

# Ebony Group To Present Three Plays

By Scheryl Gant  
Post Staff Writer

The Ebony Group and Company will begin their performance season this weekend with a trio of powerful, one-act plays that explore the conflict between Black youth and their elders in their separate fight for survival, freedom and dignity.

The plays are by three noted Black playwrights. "Soul Gone Home," by Langston Hughes, "Contributions" by Ted Shine and "The Owl Killer" by Philip Hayes Dean.

**NBC Special**

**To Examine**

## Nuclear Waste

NBC News correspondent Floyd Kalber will be the reporter on the one-hour NBC Reports special that will examine the highly dangerous operation of disposing of nuclear waste. The program, "Danger! Radioactive Waste," will be telecast on Channel Nine Wednesday, Jan. 26 at 10 p.m. This is the first in a series of NBC Reports to be presented during 1977.

The program will report on what the United States Government is doing to see to it the environment is not contaminated for this generation and those of the future. The report notes that no permanent solutions have yet been found.

Progress is in a dead heat with destruction as the nuclear industry tries to keep ahead of its own waste, all of which is radioactive, and therefore highly dangerous. Improperly handled it can cause cancer and/or birth defects. The problem then is how to best protect the American public.

## Soul Train To Feature Singer Lou Rawls

The inimitable voice of Lou Rawls and the sophisticated sounds of L.T.D. (Love, Togetherness & Devotion) make this weekend's Soul Train show a special treat.

Chicago-born Rawls continues his ability to stimulate audiences with stirring renditions of "Groovy People" and "You'll Never Find Another Love Like Mine," two of his latest releases which have topped the record charts in recent months.

Holder of Grammy awards for "Dead End Street" and "A Natural Man," Rawls has also acquired several gold albums.

L.T.D., a versatile soul band of nine musicians based in Los Angeles, plays the title song from its first album, Love to the World, and "Love Ballad." Although they have played as a unit for five years, primarily for record sessions, they recently completed road tours with such groups as the Average White Band, the Isley Brothers, the O'Jays and K.C. and the Sunshine Band.

The Soul Train dancers are on hand to keep the action lively and Don Cornelius, host and producer, conducts interviews with his guests.

The infant theatre company, currently under the direction of Michael Connors, will travel to three different locations in Charlotte "to bring theatre to a larger audience," Connors says.

The traveling performances will be the second effort, this year, by the Ebony Group and Company to bring the Black theatre experience to Charlotte. The company joined in with a number of other Black organizations in the recent presentation of the Broadway musical "Raisin" at Owens Auditorium.

Here is a brief look at the plays:

"Soul Gone Home" by Langston Hughes is set in the parlor of a walk-up apartment in a poor, run-down section of Harlem where a child learns the raw reality of "every man for himself" at an early age. His mother, having learned herself, through bitter experience as a youth, is his teacher.

The play is one of grief, guilt, blame, love and hate between an attractive young street hustler and her dead son. During the mother's anguished wails and questioning God on why her son died, the son returns to answer her. The two have their most truthful talks ever.

Willie Stradford Jr., plays the son, and Deborah Worthy plays the mother. She is understudied by Denise Humphries.

Ted Shine's "Contribution" is set in the South during the sit-ins of the sixties. When Mrs. Love tells her grandson, "Hell, I was a 'new Negro' 76 years ago," you think that age has defeated the old woman's struggle against the humiliation of racism. She seems to bear her burden meekly. But in the surprise ending we see that Mrs. Love has fought all along in her own, quiet way, and there is no generation gap between her and her grandson.

"Contributions" features Willie Stradford Jr. as the grandson, Vermel Jackson as Mrs. Love and Linda Hammond in the role of Katie. Deborah Worthy is Mrs. Love's understudy.

"The Owl Killer" is a dramatic story about family conflict over the solutions each member finds to live with racism and oppression. The father terrifies his family, because he blames them for all the scraping and bowing he does to keep his job. The son, who is never seen, has taken revenge by doing to a white man what was symbolically been done to his father: castrating him. The daughter turns to hustling her body and numbers to survive after being thrown out of the house, and the mother is torn between each of her loved ones.

The three plays touch upon all aspects of how racism and prejudice has torn apart many black families by making them bitter and ashamed of each other.

Performances are as follows: Spirit Square, Friday and Saturday, Jan. 21 and Jan. 22, 8 p.m. Johnson C. Smith University, Saturday, Jan. 22, 2 p.m. Eastland Mall, Sunday, Jan. 23, 8 p.m.

Tickets are now on sale at Spirit Square.

Read the Charlotte Post Each Week. It's your best source of news about the people you know.



Young Kunta Kinte (LeVar Burton, right) receives a lesson in the meaning of manhood from Touray, played by O.J. Simpson, in the multi-part drama ROOTS, based on Alex Haley's best-selling book, airing January 23-30 on Channel 18 and the ABC Television Network.

## Sunday Night Haley's "Roots" Is TV Special

By Scheryl Gant  
Post Staff Writer

Alex Haley says that while researching his book "Roots," his feelings were so strong at times, he "felt like walking back through history swinging an ax."

Hopefully most of the explosiveness of Haley's story has been preserved by the ABC Television network (WCCB, Channel 18 in Charlotte) which will be showing their eight-part documentary of "Roots" Sunday, January 23, at 9 p.m. Beginning with a handful of African words and a story of a young African stolen from the river bank near his home, Haley traces his ancestors back to the Mandingo tribe in Gambia, West Africa.

The summer evening porch talk by Haley's grandmother and his aunts of an African named Kinte (Kintay), who called the river "Kamby Bologo" and a banjo "Ko," led Haley back through the 1870 census records of Alamance County, North Carolina to the tobacco plantation where the old women were.

Haley journeyed back to the sparse slave cabin in Caswell County, North Carolina where his great-great grandfather, "Chicken George" would gather his children around the fireside and tell them of Kinte. From there Haley went back to 1805 where as a 16-year-old girl, "Chicken George's" mother, Kizzy, thrashes and screams for mercy as her drunken, white owner bangs her head against the floor and rapes her until she passes out.

Back Haley searches, past the woods in Spotsylvania

County, Virginia where Kinte cries in anguish as an ax crashes through his flesh, separating his foot near the ankle, back to 1766, where on the banks of the Gambia River 16-year-old Kinte goes to get wood for a drum and is beaten, kidnapped, chained, shackled and thrown into "the stinking blackness" of the American slave ship "Lord Lignor," and from there on to back more than 200 years in Old Mali where the Kinte clan began.

Haley, 55, says that he presents all the facts of how millions of Blacks in North and South America and the West Indies "came in the

seeds of our forefathers, captured, driven, beaten, inspected, brought, branded, chained in four ships..." but does not make any charges. He leaves that to the reader.

ABC has reportedly spent \$6 million on producing "Roots." Hopefully all of Haley's facts will be presented with the same force of the book, so that the viewers can draw their own conclusions.

Keep your out-of-town friends informed on what's happening in Charlotte by sending them a copy of the Charlotte Post each week. The cost is only \$8 per year.

ABC-TV, beginning Sunday, January 23, and running for eight consecutive nights. Check local listings for the time of each night's telecast.

Parental discretion is advised.



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## WCCB To Present Music Awards

By Deborah Gates  
Post Staff Writer

The ABC Television Network is sponsoring the "American Music Awards" on January 31st, from 9 to 11 p.m. (Channel 18) with the popular rock group "Earth, Wind, and Fire" headlining the nominees with four nominations, more than any other group or individual performer.

"Earth, Wind, and Fire," received nominations in both the pop-rock and soul music categories. The group's nominations are for favorite duo, groups or chorus (pop-rock), favorite duo, group or chorus (soul), and favorite album nominations for "Gratitude," and "Spirit."

The two-hour ABC special event, which will be held at the Santa Monica (California) Civic Auditorium, will be hosted by Glen Campbell, Lou Rawls, and Helen Reddy (who are also nominees.)

Winners of the annual "American Music Awards" are selected by the public. Names of the nominees on the ballots were compiled for the year-end sales charts of the major music industry publication, Cashbox and Record World. Results of voting are made public only at the annual ceremony, where fifteen awards will be made.

The nominations for the awards are in three categories, consisting of pop-rock, country and soul, with five awards in each category.

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