

The Charlotte Post
Thursday, May 26, 1988

ENTERTAINMENT

B Section

Part 2 of 3 Hampton Jazz Festival BEGINS! FRIDAY JUNE 24

Come on, y'all! Come hear the jazz pour down at the greatest musical extravaganza between Memphis, New Orleans & Chicago. The HAMPTON JAZZ FESTIVAL is coming! Get your tickets NOW!!

Come one! Come all!

LIME LIGHT



By WILLIAM JAMES BROCK
Post Entertainment Editor

Since June of 1968, Hampton (Va.) has been the home of one of America's most popular musical events - Hampton Jazz Festival. It is the longest, modern continuously run musical festival in the state.

This most prestigious event was born as a one time, two day celebration of Hampton Institute's centennial year. From that beginning, the Hampton Festival has grown to attract thousands of music lovers, from the mid-Atlantic and southern states yearly, to the heart of Hampton Roads for three days of sun, fun, and music, music, music.

Home based Armstrong Field for its first two years, the event moved to the Hampton Coliseum in 1970 and has enjoyed great success in this comfortable and weather protected 11,000-seat building.

An average of nearly 30,000 patrons attend the major festival activities over the three days. In the very best year the Hampton Jazz Festival has attracted just over 36,000 to its musical potpourri.

As one of the state's largest and most popular music events, the Hampton Jazz Festival is noted for attracting adults, sophisticated patrons who come to enjoy and be seen at a truly status event.

According to the Hampton Jazz Festival survey conducted in June, 1984, the following statistics impact our audience demographics: average age is 36; average salary, \$18,000 - \$24,000; average length of stay is three days with festival-goers from the Richmond, Petersburg, North Carolina (Eastern), Washington-Baltimore-Northern Virginia and local areas. Our audience, according to our survey, likes to eat, drink, dress and spend an average of \$25 - \$50 per day.

The ongoing sponsors of the annual event are Hampton University and the City of Hampton. It is produced by George Wein, an internationally known promoter and founder of the Newport Jazz Festival, and his Festival Productions, Inc. group.

DIONNE WARWICK

The overwhelming success of the 1986 single "That's What Friends Are For" is followed in 1987 by the spectacular single "Love Power", featuring the combined talents of Dionne Warwick and Jeffrey Osborne.

The single, from Dionne Warwick's current album on Arista Records, "Reservations for Two", was written and produced by Burt Bacharach and Carole Bayer Sager, who also co-wrote and produced "That's What Friends Are For" and is highlighted by the brilliant sax playing of Kenny G. "Reservations for Two", the album, finds Warwick dueting with the likes of Jeffrey Osborne, Smokey Robinson, Howard Hewett, Kashif, and June Pointer.

"That's What Friends Are For" won a 1986 Grammy for Dionne in the category, Best Performance by a Duo or Group, and the Best Song - Composer's Award for Burt Bacharach and Carole Bayer Sager. In addition, all proceeds from the sale of that single and a video of the recording session benefited the American Foundation for Aids Research (A.M.F.A.R.) The recording was Number One on the Billboard's Top 100 Chart Listings for four weeks, and has, to date, raised more than \$1 million for A.M.F.A.R.

Concurrent with her entertainment activities, Dionne has launched a perfume line avail-



FRIDAY · JUNE 24



MILES DAVIS

sional lifestyle chronicle. She also participated in the U.S.A. for Africa song, "We Are The World" and the subsequent "Live Aid" Concert broadcast world wide by satellite.

On December 12, 1985, Dionne was inducted into the Hollywood

Walk of Fame and received her "STAR" on historic Hollywood Boulevard. Coincidentally, that date is also Dionne's birthday.

"Reservations for Two" is

see HAMPTON/page 2B

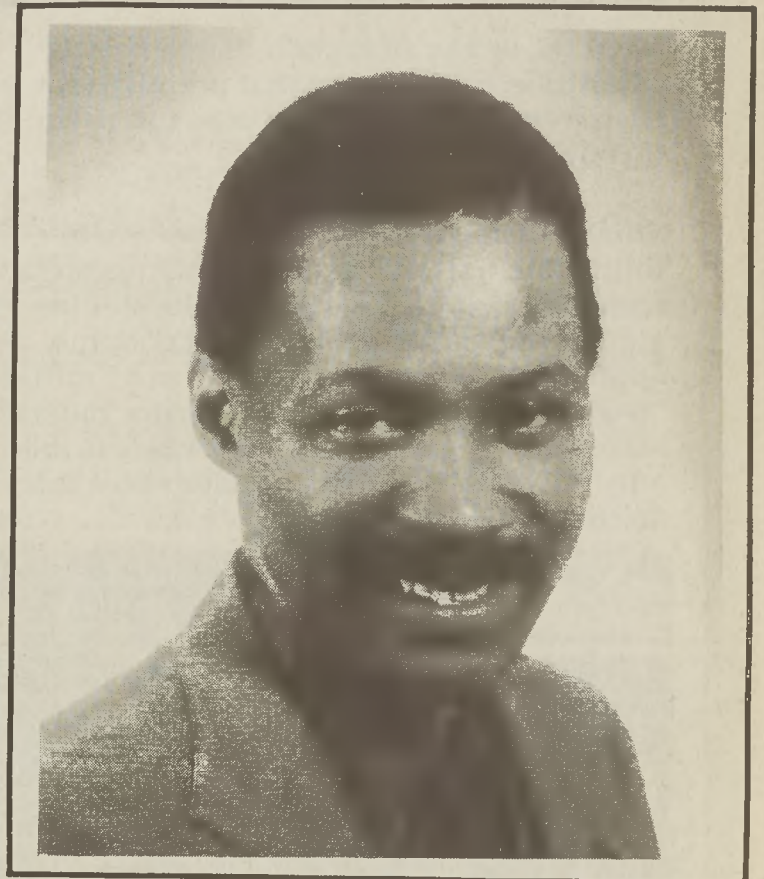


Photo: TONY WHITE

GARY BROWN POETIC LICENSE

By WILLIAM JAMES BROCK
Post Entertainment Editor

Anyone who had the good fortune to see Sean Connery as poet Samson Shillitoe in the film *A Fine Madness* can identify with Charlotte poet Gary Brown.

In the film, Connery's character worked at several trades and professions to keep body and soul together. And to keep the fires of his poetic muse banked and glowing with creative heat. Gary Brown has much in common with Samson Shillitoe. He has had to do exactly the same thing for most of his life.

"People always look at you a little strangely when you say you're a poet," Brown says. "I'll admit it's not the easiest way in the world to make an artistic contribution. Painters, photographers, novelists--all seem to at least get paid a little more for the work they sell. Poets usually work for love of the art form. It's not a get-rich-quick thing."

Brown has spent his life working hard in order to keep writing poetry. He has been a cabbie, bus driver and almost anything else legitimate he could to make a buck. Mostly he works in the building trades as a metal former. He is no stranger to hard times or hard work.

He works just as hard at writing poetry. It sometimes takes him months to perfect a poem or sonnet to his satisfaction. A sample of his work follows. It seems to sum up the essence of poets and Gary Brown.

I AM
I'm the Sun, the Earth,
the Moon and the Stars.
I am, I am Universe.
I live, I die,
I hate, I love,
I scream, I cry,
I do and I am all.
I'm men, I'm women'
I'm the tree by the sea.

I'm the motion of the ocean.
Take a look and you'll see,
That you're just like me.
I'm life, I'm death,
I'm love in motion.
I see, I feel,
I am devotion.

Although this is only a part of one of Brown's long poems, it sums up his work and his artistic philosophy. It is one that was forged in mean streets and up and down tough highways.

"I hope my poetry will help people gain some insight into how life is," Brown says. "It is all too easy to get a false perspective. How many times does the guy driving his BMW give a thought to migrant workers, for instance? It's easy to dip beneath the facade of humanity."

Born in Baltimore, Gary Brown went to New Jersey to live at an early age. He grew up in the gray streets of Newark. His parents still live there.

Although he wrote stories as a schoolboy--and even got good grades for them--he was a relative late bloomer as a poet. He wrote his first serious work at twenty-three.

"I broke my foot severely playing pick-up basketball," Brown says. "It took a long time to heal. I took up writing seriously while I was laid up. I also got into some heavy drinking at that time. The pain was so bad I would get drunk for relief."

Brown put the bottle down once he was healed--and took up the Bible. He became a street preacher at one point.

"I came to grips with God," he says. "We still have a hold on each other. A lot of my work is inspired by my thoughts on the mystery of God and the universe. It is a wonderful work."

see POET/page 5B

Huntersville Jam!

HUNTERSVILLE SPRING FESTIVAL begins FRIDAY, June 3 at 7:30 PM! The Festival Queen will be crowned that evening and the festival will open SATURDAY at 10 AM with a parade, floats, bands and the Carolina Clowns. Project Director LEVERA WYNN invites everyone to come and have a ball!

"We'll have softball, washpot fish fries, a big attic sale and lots of games for kids," Wynn says.

HUNTERSVILLE SPRING FESTIVAL will be in the David B. Waymer Complex on Holbrook Road off Highway 115 (Old Statesville Road). David Waymer, a star with the New Orleans Saints, will lead the Saturday parade.

JAMES W. DONALDSON, acclaimed artist, will have a special show of his paintings. The festival is sponsored by Huntersville Community Development Association in cooperation with Mecklenburg County Parks and Recreation Department. INFORMATION: (704)875-6915.