

MILLION

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from the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation in Winston-Salem, helped to underwrite some of the administrative expenses associated with upgrading the university's Office of Institutional Advancement in launching and conducting the endowment campaign.

According to President Shaw, this broad-based donor support illustrates the commitment to and confidence in the university among its many constituents. This base of support also signals the future growth and development potential of the university.

Shaw University is a member of the United Negro College Fund, Inc., offering majors in 30 fields of study and granting A.A., B.A., and B.S. degrees. In addition to its program at the Raleigh campus, the university serves students in several areas of the State of North Carolina through 10 strategically located Centers for Alternative Programs in Education (CAPE).

125 YRS.

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Absokie, Asheville, Fayetteville, High Point, Kannapolis, Raleigh, Rocky Mount, and Wilmington. In addition, there are extremely active CAPE centers in Raleigh's Central Prison and the Women's Correctional Center.

While all of this shows the university's dedication and adherence to its original mission, it does not present Shaw's more personal and humanistic approach to its students. This is not an institution where an accumulated body of knowledge is merely passed on to the next generation of students. One of the first things noticed on the campus is the very caring and supportive atmosphere where students have the opportunity to grow, develop, and achieve more than they ever dreamed possible. For students coming from such diverse backgrounds, this environment says more about the university's aims and successes than any formally set-out goals or graduates could ever do. By example, it presents the added characteristics of individual and societal responsibility.

Dr. Talbert O. Shaw, now beginning his third year as the 12th President of Shaw University, has brought to the institution a "renaissance" in the true meaning of the word. No longer can mere decent quality be accepted; the spirit of the university is reflected in the words of the motto: "Strides to Excellence: Why Not the Best?" The university is truly a unified family, and Dr. Shaw has issued an open invitation: "Come by; visit with us. See and feel what we mean when we refer to 'the Shaw family.'"

Actor Shines In Role As Teacher

BY JUDY ANDREWS

Many soap opera fans will remember him as police Lt. Ed Hall, a featured player for 17 years on the popular daytime drama "One Life to Live."

Now actor Al Freeman, Jr. has assumed a new continuing role as teacher and mentor to drama students in the Howard University College of Fine Arts.

Freeman, a veteran of eight Broadway plays and many television appearances, received an Emmy Award in 1979 for outstanding actor in a daytime series.

Describing his stint this year as artist-in-residence in Howard's Department of Drama as "splendid misery," Freeman says he has always wanted to work with students and just stumbled on the opportunity at Howard.

"I was doing a play last year at Arena Stage [in Washington, D.C.] and asked a friend who happens to teach here if he could show me around the campus," he says in an interview. "I arrived only to find out that she had scheduled me to do an informal workshop with students."

Apparently, during the session several students asked why he couldn't come back, and before he knew it he had agreed to return this fall. Thinking back on this scene with the students, Freeman smiles, wondering if they had been prompted to beg for his services.

The actor is no stranger to academic life. At the urging of his friend, actor Bill Cosby, he returned to school in 1976 and two years later received a master of education degree from the University of

Massachusetts, the same institution Cosby attended.

"Cosby said, 'Go do this!'" Freeman says with a hearty laugh, explaining that after 30 years, he had to struggle with college entrance examinations.

Working with students in a university setting has taken some adjustments which Freeman, who has worked in professional theater some 30 years, is trying to manage with a smile.

During a recent visit, he had students interrupting him with excuses about missed rehearsals, costume questions, and problems with other instructors who didn't want to give them class release time to work on Freeman's production of "A Soldier's Play."

Yet, he says that there is no thrill like watching a student who, after repeated attempts, finally gets the part right.

Recently, in Howard University's newly renovated Ira Aldridge Theater, Freeman's "miseries" paid off as he and a cast of students and professionals presented "A Soldier's Play," a story of murder and racism during World War II which was written by Charles Fuller.

Freeman played the role of the irascible Sgt. Waters, a part played on the screen by the late Adolph Caesar.

Speaking fondly of Caesar, he told a story of twice having almost played this same part on the New York stage and in the Norman Jewison film production of the play. When Caesar needed a two-week rest from the Broadway production, Freeman was asked to step in but declined, and then again he was asked to audition for the film when it seemed Caesar



HOW HOWARD TEACHER—Actor Al Freeman Jr., who portrayed Lt. Ed Hall for many years on the daytime soap opera "One Life to Live," is now teaching in Howard University's College of Fine Arts. As artist-in-residence, Freeman and a cast of students and professionals recently presented a production, "A Soldier's Play," at the university's Ira Aldridge Theater. (Photo by Harlan Little)

would be unavailable for the role.

In the Howard production, Freeman is also directing, a decision he now jokingly laments as foolhardy.

"I don't think playwrights should direct their own plays and I don't think actors should direct themselves either," he stresses. "It makes the process rather fragmented."

In addition to his work on the university production, Freeman, who has directed for

both stage and television, also teaches a class, "Acting for Television and Film," on Mondays and hopes to teach some master acting classes next semester.

Asked about his own career, which he describes as "somewhat checkered," he simply says that he is looking into a few things. In the meantime, he is contemplating retirement while happily living on his boat in a little town near Annapolis, Md.

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