

GM Production Presents South African Play

"You and me. That is how it starts. The two factors in an equation which resolves out into either heaven or hell, and most likely both." These are the words of Athol Fugard, a white skinned South African; one of three million. (There are also twelve million dark-skinned South Africans.) Fugard's play, *Blood Knot*, is the story of two South Africans; one whiteskinned and the other dark. It is a play which grasps the very core of the system called apartheid.

GM Productions, resident theatre company of the Afro American Cultural Center, will present Fugard's play Friday and Saturday, June 12 and 13 at 8:00 p.m., and Sunday, June 14 at 5:00 p.m. at the Center, 401 N. Myers Street (near the corner of 7th and McDowell Streets).

Directed by Willie O. Jordan, the play stars Jesse J. Hamilton in the role of Zacharian and Michael McCormick as Morris.

Jordan is a teacher at Charlotte's Independence High School. A graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill, he has directed numerous plays including *Ceremonies In Dark Old Men*, *Purlie Victorious*, *The Little Indians*, and *A Raisin In The Sun*.

Hamilton studied acting in Charlotte with Defoy Glenn and Tom Vance, and at North Carolina School of The Arts in Winston-Salem. This will be his third Fugard play this season. He played John in GM's *The Island*, and the role of Sam in *The Common Theatre's Master Harold And The Boys*.

McCormick is a U. S. Army veteran, and currently an undergrad-

uate student at Central Piedmont Community College. He aspires to become a film director. McCormick made his stage debut last year in GM Productions presentation of the play *Kennedy's Children*.

GM productions is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation, mainstreaming, and developing of minority arts and artists. Founded in 1981 by Defoy

Glenn and Carolyn Mason, it is Charlotte's only minority theatre company. Among its many credits are the world premiere of Maya Angelou's *On A Southern Journey*, and H. B. Caple's *In My Father's House*.

General admission tickets for *Blood Knot* are \$8. Student and senior citizen tickets are \$6. Group rates are available. For information, phone 374-1560.

"HomeStretch" To Air Across Country

HOMESTRETCH, a 30-minute daily exercise show featuring Charlotte fitness expert Amy Esterhay and produced by WTVI/42, will air on a number of public television stations across the country beginning June 1. From Sacramento to New Orleans to New York City, Esterhay's 30-minute workout will be a part of thousands of viewers daily television fare. HOMESTRETCH has aired in the Charlotte market on WTVI/42 since January, 1985.

Esterhay, a vivacious and energetic exercise instructor, offers viewers an all-around fitness program using the techniques of aero-

bics, stretching and muscle toning. HOMESTRETCH is designed for men and women of all ages.

"I'm extremely excited about this opportunity," says Esterhay. "WTVI has done a fantastic job with the production and I just hope people all across the country are ready to get in shape!"

HOMESTRETCH is underwritten by the Kraft, Inc. Dairy Group. WTVI/42 is the Carolinas' only community-owned public television station.

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BENEFITTING THE AFRO-AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER
JUNE 18, 19 & 20

Furaha Na Sanaa, taken from the ancient African language of Swahili, means "Fun With The Arts." Celebrate the richness of Afro-American culture at The Charlotte Observer Afro-American Festival, June 18-20. It's three great days of the cultural and historical achievements and expressions of today's Afro-American artists.

Festival sites will be Ovens Auditorium and the Afro-American Cultural Center. The family-oriented festival will be an educational, cultural, uplifting experience for all members of the community and will feature art, entertainment, food and crafts. Don't miss the exciting activities of the first Charlotte Observer Afro-American Festival.



The oldest daughter of Martin Luther King Jr., Yolanda King will share her perspective on growing up in the South. Her appearance is especially important to a festival celebrating the arts, for the respected civil rights advocate is also a talented actress, producer and director. As she defines it, "While it is imperative to actively challenge the forces that deny human beings their right to a decent life... one must also stimulate the hearts and minds of both the privileged as well as those who have been too long denied. Within the arts lies this power."



For more than two decades, The Mighty Clouds Of Joy have set the standard for the gospel industry with 24 albums, Grammy awards and appearances with such artists as the Rolling Stones, Andre Crouch, James Cleveland, Earth, Wind & Fire, and many others. Don't miss this special performance, with the opening act performed by these local gospel choirs who'll get the thunder rolling for The Mighty Clouds of Joy: Greater Mt. Zion Baptist, Greenville Memorial AME Zion, St. Mark's/Hunter's Chapel and Shiloh Institutional Baptist.

Artists, musicians and dancers, ethnic food, children's activities and crafts and more highlight this day-long festival celebrating the arts. All of Charlotte is invited to this joyful event that is sure to educate, entertain and embrace the history and future promise of Afro-American culture in American society.

TICKET INFORMATION: Tickets cost \$10 for Yolanda King or The Mighty Clouds Of Joy, or see both for one price of \$15. There is no admission charge for the Saturday festival. Tickets are available by mail with the coupon below, or in The Lobby Shop of The Charlotte Observer, at the Coliseum Box Office, and at the Afro American Cultural Center.

Send _____ tickets to Yolanda King. Enclosed is \$10 per ticket.
 Send _____ tickets to The Mighty Clouds Of Joy. Enclosed is \$10 per ticket.
 Send _____ combination tickets. Enclosed is \$15 per ticket.

Name _____
 Address _____
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 Phones: Day _____ Evening _____

Send self-addressed, stamped envelope with check or money order (payable to The Charlotte Observer) and coupon to Charlotte Observer Promotion, P.O. Box 30635, Charlotte, N.C. 28230.

THURSDAY

June 18
Yolanda King
Ovens Auditorium
8 p.m.

FRIDAY

June 19
The Mighty Clouds of Joy
With Local Gospel Choirs
Ovens Auditorium
8 p.m.

SATURDAY

June 20
Afro-American Outdoor Festival

Cultural Center
7th Street Vicinity
10 a.m.-6 p.m.

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Cab Ownership: A Plan for Success



The city of Charlotte is in need of expanded cab service. All hours of the day and especially during rush periods, the citizens of the Queen City want fast, dependable transportation and a clean comfortable modern automobile in which to ride. Yellow Cab Company has a plan that will enable drivers to meet the demands of the public with better looking Cabs and prompt service. This plan will enable all drivers to either buy or lease a 1985 or newer cab and start their own business with as small as a \$10 investment.

Experience has shown that the best possible service is provided by the individual driver/owner who is in the process of building his or her own business. An independent business person shows more Pride in the care and appearance of his or her own vehicle. Drivers who own their own taxicabs have a greater desire to give the type of service that builds repeat business for everyone. A new driver needs a valid North Carolina drivers license, a record of safe driving and a good working knowledge of the city. The company provides a proven

training, defensive driving, and behind the wheel training to enable a new driver to make good money from the very first day. As Charlotte emerges as an international city and tourism and commerce continue to grow, the opportunity for an independent businessperson has never been better. You can take advantage of this city's growth and drive your own cab. Come by Yellow Cab Company at 5006 Beatties Ford Road, and let Barbara Hardee or Robert Seals explain this exciting new program and put you behind the wheel today.

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