

A festival week of black culture

March 26-31

Cicely Tyson

Proud to portray women, heritage

By CAROLYN WORSLEY

When actress Cicely Tyson received widespread recognition for her roles in *Sounder* and "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman," she did not represent just another talented actress who had finally made a name for herself.

She represented a black woman who was proud of the features and the heritage of her race, and who was not ashamed to portray a black woman on the screen.

Tyson will appear at 8 p.m. Monday in Memorial Hall in an "Evening with Cicely Tyson" in which she will perform dramatic readings from the poetry of Nikki Giovanni and other authors and give her own commentary.

Tyson began her acting career 22 years ago in an amateur production of the Vinnette Carroll play *Dark Side of the Moon*.

Carolyn Worsley is a staff writer for the Daily Tar Heel.



Cicely Tyson as herself and as Miss Jane Pittman



after a secretarial job and a successful stint as a model.

In 1972 Tyson received an Academy Award nomination for her role as Rebecca in the film *Sounder*. Her film career has been marked by similar degrees of excellence since *Sounder*.

Tyson won two Emmys her role as Jane Pittman in the television drama "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman." Film critic Rex Reed described Tyson in that role as "one of the most brilliant performances I have ever seen by a woman of any color, any age, any season."

Tyson has also appeared in *Roots*,

"Wilma" and "King," a television drama on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in which Tyson plays his wife, Coretta Scott King.

Most recently, Tyson played the role of Harriet Tubman in the television special "A Woman Called Moses." She won the award for best actress from the International Television Festival in Monte Carlo for that role.

Tyson will appear in conjunction with the Black Arts Festival. Her performance is co-sponsored by the festival and the Carolina Forum Committee. Tickets are \$1.50 and are on sale at the Carolina Union desk.

A week of arts, entertainment

By CAROLYN WORSLEY

After a four-year absence, the Black Arts Festival, a week of workshops, performances and speakers dealing with black art, returns this week.

"Our purpose is to expose the UNC and Chapel Hill community to black art by bringing in national, international and local artists," said Greg Pennington, cultural coordinator for the Black Student Movement, which is sponsoring the event.

One of the biggest attractions this year should be the appearance of Cicely Tyson at 8 p.m. Monday in Memorial Hall.

In the "Evening with Cicely Tyson," the award-winning actress and producer will perform dramatic poetry readings and give her own commentary.

Tyson was asked to appear because the festival coordinators felt a female black artist was needed and because of Tyson's familiarity with a number of artistic media including film, television and poetry, Pennington said.

Carolyn Worsley is a staff writer for the Daily Tar Heel.

"She also has a pretty clear idea of the impact of film on society," he said.

Tyson is being sponsored by the Black Arts Festival and the Carolina Forum Committee. Tickets are \$1.50 and are on sale at the Carolina Union desk.

Other black artists appearing during the week will be art historian Rosalind Jeffries, LaVerne Players director Herman Jones, Brookside Harrington and the Choral Ensemble, and mime Billy J. Banner. Also featured will be the Bowie State Dancers, the Ebony Dance Theatre and the New York Community Choir, which has performed background music for Nikki Giovanni poetry recordings. There will be a \$4 admission charge for the New York Community Choir performance.

The Opeyo Dancers, the BSM Gospel Choir and the Ebony Readers will also perform on Friday night.

Five workshops and a religion seminar will be conducted during the week. The visiting performing artists will conduct workshops in their areas of expertise in vocals, dance, drama and mime. Durham poet Lance Jeffers will conduct a fifth workshop on poetry.

The religion seminar will be conducted Thursday in the Carolina Union by a panel of local theologians.

Students wishing to attend a workshop or needing more information should contact the BSM office at 933-8345.

Art works by black students from different campuses will be on exhibit throughout the week in South Gallery of the Union.

Saturday morning offers the chance for people to sample and collect recipes for a variety of "soul food" and African dishes at the Soul Food Taste Fair at 11 a.m. in Upendo Lounge of Chase Cafeteria. Chapel Hill women and students will donate dishes, and 50 cents admission will be charged.

After the fair, workshop participants will have the chance to demonstrate what they have learned in a "Do Your Own Thing" talent show at 12:30 p.m. in Upendo.

The Black Arts Festival was held annually in the early 70s but was discontinued, Pennington said. Distressed by the lack of black artists appearing in Chapel Hill, Pennington said the BSM has worked this year to revive the festival.

where to

PLACE	DAY	TIME (p.m.)	EVENT and ARTIST
217 Union Hill Hall	Sun.	3:30-6	Reception for and lecture by Rosalind Jeffries
South Gallery Memorial Hall	Mon.	all week	Choral ensemble headed by Brookside Harrington
Upendo Memorial Hall	Tues.	8:00	Black art exhibit
		3:30-6	Cicely Tyson, admission \$1.50
		8:00	Vocal workshop by Brookside Harrington
209 Union Great Hall	Wed.	3:30-6	New York Community Choir, admission \$4.00
		7-8	Poetry workshop
		8:30	Theater workshop by Herman Jones
Upendo	Thurs.	3:30-6	Readers theater performance: "Black Woman: Sumbe Sumba Luye Koon"
			Dance workshop by Bowie State Dancers
207 & 209 Union		2:00-6:30	Religion seminar by Chaplin Edwards (and a panel of local theologians)
Memorial Hall		8:00	Performances by Bowie State Dancers and Ebony Dance Theatre
217 Union Memorial Hall	Fri.	3:30-6	Mime workshop by Billy J. Banner
		8:00	Performances by Billy J. Banner followed by the cultural groups of the Black Student Movement
			a) Opeyo Dancers
			b) Black Student Movement Gospel Choir
			c) Ebony Readers
Upendo	Sat.	11:00 a.m.	Soul Food Taste Fair, admission 50 cents
		12:30	"Do Your Own Thing" (a talent show where people will be able to show what they have learned from workshops and performances)

Spirituals trace music

The first performance of next week's Black Arts Festival will give Chapel Hill an example of perhaps the most well-known form of black American art—the spiritual.

Organized by senior speech education major Brookside Harrington, *The Evolution of Spirituals and the Oral Tradition* is a presentation by a 20-voice choral ensemble, four musicians and a narrator.

The performance, at 8 p.m. Sunday in Hill Hall Auditorium, will trace the history of black music from the oldest traditional spiritual to modern gospel pieces. The program will include such songs as *You Got Shoes*, *I Got Shoes*, *Draw Nigh*, *Close*, and *Steal Away To Jesus*.

Sharon Wellington, a junior music major, will be a featured soloist. Junior political science major Rosalind Fuse will fill in with narrative background. Musicians include: pianists Phillip Worth, Carmen

Battle and Brookside Harrington; and percussionist Curt Garret.

The performance will be a "dress-up affair," said Harrington, but no admission will be charged.

Herman LaVerne Jones, director of the LaVerne Players Inc., will be leading a dramatic workshop sponsored by the BSM's Onyx Theatre from 7-8 p.m. Wednesday, March 28, in Great Hall of the Carolina Union.

At 8:30 p.m. the players will present a dance and reader's theatre production of Jones' *Black Woman: Sumbe Sumba Luye Koon* ("I have nothing, but we have everything."), a poetic tribute to the strength of black women.

ANN SMALLWOOD



The spiritual is perhaps the most well-known form of black art

DTH/WJL Owens

BSM culture groups present unity of silence, dance, song

An evening of black culture at UNC will conclude the Black Arts Festival with featuring the cultural arms of the Black Student Movement—the Ebony Readers, the BSM Gospel Choir and the Opeyo Dancers.

The theme of the evening, which begins at 8 in Memorial Hall, is: "From the silence comes the sound, the dance and the song."

"Next Friday is the closing for the festival, and what we've tried to do is pull together various art forms to create a feeling of unity," said Greg Pennington, an Opeyo Dancer and cultural coordinator for the groups.

The performance will begin, as the theme indicates, with silence from mimist Billy J. Banner. Following the silence, will be sound from the Ebony Readers.

The Readers are a group of seven that prepares works of prose and poetry to present on campus, in Chapel Hill, and at other schools across the state. They will read well known black poetry, drama and some original material with the theme of unity and the black man's struggle.

Their last poem, "For the People" by Margaret Walker, will be interpreted by the

Opeyo Dancers. The 20 member group performs almost every kind of dance, including classical, modern, jazz and boogie. Most dances are choreographed by group members and then taught to the group.

"Each dancer will be doing his own thing for the first dance," Pennington said. "We are interested in dance as an expression. Each dance has a story to tell." Besides dancing to a poem as it is being read, the dancers will perform to a song by Quincy Jones entitled "Many Rains Ago." "The message of this song is the longing of black people for home," Pennington said.

The last dance routine is "Could You Believe" by Al Jarreau. The BSM Gospel Choir will accompany the dancers and will sing five songs. The 30-member Choir is a religious group, said Gaynell Biggs, Choir president. "The majority of our members are Christians," she said. "We sing to the glory of God."

The evening's unique mixture of black art in expressing one message can be enjoyed by everyone, Pennington said. "Exposure to black art is something the total community can enjoy."

JAY HAMILTON



The gospel choir "sings for the glory of God"

DTH/Andy Jones

Notable groups reflect culture in performance

By MARY BETH STARR

Several notable groups reflecting black culture appear at UNC this week in conjunction with the Black Arts Festival. The New York Community Choir will present a concert of gospel music, and the Ebony Dance Theatre, the Bowie State Dancers and mime Billy J. Banner will all perform and hold workshops during the week.

The New York Community Choir will give its concert at 8 p.m. on March 27 in Memorial Hall.

The choir has received numerous awards and critical acclaim, including gold records, Grammy nominations and Ebony Music Poll's award for the number-one gospel choir in 1974 and 1975. The choir has also recorded with such artists as Vicky Sue Robinson and Melba Moore.

The choir is directed by Benny Diggs and expresses the belief that "gospel cannot be confined to the churches." Their belief in a new beginning for gospel music has produced a sound which is contemporary, yet traditional in gospel.

Tickets are \$4 for Tuesday's concert, which is

Mary Beth Starr is a staff writer for the Daily Tar Heel.

sponsored by the BSM and the Carolina Union, and are available at the Union desk.

The Bowie State Dancers are holding a dance workshop from 3:30-6:00 p.m. March 29, instructing in their style of dance-modern, to predominantly black popular music.

The group is 15 students from Bowie State University in Maryland, under the direction of Alice Montgomery who is formerly from North Carolina. The dancers will give a joint performance with the Ebony Dance Theatre at 8 p.m. Thursday in Memorial Hall.

The Ebony Dance Theatre of North Carolina Central University was founded to expose children of disadvantaged cultural backgrounds to the art of modern dance. The group relates technique with choreography that depicts Afro-American culture, using whatever style is necessary—modern, ethnic, or jazz.

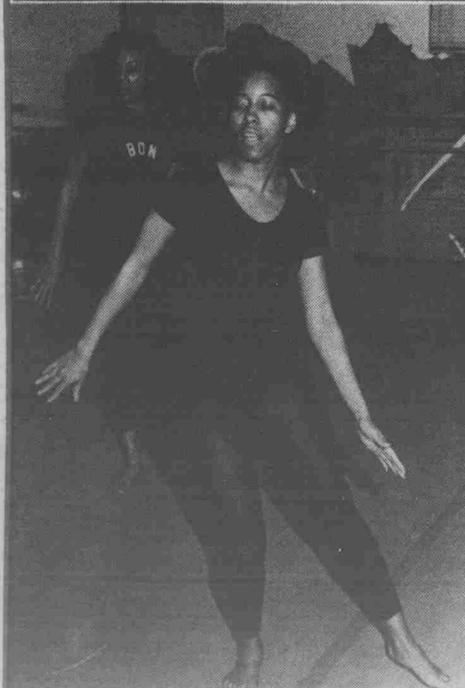
The group is directed by Phyllis Ledbetter and has performed at colleges and benefits throughout the state.

Billy J. Banner is the most visible of a handful of black mimes in the United States today. Banner will hold a mime workshop from 3:30-6 p.m. March 30 in the Carolina Union and will perform at 8 p.m. in Memorial Hall.

Banner was born in Concord, N.C., and went on to study drama at the University of Notre Dame. World-famous mime Marcel Marceau saw Banner perform there and asked him to return to Paris with his company. But Banner chose to remain and finish his education.

After graduating, Banner went to New York where he studied mime under Moni Yakim, one of Marceau's students. In New York, he emerged as one of the fastest rising mimes.

Banner has also acted in soap operas and off-Broadway plays, modeled in commercials, and with groups such as the famous Mummenschanz.



The Opeyo Dancers will tell stories through their movements

DTH/Andy Jones