D

Section

A & E

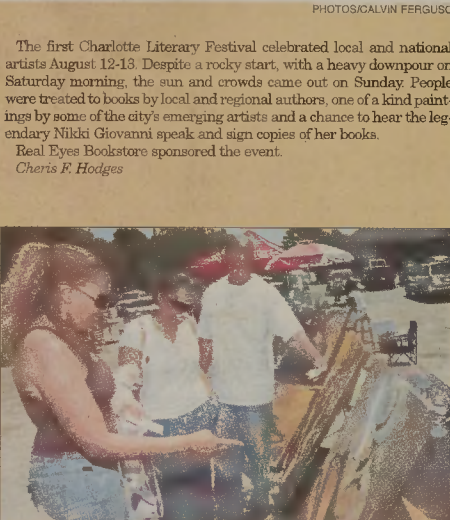# Well-read all over

Literary festival brought together readers and lovers of all things artistic

PHOTOS/CALVIN FERGUSON

The first Charlotte Literary Festival celebrated local and national artists August 12-13. Despite a rocky start, with a heavy downpour on Saturday morning, the sun and crowds came out on Sunday. People were treated to books by local and regional authors, one of a kind paintings by some of the city's emerging artists and a chance to hear the legendary Nikki Giovanni speak and sign copies of her books.

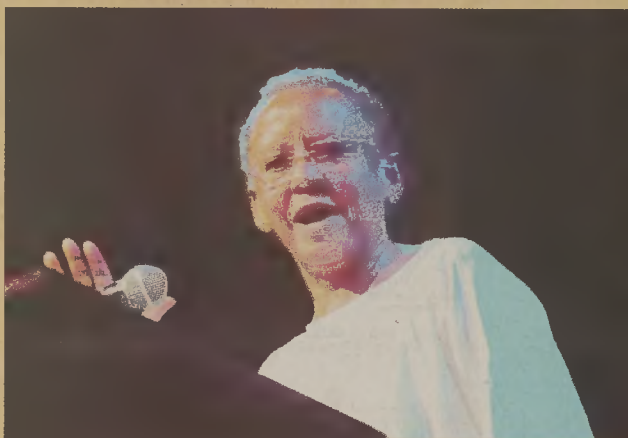Real Eyes Bookstore sponsored the event.

Cheris F. Hodges

Shaquora Bey, a natural hair specialist, tightens Renee Toon's locs in the vendor space in NoDa.

Brenda Peterson and Alicia Gregory admire the works of artist Joseph Hart.

Literary giants were also featured at the festival

PHOTO/PAUL WILLIAMS III

Nikki Giovanni, known for her love of the slain rapper Tupac Shakur and the poem "Ego Trippin'," was the headliner for the first Charlotte Literary Festival held in No Da.

New York Times best selling author Omar Tyree spoke to the crowd at the Neighborhood Theatre as a part of the first Charlotte Literary Festival, which was hosted by Real Eyes Bookstore.

Patrice Gaines, noted author and scholar took center stage at the Charlotte Literary Festival Sunday evening.

GALLERY REVIEW

Langford's abstractions at Modern Eye Gallery

By Sandy Seawright
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

Modern Eye Gallery
1923-A South Blvd.

In Charlotte galleries we most often see landscape painting and figurative work. Here is a great chance to see exciting, emerging abstract painting before the art season officially kicks off in September.

A native of Texas now living in Charlotte, Robert Langford is completely self-taught. He says his paintings are a methaphor for the way most lives are constructed, through a casual collection of meaningful and not-so-meaningful actions and reactions."

The artist has several paintings in a series called "One Thing Leads To Another." In version three of this series there is a nice plastic quality to the work. At the top of the picture a somewhat shiny red rectangle protects the grey/green shape below.

In the fourth and seventh versions of "One Thing Leads To Another," a thick ghost of a circle appears." This is very personal imagery open to the subjective interpretation by the viewer.

One of the star pictures here, "Based on Common Sense" works from two different perspectives. From a distance it's a bit overwhelming a little crowded. However, viewed up close, the picture has a radiance and a strong feeling of community. We see little doors that may hold all kinds of opportunities.

Two paintings here are alone worth the trip to the gallery. "Being Authentic" has a command that the painter is finding his basic visual vocabulary. The gallery information says Langford is inspired by the abstract expressionists.

The bold black line reminds

Winfred Cross
Sights

Hero with a kung-fu grip

Hong Kong Phooey
Complete Series
2 Disc Set
Scatman Crothers, Joe E. Ross,
Kathy Gori, Richard Dawson
Warner Home Video

★★★☆

In 1974, I didn't start my Saturday mornings without watching the wacky "Hong Kong Phooey." Simple animation and even simpler stories was all it took at the time to make a hit show.

And "Phooey" was a hit, thanks to the Kung Fu craze at the time. Vaudevillian actor Scatman Crothers was perfect as the bungling hero. Phooey and his striped cat Spot (go figure) caught the bad guys despite the fact that Phooey (the mild-mannered Penrod "Penry" Pooch) had little skill at anything.

Phooey did have his way with the ladies, or lady. Rosemary (Kathy Gori), the police station's switchboard operator had the hots for Phooey. Rosemary's boss, Sgt. Flint, (Joe E. Ross) was jealous and miffed that a crime dog kept stealing his thunder.

Phooey and Spot chased the Claw, Gum Drop Kid and The Giggler until they eventually caught them in the cool Phooey Mobile that was part Batmobile, part "Beverly Hillbillies" jalopy.

This two-disc set contains commentaries on three episodes by some original behind the scenes people, a storyboard that can be viewed beside the original episode and a documentary.

This thing is short and sweet. The original episodes were only 11 minutes each, except the finale, which went 30. If you've got any sentiment for the '70s, this set is the perfect way to reminisce.

Ratings

Classic;
★★★★★

Excellent,
★★★★

Good
★★★

Fair
★★

Why?
★

No stars – A mess

● ● ●