Eddie from Ohio, Janice Price, Matt Kendrick, The Smokey Valley Boys, Smyle Band and the Dirty Dogs.

According to Glenda Keels of the Downtown Winston-Salem Partnership, the Music in the Streets program has been the most successful component of the downtown revitalization to date. "We're very proud of this program," Keels said. "It has definitely established downtown as the entertainment center of the city and has

See Of Interest on C8

## No. 2 with a bullet



Hot new boy group B2K shocked the music industry last week when its debut CD entered the Billboard Hot 200 Album Chart at number 2. The disc sold a little more than 100,000 copies in its first week of release.

## Yolanda Adams will host awards with quarterback Warner

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NASHVILLE, Tenn. - St. Louis Rams quarterback Kurt Warner and singer Yolanda Adams will host this year's Dove Awards show for Christian music, the Gospel Music Association announced.

The show is April 25 at the Grand Ole Opry House, and will be aired on the PAX TV cable network.

Frank Breen, president of the GMA, said Warner and Adams "have achieved the highest honors in their fields and are respected for their professional accomplishments and personal integrity."

Warner led the Rams to a Super Bowl victory in 2000, then lost it to New England this past season.

See Adams on C9



Adams

## Singer on winning streak at Soul Train Awards

### Keys, Isleys steal the night

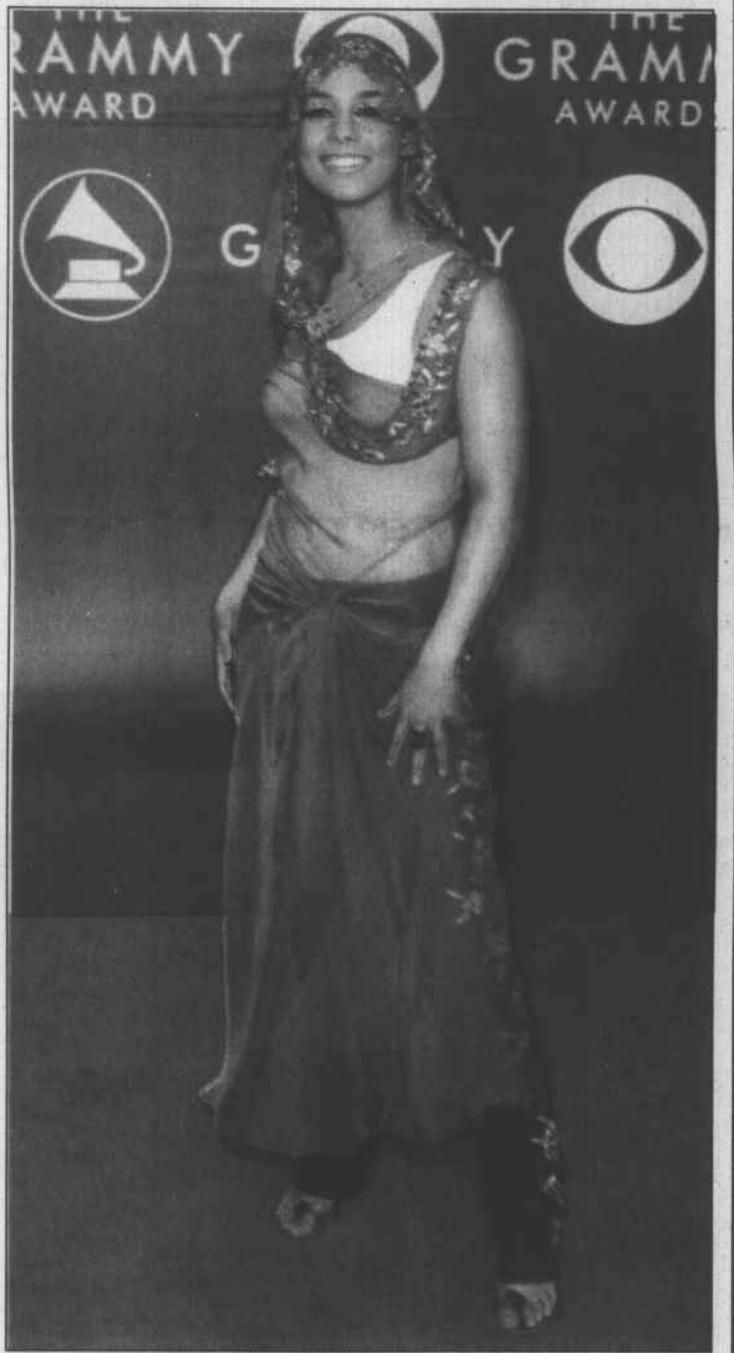
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Newcomer Alicia Keys and veteran act the Isley Brothers each took home a pair of trophies March 20 from the 16th Annual Soul Train Music Awards. Keys, who was nominated for four awards, won best R&B/soul or rap new artist for her hit "Fallin'," while her J Records debut "Songs in A Minor" took the best R&B/soul female album honor. The Isley Brothers, featuring Ron Isley, won best R&B/soul single for the track "Contagious," and best album by a group, band or duo for the DreamWorks set "Eternal."

Keys, who scored five Grammy Awards last month, was also bestowed with the previously announced Sammy Davis Jr. entertainer of the year award, female. Rap icon Dr. Dre received the male entertainer of the year award. In addition, legendary R&B/soulsters the O'Jays were honored with the 2002 Quincy Jones Award for Outstanding Career Achievements.

Aaliyah, who died last August in a plane crash shortly after completing a video in the Bahamas, posthumously won the best R&B/soul single, female award for "Rock the Boat." The track, which comes from her 2001 self-titled Background/Virgin release, peaked last November at No. 2 on Billboard's Hot R&B/Hip-Hop Singles & Tracks chart.

The Soul Train awards, which honor R&B, soul, hip-hop, rap and gospel performances, will be broadcast in syndication March 30-April 7 (check local listings or the official Soul Train Awards Web site for details).



Alicia Keys poses backstage after winning five Grammys last month.

KRT Photo

See Singer on C8

## From Broadway to Billboard

### Tony winner has enlisted help of hit makers for forthcoming CD

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

NEW YORK - Vocalist Heather Headley, already an accomplished and award-winning performer on the Broadway scene, is preparing her stunning solo debut CD (as yet untitled) for release on RCA Records in Summer 2002.

Having displayed awesome chops on both her Tony and Drama Desk Award winning turn in Elton John and Tim Rice's Broadway smash, "Aida" (where she originated the title role of a captive



Heather Headley in "Aida"

File photo

Nubian princess) and in "The Lion King." Headley is ready to have her chilling vocal prowess be introduced to a

wider audience.

Considered one of the most electrifying voices on the scene, Heather has co-

written several songs for her debut CD and is working with a stellar list of producers, including Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis (who have penned songs for such people as Janet Jackson, Whitney Houston), Dallas Austin (who has worked with TLC, Toni Braxton) and Walter Afanasi-eff (who has written hits for Celine Dion, Luther Vandross and Barbra Streisand). Headley is also working with Malik Pendleton for the CD. Pendleton has worked with diva Mary J. Blige. Every track that will appear on Headley's CD had to pass her own rigorous test "My brain has to connect with my heart and my voice," she recently said.

Born in Trinidad, to the pastors of the Barataria

See Headley on C9