

# ENTERTAINMENT

## Betty Carter & Trio To NCSU Stewart Theatre

On Sunday, April 28, at 8 p.m., in NCSU's Stewart Theatre, the WUNC Jazz at Center Stage series is proud to present Betty Carter and her trio. Named Female Jazz Vocalist of the Year by Downbeat's Critics' Poll and winner of a Grammy for the album "Look What I Got," Betty Carter may finally be reaping some long-awaited recognition. Her career in jazz spans 40 years, during which she remained true to her vision of performing jazz.

Even when rock took over record companies in the '60s and '70s, and Ella Fitzgerald could be found crooning Gershwin, Carter retaliated by forming her own label, Bet-Car, and learning the producing end of the business. After years of sitting tight through the thick and thin times of jazz, Ms. Carter's commercial and critical acclaim seem to be going hand in hand. In 1988 she had three albums, from No. 1 on down, in Billboard's top 20. She has appeared and performed on "The Cosby Show" and in a soft-drink commercial.

But Betty Carter has never been one to simply go for the glitter or rest on the jazz laurels she's acquired. She made a commitment to the artform when she got started singing with Lionel Hampton and Dizzy Gillespie, and she hasn't strayed from it yet. Her latest release, "Droppin' Things," explores more of the scat-filled, expressive Carter voice. She's also trying out new performance styles, such as segueing all the songs of an evening's show into one piece. Her professionalism and onstage elan come from her many years in the business, but her attitude belies those years—she's still, and probably will remain, quick, aggressive, and ready to take a risk.

Tickets for Betty Carter are \$17 for the general public and \$25 for special reserved Inner Circle seating. Call (919) 737-3104 for convenient MasterCard/VISA orders, or come by the Stewart Theatre box office Monday through Friday 10 a.m.-5:45 p.m. Special accommodations available for people with special needs.

## Inspired Black Filmmakers Create Movement

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Inspired by box-office success, young black filmmakers are doing movies their own way and, in the process, creating a new black cinema movement, House Party producer Warrington Hudlin says.

Hudlin, former president of the New York-based Black Filmmakers Foundation, said movies like She's Gotta Have It, Hollywood Shuffle, I'm Gonna Get You Sucka, To Sleep With Anger and others have established the trend.

Filmmakers such as Spike Lee, Keenan Ivory Wayans and Charles Burnett aren't churning out '90s versions of "blaxploitation" movies of the 1970, like Shaft and Superfly, Hudlin said.

"They're low budget films aimed at a particular market and some tremendous revenues have been generated," Hudlin said.

"The advantage that black filmmakers have is that because our particular experience in this country has been historically kept off-camera, we have 400 years of undocumented experience," he said. "So we can be free of those kind of dried-up, played-out formulas and get into some incredible human drama."



PAMMELA D'PELLA

## Actress Pammela D'Pella's Career Continues To Spiral

Actress Pammela D'Pella began her career in the time-honored tradition of generations of actors before her... in theatre. A string of highly successful commercial and modeling assignments put the statuesque D'Pella on the map, soon winning her a guest spot on ABC's popular soap "General Hospital." This exposure led to more ambitious roles on other soaps... "The Bold and the Beautiful" and NBC's perennial favorite, "Santa Barbara."

At the same time D'Pella, whose master's work in directing was done at the University of Louisville, and undergraduate studies at the University of Cincinnati, also began landing guest roles on popular television series such as "Working Girl," "ALF," "Hunter," "Beauty and the Beast," "L.A. Law," and a co-starring role in the CBS movie of the week, "Love and Betrayal." A co-starring role in the new series "Tales

of the Crypt," opposite Lea Thompson, followed and D'Pella's performance garnered her considerable attention.

D'Pella made her feature film debut in Warner Brothers' "Who's That Girl" with Madonna and Griffen Dunne, then went on to appear in the film "Babe" and in Paramount's "Internal Affairs" with Richard Gere and Andy Garcia. D'Pella's acting career is seemingly locked in high gear. She recently completed back-to-back work on two films in which she is starring, Concorde's "Angel in Red" and RCA/Columbia's highly anticipated dramedy, "Love and Venus," opposite Bud Cort and James Brolin.

"Love and Venus" promises to be a significant showcase for D'Pella's talents; other co-stars include Rhea Perlman, Woody Harrelson, Carol Kane and Gena Rowlands. Both pictures are slated for release this year.

## "Coarse Acting Show" to City's Theatre In The Park

British playwright Michael Green published "Downwind of Upstage" in 1966. The book became so popular, Green then wrote a companion script titled "The Coarse Acting Show" which was presented at the 1977 Edinburgh Festival. Two other scripts, all illustrating the art of "coarse acting," soon followed.

Green's initial description of a "coarse actor" was "one who can remember the lines but not the order in which they come." Some other equally accurate definitions are: "one who knows when to come onstage, but not where; one who addresses the scenery instead of the audience; and one who can remember the last play they were in better than the current one."

"The Coarse Acting Show" is an example of "coarse theatre" at its

finest. We are introduced to a company of well-meaning actors from the South Hampton Institute of Theatre, Roe-Upon-Toast, England, who, throughout the evening, find themselves battling "Murphy's

Theatrical Law" as sets collapse, props don't work and unexpected people appear onstage for no reason. Buoyed by the Coarse Actor's Axiom, "The audience didn't notice a thing," the undaunted group struggles on with "coarse acting" examples ranging from Shakespeare to Agatha Christie.

A true coarse actor spends the greater part of his career rushing through dressing rooms, changing beards and costumes every so often as he tries to carry a spear for both sides, until finally, clad in unsanitary and evil-spelling armor, he is spat

## PlayMakers' Actors Say 'Pericles' Treasure Waiting To Be Discovered

"Pericles" may not be the best-known among the works of William Shakespeare, but according to three guest artists appearing in PlayMakers Repertory Company's coming production, the play is a treasure waiting to be discovered.

Directed by PlayMakers artistic director David Hammond, the production features guest artists Craig Wroe, Peter Bradbury and Ken Strong. It will be presented April 17-May 12.

The play follows the fortunes of Pericles, prince of Tyre, through a lifelong journey of adventures and ultimate triumph. "Pericles" is a huge epic," said Wroe, who will appear in the title role. "More things happen in this play than in any other work of Shakespeare's."

"In fact, just about everything that can happen to this man does," he said of the title character. "We first see Pericles as a wide-eyed young prince who thinks he can handle anything. But almost immediately, he finds out how ugly and black the world can be.

He flees his homeland, survives two shipwrecks, loses his wife and child and comes to believe that he is merely a sport for the gods. Then he is saved by his daughter, Marina, in what I think is the best scene Shakespeare ever wrote."

"It's a fantastic play, and a fantastical one," Wroe added. "It has many of the same themes as the great works from the end of Shakespeare's career—"The Winter's Tale," "The Tempest," and "Cymbeline."

Bradbury will appear as Cleon, a king who befriends Pericles, then acquiesces in the treachery that his own wife and daughter plot against Marina, the daughter of Pericles.

"Cleon is a challenge to play because although he is a well-intentioned fellow, he's not strong enough," Bradbury said. "He wants to do the honorable thing, but he can't—so he is left with the moniker 'wicked.'"

"Pericles" is a terrific story, and a beautiful play," he continued. "It's all about faith—the faith that no mat-

ter how bad things are, everything will come out all right in the end."

While Wroe and Bradbury are appearing with PlayMakers for the first time, Ken Strong performed with the company from 1980 to 1983 as a student in the graduate Professional Actor Training Program of the University of North Carolina Department of Dramatic Art. Among his PlayMakers appearances were roles in "The Greeks," "Three Sisters," and "The Front Page."

For Strong, "Pericles" is "a wonderful adventure"—one that finds him playing three character roles. Strong will appear as Antiochus, a villainous ruler from whom the youthful Pericles flees for his life. Simonides, a benevolent king who becomes Pericles' father-in-law, and Pander, the master of a brothel.

"This is a great story," Strong said. "The kind that spans someone's entire life. We become very involved with Pericles as we stay with him through a series of remarkable adventures—like a tale from the Arabian nights."

## Arts & Humanities Awards To Hear Soprano & Baritone At Dinner

Soprano Jacquelyn Cuipepper and baritone Tony Deaton will present a concert for guests and honorees at the annual Governor's Business Council on the Arts and Humanities Awards Dinner on April 23 at 7:30 p.m. in Raleigh. Current and past members of the N.C. Arts Council's Visiting Artist program, the vocalists will perform at the festivities to be held at the Marriott Hotel at Crabtree Valley. Gov. Jim Martin will present the evening's honors.

Co-hosts for the awards dinner include Cultural Resources Secretary Patric Dorsey and Tom Roberg, Governor's Business Council chairman.

A critically acclaimed opera singer, soloist and recitalist, Jacquelyn Cuipepper has performed from New Jersey to Miami. Her numerous appearances on public and commercial television and radio include WUNC-TV's broadcast of "Salute to Masterpiece Theatre" with the N.C. Symphony. She performs regularly with the N.C. and

Charlotte symphonies.

Possessing proven lyrical artistry the soprano's glowing reputation has won her more than 30 different musical and operatic roles. Ms. Cuipepper's oratorio repertoire includes performances with such renowned conductors as the Atlanta Symphony's Robert Shaw. The two artists recently collaborated on Brevard Music Center's 50th anniversary celebration, with Ms. Cuipepper singing the soprano solo in Beethoven's Ninth Symphony which Shaw conducted.

Jacquelyn Cuipepper is currently rehearsing with Opera Carolina for her debut as Josephine in Gilbert and Sullivan's "H.M.S. Pinafore." She is a visiting artist at Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte.

A well-known baritone, Tony Deaton has established himself as the consummate performing artist. His background includes extensive opera, recital and symphony concert experience.

For two seasons, the singer toured

with the National Opera Company. He has also performed with many regional opera companies and symphony orchestras throughout the Southeast and Midwest.

Deaton recently made his New York debut at the International Festival of the Arts, playing the title role in Harrison Birtwistle's avant garde opera, "Punch and Judy." A visiting artist program alumnus, Deaton was last in residence at Edgecombe Technical College in Tarboro.

Cuipepper and Deaton have sung together for several years. One of their best known shows is "Hot Coles," featuring the sophisticated lyrics and music of Cole Porter.

The Visiting Artist Program is a joint project of the N.C. Arts Council, a division of the Department of Cultural Resources, and the Department of Community Colleges.

For further information on the Governor's Business Awards, contact Grace Taylor at 733-5722.



NEW JACK CITY — Russell Wong as Detective Kim Park; Marie Van Peebles as Detective Stone; Judd Nelson as Detective Nick Peretti and Ice-T as "Scotty" Appleton

are out to expose a ruthless mobster in Warner Bros. contemporary gangster epic, New Jack City, also starring Wesley Snipes and Christ Rock.



LET'S DANCE — Chuck Davis and the African-American Dance Ensemble are extending greetings and an invitation to join their 1991 cultural arts safari's return to the Gambia, West Africa. This annual study program is

facilitated by Chuck Davis, artistic director of the internationally acclaimed ensemble. Dates are July 31-August 16. For additional information call 1-800-348-7200 or 919-596-0713.

with the hole in his tights exposed to the audience.

And yet, coarse actors have the ability to determine the success or failure of any play. For instance, an actor has been known to ruin an entire production of "Macbeth" by running onstage and shouting, "The Queen, my lord, is NOT dead!" In fact, most coarse actors spend much of their time in dressing rooms having competitions to invent lines which could bring famous plays to premature conclusions. The non-Shakespearean title is held by, "Thank you, Professor Higgins, after only ONE lesson I feel I can speak perfectly."

Fourteen coarse actors onstage at the same time is something that happens only in nightmares—and in this production. The dedicated company members from Roe-Upon-Toast, England, have descended on Raleigh's Theatre in the Park with their own special brand of total insanity. Anything can happen in "The Coarse Acting Show"—and probably will. You'll have to see it to believe it, splitting your sides along the way.

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Poverty is nothing to be ashamed of, but it's awfully inconvenient.

## N. C. Theatre Sets Auditions For Two Upcoming Productions Here

The North Carolina Theatre will be holding auditions for "Cinderella" and "Showboat" on April 18. Auditions will be held in the Rehearsal Hall of Raleigh Memorial Auditorium, 1 East South St., in Downtown Raleigh at 6 p.m.

Rehearsals for "Cinderella" begin July 15, the show opens on July 31 and closes on Aug. 4. Rehearsals for

"Showboat" begin Aug. 19, the show opens on Sept. 4 and closes on Sept. 8.

Please bring resume, picture and music in the key which to be sung. All are asked to prepare two songs, an uptempo and a ballad. Ages 16 and up only.

Call 831-6940 with additional questions.

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