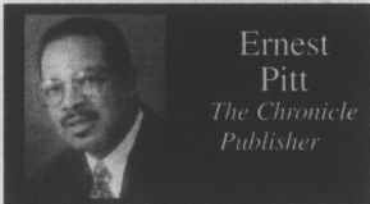


## Welcome to Our City



**Ernest Pitt**  
The Chronicle  
Publisher

This week, Aug. 4-9, will be one of the most glorious weeks in Winston-Salem. It will be the week that we will experience black theatre in all of its splendor and glory. Nowhere else can you get such a variety of plays and performances within such a relatively short period of time in as small a place as Winston-Salem. You will find yourself literally exhausted from all of the activities going on at the shows, in the hotels and on the streets. For some, the parties and get-togethers will last all night.

To a large extent, this welcome also goes out to some of our own residents. Why? Because if you haven't been downtown lately, you're in for a treat. There are many more restaurants and nightclubs downtown than ever. We are proud of the work that the Downtown Association, the Chamber of Commerce and the city have done in bringing downtown to a new and wonderful level for all to enjoy.

We are extremely proud of the North Carolina Black Repertory Company and its artistic director, Mr. Larry Leon "Marvtastic" Hamlin. His vision for the festival has matured so beautifully. His dedication and commitment to the festival are evident in every activity in the festival. You will see this vision come to life at the shows, in the lobbies and on the streets. You will mingle

with the stars and to your delight will be able to rub shoulders with people from around the world. It will probably be one of your most exciting times ever.

We take pride here at The Chronicle in putting together this publication for your enjoyment. Having served this community for nearly 30 years (next September, 2004) we have seen much growth and the fulfillment of many dreams. Just as Larry's dream of the festival has become reality, so too have the dreams of many of our African-American entrepreneurs. We want you to take pride in what you find here. We want you to share our excitement as we attempt to make this a great experience. We believe in excellence and we believe the festival will satisfy your appetite for the best.

The Theatre Guide is intended to serve as a comprehensive guide for everything related to the festival. We have included features on some of our locally-owned businesses so that you can get a feel for our city. We enjoy a rich history here of African-American-owned businesses, and are very proud of the legacy we have. We are quite proud of our predecessors who laid the groundwork that has enabled us to prosper and succeed. We hope that all of you enjoy your time here and by all means give us some feedback on your experience at the festival.

Please stop by our office on Liberty Street and check us out. We have one of the many murals done by our young people on the side of our building detailing the history of the black press. It is impressive.

You may go to our new Web site - [www.wschronicle.com](http://www.wschronicle.com) - and respond. Thank you and have a "Marvtastic" time.



File Photo  
**Larry Leon Hamlin, left, joins Allen Jones last year to announce that Jones would lead the fund-raising effort for the 2003 National Black Theatre Festival.**

## Greetings from the mayor and NBTF fund-raising chair

Imagine some of America's most renowned stage performers. Imagine tens of thousands of enthusiastic visitors. Imagine millions of radio listeners. Imagine an extraordinary opportunity to exhibit the best and the brightest in Winston-Salem. This year's National Black Theatre Festival is all these things and more.

Thanks to the seed planted by Larry Leon Hamlin in 1989, for six days and nights Winston-Salem will be the apex of theatrical activity and the site of a magnificent celebration. But even more important, the Black Theatre Festival is an opportunity to show the world why Winston-Salem is a place they'll want to visit again and again.

I am extremely proud to be this year's

chairman of the Fund-raising Committee for the festival. For me, it's been an opportunity to witness our community's overwhelming support for this event. Accordingly, I want to express my most sincere gratitude to the many generous contributors, sponsors and devoted volunteers.

I believe in our city and I am extremely optimistic about the future of Winston-Salem.

One of those reasons is the Black Theatre Festival. Therefore, I am asking everyone to come out and support the festival, welcome our guests and join the celebration. See you there!

J. Allen Jones  
Mayor

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A guide for the  
2003 National Black  
Theatre Festival &  
the city it calls home

- Read insider stories on the shows and artists that will have you talking during the festival.
- Find out about the best places to eat, drink and shop while you are in town.
- Suggestions for making the most of your visit.

August 2003