

# Green at the Afro Center

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match Green's paintings.

The Silver Slipper Dance Hall also featured live entertainment with the abundant singer Bessie Mae featured in a Jonathan Green painting with a blonde hairdo and a tight purple gown, microphone in hand. The ballet features Marlene Smalls, founder of the Hallelujah Singers and the actress who played Bubba's mother in the film "Forrest Gump."

Hours at the Afro-American Cultural Center are Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and on Sundays from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Admission is free. For additional information, call the Afro-American Cultural Center at 704-374-1565.

# Auditions scheduled

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students.

Auditions are held in the third floor rehearsal room of the Meroney Theater, at 213 South Main Street in Salisbury.

• Principal auditions for "Shear Madness," produced by Blumenthal Performing Arts Center.

Auditions by appointment: January 13: from 2pm-9pm

January 14: from 10am-6 pm.

Callbacks January 15: beginning at 1 p.m.

Equity Principal Auditions by appointment.

All auditions are at Spirit Square's Duke Power Theatre, 345 North College St.

Seeking: four men and two women and two understudies.

# Rawls a champion philanthropist

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The Pilgrim Travelers. He enlisted in 1955 as a paratrooper in the Army's 82nd Airborne Division. Sgt. Rawls rejoined The Pilgrim Travelers three years later.

While touring with the group, Rawls and Cooke were in a car crash that nearly ended Rawls' life. Cooke was slightly hurt, but another passenger was killed and Rawls was declared dead on the way to the hospital, according to Shefrin.

Rawls was in a coma for 5 1/2 days and suffered memory loss, but was completely recovered a year later.

"I really got a new life out of that," Rawls said at the time. "I saw a lot of reasons to live. I began to learn acceptance, direction, understanding and perception—all elements that had been sadly lacking in my life."

Rawls performed with Dick

Clark at the Hollywood Bowl in 1959. Late that year, Rawls was singing for \$10 a night plus pizza at Pandora's Box in Los Angeles when he was spotted by Capitol Records producer Nick Venet, who invited him to audition. He was signed by the label soon after.

The album "Stormy Monday," recorded in 1962 with the Les McCann Trio, was the first of Rawls' 52 albums. That same year, he collaborated on Cooke's hit "Bring It On Home to Me."

In 1966, Rawls' "Love Is a Hurtin' Thing" topped the charts and earned his first two Grammy nominations. He also opened for The Beatles in Cincinnati.

During that period, Rawls began delivering hip monologues about life and love on the songs "World of Trouble" and "Tobacco Road," each more than seven minutes

long. Some called them "pre-rap."

Rawls explained that he

had been working in clubs where the stage was behind noisy bars.

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