

Scholarships provided for camp at Greensboro Music Academy

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Music Academy of North Carolina recently received grants of \$5,000 from Cemala Foundation, \$5,000 from the Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro, and \$2,500 from Target Stores to provide scholarships for 50 underserved children of Guilford County to attend summer music camps.

The scholarships allow students to attend weeklong music camps at The Music

Academy during the summer months. Campers are introduced to new ideas and activities through a diverse curriculum.

Daily lessons on a variety of instruments enable students to understand foundational principles of music, and group activities offer students the opportunity to collaborate with their peers and establish new relationships through music.

The scholarships provide underserved children in Guilford County an effective

means by which they can discover and develop potential, learn to express themselves, understand their world, and see their value and significance. Participation in The Music Academy of North Carolina Summer Music Camps offers the means and opportunity for these children to unlock individual creativity and build their spirits, and strengthen the bonds within their families.

For more information, log on n t o www.musicacademync.org.



Scott Behe, team leader at Target Store 1180 on Lawndale Drive in Greensboro, presents a check for \$2,500 to Laura Holley, director of program development at The Music Academy.

Bivouac crowns 2003 'Golden Stars'

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

With the encouragement, and financial support of her former Eastern Star chapter, the Grand Chapter of New Jersey, her family and friends in Winston-Salem, Sister Joyce Redfern, past matron of Fidelity Chapter 16, OES, PHA of Paterson, N.J. was crowned 2003 "Golden Star" of Sisters of Bivouac Chapter 530 on July 12 at the Masonic Temple, 1025 E. 14th Street.

As members of her family and friends watched, Redfern was escorted to her place of

honor by her grandson, Darius Wilson.

P.M. Redfern, a 30-year veteran of the U.S. Postal Service in Hackensack, N.J., is a devoted member of Emmanuel Baptist Church, under the leadership of Rev. Dr. John Mendez. She demitted to Bivouac after moving to the city and is a faithful and supportive sister just as she was in her New Jersey chapter for 30 years.

Other participants in this year's pageant were Sister Katie Payne, first runner-up, escorted by Rodrick Jones;

Sister Janie Murray, second runner-up, escorted by Bro. Joe Clinton; Sister Dorothy Britt, escorted by her son, John Neal; and Sister Ruby Norwood.

Music for the event was provided by Bivouac soloists, Sister Thelma Thompson, associate conductress and Sister Barbara Wardlow, chaplain, accompanied by Benny Plowden on the piano.

After the pageant, the contestants, past matrons, past patrons, and sick and shut-in members of Bivouac and guests were treated to a delicious buffet prepared and served by dedicated sisters of Bivouac.

Elected officers of Bivouac for 2003-2004 are worthy matron, Jean Nunn St. Preux; worthy patron, Robert D. Jones; associate matron, Eva

McWillis; secretary, Hattie B. Fulton; treasurer, Ciesta Funderburk; conductress, Linda D. Butler; associate conductress, Thelma Thompson; trustees, Devenia McCloud (chairperson), Ida Duncan and Katherine Williams.



Sister Katie Payne, first runner-up, clutches her bouquet as her escort, Rodrick Jones, leads the recessional after the pageant.



Sister Dorothy Britt and son John Neal enjoy the delicious buffet after the "Golden Stars" pageant.



Bivouac's 2003 "Golden Star," P.M. Joyce Redfern, poses with grandson Darius Wilson after being crowned.



Sisters Shaunne Hall and Ciesta Funderburk stand by to serve Sister Janie Murray, second runner-up, and her escort, Joe Clinton.

Banner

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master's degree at the University of Maryland.

Yet the idea of a gangsta rapper with a college education — and from Mississippi, a state better known for blues than rap — does surprise people.

"I tell people, I went from the streets to school, and then back to the streets. It's not no big thing," Banner said in a telephone interview. "I'm proud of being intelligent. I'm proud of the fact that I came from the streets. I'm proud of the fact that I can go from any level. I can go from breaking in your car to debating with the vice president of the United States. All of these things are only tools that God has blessed us with."

He's also blessed Banner with a hit album. Banner's CD hit No. 1 on the Billboard R&B-Hip-Hop album chart, selling approximately 239,000 copies since its release in May behind the single "Like a Pimp."

Banner has given the folks in his home state something to be proud of. He's happy to wave the

banner for Mississippi, which he said has long been overlooked and derided by hip-hop culture, despite the Dirty South's growing influence on the rap scene.

"They have the power to shape and mold the minds of the world," he said of Northerners who control the industry, "and due to the fact that Southerners don't have a lot of control or say-so in that area, so it's kind of hard to paint a positive picture, or not just a positive picture, but an exact picture, a truthful picture about the places that we're from."

The picture that Banner paints is certainly not a pretty one. Bleak and violent imagery provide the framework for his album, but the way he sees it, he's reflecting not only his culture, but America itself.

That's why he gets so angry when politicians and other morality crusaders try to rap rap artists.

"I just look at America in general — look at all stuff that they've done to acquire power? From the raping of cultures to the killing of people, how dare anyone in America judge what I do?" he asked. "Black people and people of culture have found a way to

express themselves and make money at the same time, and America doesn't truly want to deal with us, with this underbelly."

With the menacing look that's quickly becoming his trademark, Banner may seem like a perpetually angry soul. Yet he's a spiritual man who can also come across as charming and gentle — again, much like the alter ego he's named after.

That fact isn't lost on Banner, who noted that the original Banner only became the Hulk when people picked on him. And the Hulk, he said, is modeled on the black man — "dark skin, big nose ... bristled hair, which looks just like a black man to me."

Banner got his name, he said, from a friend because of his attitude. "I'm probably the nicest guy that you would want to meet, until I'm pushed, and when I'm pushed, it's not over until it's done," he said.

And just what happens when David Banner, the rapper, gets really angry?

"I'll just put it this way," he said with a chuckle. "I hope that no one ever has to find out again."

Berry, Morgan Freeman, Pam Grier, Debbie Allen, Suzanne De Passe, John Singleton and Robert Townsend.

AOL Time Warner is the presenting sponsor of the ABFF, and HBO is the founding sponsor. The festival's platinum sponsor is Lincoln. Essence, Heineken and Upscale are gold sponsors. Black Enterprise, Blockbuster and Miramax Home Entertainment are silver sponsors.

Official sponsors include: ABC Inc., American Airlines, AXA Financial, BET, CBS, Daily Blossom, DV Republic, ENYCE, Florida Lottery, Fox Broadcasting, the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau, Kodak, Martell Cognac, Maverick Entertainment, the Mayor's Office of Film and Entertainment, Miami-Dade County, LuxeConcierge, Motorola, NBC, Nielsen Media Research, Phat Farm and UrbanWorks Entertainment.

Formerly known as the Acapulco Black Film Festival, the international film market attracts more than 2,500 attendees annually. This year marks the festival's second year in South Beach.

Film festival

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year's Film Life Movie Awards," said Jeff Friday, president and CEO of Film Life Inc. and ABFF festival director. "The show provides a unique opportunity to celebrate the world of independent filmmaking, as well as the work of established Hollywood icons. Congratulations to this year's Film Life Movie Awards show winners. We look forward to televising the show next year so that this salute to black cinema can be shared with the largest audience possible."

Following are the various awards and their winners:

- The AOL Time Warner Innovator Award to Russell Simmons.

- The AOL Time Warner Rising Star Award to Gabrielle Union.

- The HBO Short Film Award to "Swallow," written and directed by Frank E. Flowers, who receives \$20,000 from HBO.

- The Lincoln Filmmaker Trophy award to "Skin Deep," which was directed by Sacha Parisot. Parisot receives a two-

year lease of a Lincoln Navigator.

- The Blockbuster Audience Award for Best Feature Film to "All About You," which was written and directed by Christine Swanson, a 1998 winner of the HBO Short Film Award. The winner receives a \$15,000 prize from Blockbuster and DEJ Productions.

- Best Performance by an Actress award presented to Janice Richardson for "Anne B. Real." Essence and Movado sponsor this award and provide prizes to the winner.

- Best Performance by an Actor to Steve White for his performance in "Skin Deep." Phat Farm sponsors this award and provides prizes to the winner.

This year's Film Life Movie Awards show also featured a stirring performance from Arista recording artists Kenny Lattimore and Chante Moore and a special presentation from Suheir Hammad from the Tony Award-winning "Def Poetry Jam." Previous Film Life Movie Award show participants and honorees have included Mekhi Phifer, Samuel L. Jackson, Keenan Ivory Wayans, Chris Tucker, Denzel Washington, Halle

FILMS ON FOURTH

Summer Screenings!

NOWHERE IN AFRICA

Not Rated - Director: Caroline Link
Special Jury Prize 2003 Sundance Film Festival
"I Loved This Film! This is the kind of movie that real people really, really like."
Roger Ebert, Chicago Sun-Times
2003 Academy Award Winner
Best Foreign Film

Thurs. July 17th 8:00 PM
Fri. July 18th 5:30 PM
Sat. July 19th 8:00 PM

AMANDA!
A REVOLUTION IN FOUR PART HARMONY

Rated PG-13 - Director - Lee Hirsh
Nominee Best Feature Documentary 2003
An extraordinary new documentary traces the South African freedom struggle through its joyous, defiant music!
- Jeff Stark, Salon.com

Double Winner
2002 Sundance Film Festival
Audience Award & Freedom of Expression Award

Thurs. July 17th 5:30 PM
Fri. July 18th 8:30 PM
Sat. July 19th 5:30 PM

COMING IN AUGUST

The Good Thief
He Loves Me, He Loves Me Not
Blue Car
Winged Migration
2003 Oscar Shorts
Man Without A Past

Films at 5:30 PM (\$5) and 8:00 and 8:30 PM (\$8).

Packs of 10 Discount Admissions (\$64) are available at the Stevens Center, Krispy Kreme Stratford and Knollwood Stores, Cats Corner, Bistro 420, 4th Street Filling Station, Camel City, West End Cafe, Downtown Deli, Opie's Southbound, Mary's of Course, Wake Forest UN Benson Center Ticket Office and Snappifiers in The Arts District. Advance sales of individual tickets are also available at the Stevens Center (721-1945), and Krispy Kreme. All previously purchased punch cards and gift passes will be honored thru December 31, 2003

For information or schedules go to www.cinemasociety.org