

# Ebony Fashion Fair To Make Its Annual Appearance Here

By Loretta Manago  
Post Managing Editor  
As the season changes from summer to fall, most fashion-conscious individuals are ready to see what trends in clothing wear will be popular and to see what the designers have in store for them.

The 28th annual Ebony Fashion Fair will show all when it hits Charlotte Sunday, November 3, at Owens Auditorium, beginning at 8 p.m.

Ten lovely female and two handsome male models will don the fashions of designers Fabrice, Yves St. Laurent, Christian Dior, Mario Valentino, Missoni, Lancetti, Bill Blass, Willi Smith, Bob Mackie, Geoffrey Beene, Giogia Sant' Angelo, Bruce Oldfield, Roland Klein and Janice Wainwright. The choice of fashion is personally selected by Eunice Johnson, director of the

Ebony Fashion Fair, Linda Johnson Rice, fashion coordinator, and Shayla Simpson, commentator of the show.

This year's fashion show's theme, "Body Language," celebrates the body beautiful in creations by European and American designers inspired by the new emphasis on fitness.

The new body dressing is dashing and offers ultimate luxury as it shows off the body to its best advantage. Sculptured clothes with clean lines underneath, nipped-in waist accented by flirty peplums and a general new innovation in shapes and detail are the passport to this season's fashion look.

Making headlines in the fashion arena this year is jackets. In a shorter length, the jacket has a rounded appearance with shoulders and collars that



Bob Mackie's sculptured sweater dresses in fuschia & blue and beige & mocha have exotic African-inspired motif.

envelope the wearer the sweater type jackets with way a hood would. Also, fur collars are big this

season. High waisted button trousers, pleated trousers and corduroys are just a few of the ways that pants will be worn this season. Dresses will be body hugging and free flowing and skirts will cover all lengths, from mini to maxi. If all you could envision for leather was a coat, think again. Leather this year will strike out like it has never done before, starting with glowing paisley, sensuous florals, striking mixes, dyed-to-match mouton and ending with soft black suede stencilled in shiny zebra stripes.

Sponsored by the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, the Ebony Fashion Fair was originally planned for the purpose of featuring black models in designs by world famous fashion experts. It was the show's elegance that caught the public's attention and

turned it into the traveling fashion entertainment production that it has become.

One hundred and ninety seven shows will be presented in 188 cities during the 28th annual tour that covers the Midwest and Eastern regions in the fall and the Southeast, Southwest, and Western states, along with Virgin Islands and San Juan, Puerto Rico, in the spring. Last year's attendance was 310,617.

For ticket information, contact Almetta Alexander at 392-6278.

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## How Did Gospel Evolve?

By Tony Brown  
Special To The Post

What tradition did Africans bring with them on the slave ships to the New World? How did Africans use music to survive the horrors of slavery? What are the characteristics of a spiritual? What does secular and religious music have in common? How did gospel evolve?

The answer to the first question is Africa's oral tradition, says Dr. Wyatt Tee Walker, senior pastor of Canaan Baptist Church, Harlem, on "Roots Of Music," the next edition of "Tony Brown's Journal." Dr. Walker, who earned his Ph.D. in the study of black sacred music and has written two new books on the subject - "The Soul of Black Worship" and "Somebody's Calling My Name" - examines Africa's musical gift to America and America's only original contribution to the world of music.

On this exciting, entertaining, and informative program Dr. Walker vividly explains the development of black religious expression from the early field songs during slavery to modern gospel with the

help of the magnificent Voices of Canaan Choir.

"Tony Brown's Journal" is the nation's longest-running and top-ranked black-affairs television series. It has been sponsored by Pepsi-Cola Company for 10 consecutive years. Televised on public television (PBS), the program will be seen in this area on WTVI, Channel 42, at 5 p.m., Sunday, October 20.

Dr. Walker says that black sacred music gave birth to all music indigenous to this country. He explains the sociological and cultural dynamics of the creation of the spiritual and how the spiritual gave birth to the blues, jazz, and historical and modern gospel.

"The importance of the African-American spiritual was not only religious, it was also political," he says. "If you listen to what black people are singing religiously, it's a clue as to what was happening to them sociologically. And the African-American spiritual gives us our best internal evidence of how our ancestors got through the terrible horrors of the slave experience."

Next week: "Music Tree."

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