Karen Jones-Meadows Reacts To Series

Of Successes With "Pride And Humility"

By Jalyne Strong Post Staff Writer

To be a writer is nice. But when are you going to get a real job?" This solicitous question has been addressed to Charlotte playwright, Karen Jones-Meadows by more than a few people in her

Yet, following her childhood ambition to be a writer, Meadows as an adult made the conscious decision to work at the craft. Even if that meant being in opposition to the conventional standards of how people support them-

Now, possessing a pres-tigious award, extended recognition of her work, and deemed a high achiever, Meadows can ignore such quips about writers. The author of four plays: "Rounding Off Time," "Henrietta," "Shower of Tears," and "Tapman" has come of age. Recently, out of 853 entries, Jones-Meadows' "Henrietta" received the Atlanta New Play Project Award. And subsequently the same play was read as part of the Developmental Stage Series by the acclaimed Negro Ensemble Company in New York.

"A lot of things are happening," states Jonesdows, "I believe this is going to end up being an excellent year."

This year began with Jones-Meadows' play "Tapman," being produced last February by the Afro-American Cultural Center at Spirit Square. The event was a sellout. Meanwhile, "Henrietta" has been produced in the Virgin Islands by the d Center in St. Croix.

Jones-Meadows reacts to these series of successes with a mixture of pride and humility. "I like it when people enjoy what I do and see the value in my work," she acknowledges. "The recognition lets me see that people are under-standing what I'm trying to

say.

"I always want to improve, I definitely try to make each play better than the preceding one," explains Jones-Meadows. She has begun her latest play, "Ktaisede-Ktait-sede" (Sister-Sister, transsede" (Sister-Sister, trans-lated from the African anguage of Twasana), a drama concerning an Afri-can Nun's involvement in the South African struggle.

The African theme in this olay is intentionally an outgrowth of Jones-Mea-dows' ideals on writing black theatre. She expous-es, "It's a mistake for the



Karen Jones-MeadowsSuccessful playwright

black writer to separate African culture from Afro-American culture. It has to be discussed," she contends. Jones-Meadows further explains, while black Americans have been externally influenced by American culture thay are internally influenced by African cultural roots. "The African influence is seen in everything black people do no matter what geographical area they're

A New York native, Jones-Meadows has lived in Charlotte for a number of years and finds the city attractive. "Charlotte is

clean, comfortable and the quality of living here is very good," she's found. Plus, she adds, there are many opportunities for creative people to get in on the ground floor of cultural activities. "I like doing plays here," Jones-Meadows informs. However, she admits she's begun to entertain the thought of moving to a larger city for access to 'professional cultural activities "

It is her wish to be a part of a larger community of professional writers, in a way to discern how she compares to them. "The

true test is not in mother's living room," attests the playwright. "You have to go where the big boys are.

Asked how a black female writer may fare among the "big boys, Jones-Meadows, a member of the Dramatist Guild. reflects, "You have to look at yourself as an individual. I'm constantly aware of my being black, moreso than being female, but es-sentially I want to be a good writer.'

But if it comes to be a matter of consequence, she assures.

"I'll use it to my advantage or make sure it makes no difference. I'm not going to let restrictions others have set limit me.

For other aspiring writers, Jones-Meadows advises they learn the skill through study, much reading and continual work at developing their style. And it's easy to tell whether a person has a propensity to become a writer, says Jones-Meadows, "They can't help but to write. People are writers or they are not writers

"I've always thought I'd be a writer or actress," she admits. Since graduating from Wheelock College, Boston, Mass., with a B.S. in Education and minor in theatre and history, she has been successfully involved in both endeavors.

Her acting experiences include several commercials for First Union Bank and Bi-Lo Stores. She also uses dramatics to educate. Jones-Meadows is the

resident actress for the Afro-American Cultural Center and through their affiliation with Charlotte-Mecklenburg

school system she brings to the classroom. "A History of African-American Oral and Literary Art." The presentation is enhanced her character portrayals of significant people

The mother of one son, Jayson, Jones-Meadows plans to continue working hard at her writing. She's applied to participate in a few writers' workshops in N.Y. Says Jones-Meadows, she's not striving for fame. but Jayson thinks it would be nice. The nine year old tells his mother, "If you're famous then I'm famous too, right?"

To Share Your Favorite

Recipes, Call

Audrey, 376-0496.

Concerning

READ THE CHARLOTTE

For Accurate.

Dependable

News

Community,

YOUR

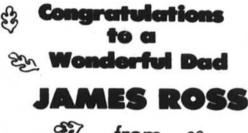
Jurn To...

THE CHARLOTTE POST

Each Week

376-0496

EN S



from "Peaches" & "Crumbsnatcher"

1985 Carowinds Season Passes To Go On Sale

1985 Carowinds season passes will go on sale October 6 and 7, the final weekend of operation for the 1984 season, at the 77-acre theme park.

A Carowinds season pass entitles holders to unlimited use of the park, including access to all rides, shops and shows. (There is an additional charge for Paladium concerts.)

Season pass holders receive several other special benefits as well, including food discounts inside the park each Sunday through Thursday during the operating season. Other benefits include include a newsletter written especially for pass holders which features a variety of discount coupons for area food, retail and

entertainment facilities. Carowinds-Ocean Island combination pass holders have the additional benefit of unlimited access to Ocean Island at Carowinds, a 700,000 gallon wave pool, during the 1985 summer

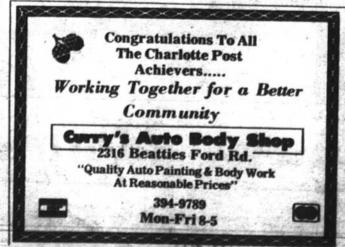
During the October 6 and 7 weekend, 1985 Carowinds season passes will cost \$24.95 and combination passes will cost \$39.95.

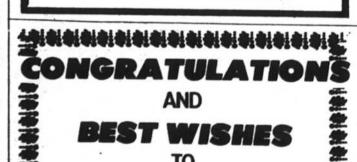
On October 8 prices

increase to \$29.95 and \$47.95 respectively.

For more information on purchasing a season pass, call Carowinds at (704)

Carowinds is open for weekend operation through October 7. Operating hours are 10 a.m. until 8 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.





Dr. Mary Harper AND

J. C. Cousar FOR BEING NAMED

ACHIEVERS

Calvin Brown, Atty. 401 E. Second St. Suite 111 Charlotto 376-1521