March 2-8, 1992

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LISTINGS INSIDE: ART • CABARETS • CONCERTS • THEATER RESTAURANTS • FREE-FOR-ALL

## SOMEWHERE OVER GEORGIA

arly in the film, Fried Green Tomatoes, Buddy
Threadgood tells a story about a big lake where the family used to go fishing. Then one day some ducks came to live on the lake. Soon after their arrival, there was a precipitous drop in temperature. The lake froze and the ducks flew away, taking the lake with them. Now the lake is out there flying somewhere over Georgia.



Although she has heard that story over and over again, Ruth, the girl Buddy loved, wants to hear that same story while she lies deathly ill in a darkened room. Stories are so very important in our lives. They thread together the fragments of our days. They don't desert us when trouble knocks on our door and refuses to go away. They remain in our brains, soothing us when all else fails. Like food, stories console us and make bearable the unbearable.

As the title implies, food is pivotal in this film about the South and how it has and hasn't changed since the early days of this century. During the Depression, Ruth and Idgie Threadgood, Buddy's sister, refuse to accept conventional roles as women and instead operate a restaurant called the Whistle-Stop Cafe. They serve crusty and succulent pies, fried green tomatoes and barbecue ("the secret's in the sauce") that has become legendary. Their restaurant dominates a prominent corner in a tiny Alabama town right across from the train station.

There's more than one story here. There's the story of the Threadgood family, and the atomized black family (mother, son, and granddaughter) that works and cares for them. There's also the contemporary story of Evelyn and her husband. Evelyn befriends the octogenarian Miss Threadgood who lives in a nursing home and fills her environment with flowers. Miss Threadgood keeps the past alive and blooming through the stories she tells Evelyn out of her memory garden. It's because of these stories that Evelyn discovers the beat of her own heart.

The Threadgoods are good people. Their love is sturdy and consistent. Once they love you, they never stop no matter what the rest of the world thinks of you. They are the charmers and the charmed. Idgie Threadgood can steal honey from a bee. She can stick her hand into the hive and walk away swarming with bees, but she never gets stung. This engaging story, adapted for the screen from Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle-Stop Cafe, a novel by Fannie Flagg, also plunges deep into the heart of violence.

Flagg tells a captivating story of undying love and untimely death, of domestic cruelty, of revenge and loss, and of high-hatted Klansmen stalking the night. The performances are thrilling. Jessica Tandy, Kathy Bates, Mary Stuart Masterson and Mary-Louise Parker couldn't work better together. Cicely Tyson is amazing as the titular head of a reduced black family where each of three successive generations is represented by only one member. Stan Shaw is loyalty personified as her salt-of-the earth son.

Fried Green Tomatoes is above all a woman's story. Men are present in the film but clearly subordinate. Therein lies a danger. Don't misunderstand. I'm not arguing for male rights. But I am arguing that polarization of any kind leads in the wrong direction and generally veers off into anger. These days, far too many men are angry with women and far too many women are angry with men. It may be that this film, in trying so hard to be fair to women, has alienated some of its audience.

But this is a tangential quibble. In this film, the past is given flesh and fresh blood. We begin to understand something perhaps we never saw before. We see here a connection, undeniable and persistent, between yesterday and today. We begin to understand that life flows like a rushing river, and that, if we're not careful, some very valuable things can vanish just like the lake that flew away with the ducks to Georgia.

Fried Green Tomatoes teaches us to cherish that from which we have come. This is a film about alliances and loyalty, about fierceness and lack of compromise, about fighting hard to maintain and protect the connections we feel deep in our bones. This film celebrates the ties between black and white, between woman and woman, between old and young, the ties uniting the

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poor, the powerless and the dispossessed. If that weren't enough there's the music. The kind of deep, rich, gutsy music that reaches down and warms your toes and all other parts of your anatomy sung by performers like Bob Dylan and Trixie Smith. You probably never heard of Trixie Smith, but she's one of the early black blues women who got the recording industry started. Fried Green Tomatoes is a story as American, fully and wonderfully American, as the deep-dish apple pie once served at the Whistle Stop Cafe.

-Barbara Lewis

## A FICTIONAL CONVERSATION

I really admire Cicely Tyson for taking that role. She did such a good acting job. I think she was courageous for taking on that part," Angela said to Karen as they walked out of the theater after seeing *Fried Green Tomatoes*. "Well, I have just the opposite feeling. I was really upset that she played a maid. There were lots of other actresses who could have done that role," said Karen.

"Nobody could have done it better than she did," Angela said. "And she had such a pivotal part, It was a plum of a role." "She played a menial," Karen rejoindered. "I felt that she was dignifying a role that didn't deserve to be dignified."

"Maybe she was a menial," Angela answered. "But she was at the center of the action. She does what no one else has the courage or strength to do. She saves everyone else."

"But isn't that what we've been doing all along? Karen asked. "We save everyone else without being able to save ourselves. That's what bothers me."

"But that's real." Said Angela. "It's like that and it will continue to be that."

"You're right, It's real." Replied Karen, "I see it everyday. But don't we ever get past that? Will we ever be able to lavish all that love and concern on ourselves?"

-Barbara Lewis

## CLUBS AND CABARETS

Elvin Jones with Ravi Coltrane, Sonny Fortune, Willie Pickens, Chip Jackson, Nicholas Payton plus Steve Turre Sextet Mar 3-8

The Blue Note • 131 W. 3rd St • 475-8592

Kevin Eubanks James Williams Mar 2-7 Bradley's • 70 University Pl/11th St • 228-6440

Ahmad Jamal Mar 3-8 & 10-15 Condons • 117 East 15th St • 245-0960 Sugar Blue, harmonica Mar 3-7 Chicago B.L.U.E.S. • 73 8th Ave/13 St • 255-7373

Leah Sutton's Variety Shows Saturdays, 10 & 11:30 pm Duplex • 61 Christopher St • 255-5438 Chris Connor & her Trio Mar 3-8

Fat Tuesday's • 190 3rd Ave • 533-7902

Steve Kuhn, piano David, bass Mar 4-7 Knickerbocker Bar & Grill • 33 University Place • 228-8490

The Holmes Brothers Mar 5

Manny's Car Wash • 1558 3rd Ave • 369-BLUE

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- Ike Smalls Trio Wed-Thur
- \*Bill Saxton Trio Mon Showman's \* 2321 8th

Showman's • 2321 8th Ave • Harlem • 864-8941

• Jazz Vespers: Gladys Carbo Mar 8, 5 pm

• Amy Rubin Ensemble Mar 8, 7 pm St. Peter's Church • The

St. Peter's Church • The Living Room • Lexington Ave/54th St • 688-6022

The Harper Brothers Mar 5, 8 pm & 10 pm S.O.B.'s • 204 Varick St • 243-4940

Pete Levin Chuck Loeb Lenny White Mar 3-8

Sweet Basil • 88 Seventh Ave So. • 242-1785

Arthur Taylor's Wailers Mar 3-8 The Village Vanguard • 178 7th Ave • Al. 5-4037

Nia Mar 6 & 7

West Side Storey • Columbus Ave at 95th St • 749-1900 Harlem Renaissance Orchestra

Mondays, 9 pm Willies Lounge • 307 West 125th St • 866-6650

Lynne Arriale Bob Cranshaw Dennis McKrell Mar 2-7

Zinno • 126 W. 13th St • 924-5182

#### ·Brooklyn ·

Clarissa Clay Revue, Female Impersonators Mar 5-7

Royston's • 63 Lafayette Ave \* (718) 243-0900

#### · Queens ·

Chances Lounge 192-20 Linden Blvd • St. Albans • (718) 527-9809

\*Long Island \*

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Sugar Ray's (Formerly Machines) Melonie Rose of WBLS, Thursday Nights 2686 Hempstead Tpke • Levittown • (516) 731-1010

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56 Route 17, South • Eas Rutherford • (201) 935-5600

· New Rochelle ·

Palace Nite Club 518 Main St. • (914) 235-7117

## CONCERTS

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 Amateur Night

Wednesdays
Apollo Theatre • 253 W.
125th St • 864-0372

Adelaide Hall

Mar 4 & 5

Weill Recital Hall • Carnegie Hall • 57th Street & 7th Ave • 247-7800

Gladys Knight Mar 6, 8 pm

The Paramount • Madison Square Garden • 34th St/8th Ave • 307-7171

#### · Oueens ·

Sweet Honey in the Rock Mar 7, 8 pm Newark Symphony Hall • 1020 Broad Street •

Newark • (201) 242-8110

## **OPERA**

Shirley Verrett Mar 5, 8 pm Carnegie Hall • 57th Street & 7th Ave • 247-7800

## RESTAURANTS

Blue Nile Ethiopian cuisine 103 W. 77th St/ Columbus Ave/580-3232

Copeland's Southern cuisine A Harlem institution 547 W.145th St • 234-2457

Caribe

Jamaican cuisine Pleasant and informal. Cash only. 117 Perry St/ Greenwich St • 255-9191

Honeysuckle Southern cuisine Trendy 507 Columbus Ave

496-8095

Jamaican "Hot Pot"

Small restaurant of 7-8 tables—but has a large reputation for good food at bargain prices.

2260 Adam Clayton Powell, Ir., Blvd/133rd St • 491-5270

Vernon's Jerk Paradise lamaican cuisine lerk preparation of meats. 252 W. 29th St • 268-7020 . Reviewed in 7/29/91 icena

**Island Spice** Caribbean 402 West 44th St/9th Ave • 765-1737

lezehel Southern/American cuisine Shawls, swings and sophistication. 630 Ninth Ave/45th St 582-1045

La Famille Restaurant Southern cuisine A Harlem institution. Roomy and informal 2017 5th Ave/ 125th St 534-9909

Le Sous Sol Restaurant French Creole cuisine Nightly entertainment 70 West 95th St • 865-8700/1

Manna Bukery & Cafe 125th St Mart • Mezzanine • 260 W. 125th St • 991-6827

MoBay Iamaican & Southern cuisine 248 W. 14th St(Bet, 7th & 8th Aves) • 255-7735

Emily's Restaurant/Cafe Southern cuisine Relaxed and informal 1325 5th Ave/110th & 111th Sts • 996-1212. • Reviewed in 10/20/91 issue.

Perk's Fine Cuisine Fine cuisine Elegant & trendy 553 Manhattan Ave/ 123rd St • 666-8500 • Reviewed in 9/8/91 issue.



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B. Smith's Southern & American cuisine Trendy 771 8th Ave • 247-2222

Sylvia's Southern cuisine Relaxed and informal 328 Lenox Ave • (126 & 127th Sts) • 996-0660

Third World Cafe
Third World cuisine
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700 W. 125th St /West
Side Hway • 749-8199

Wilson's Restaurant & Bakery Southern Cuisine A Harlem institution. 1980 Amsterdam Avel 158th St \* 923-9821

#### · Brooklyn ·

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745 Fulton St • (S. Elliot St. & S. Portland Ave) • (718) 596-2367

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Carmichael's Diner & Cocktail Lounge Southern cuisine Informal Jazz Jam Session Wed, 7:30-10:30 pm 117-08 Guy Brewer Blvd • Jamaica • (718) 723-5008

La Citadelle Restaurant Southern & Haitian cuisine

Continued on Page 7

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Village Door International cuisine Jazz Jam Session nightly 163-07 Baisley Blvd • (718) 276-9616

\*Long Island\*

Butler's Quarters Sophia's Soulful Sunday Gospel Brunches 3-5 pm With Perrita, vocalist & John Brown, special guest artist,

736 Fulton Ave • Hempstead • (516) 483-

Chez Antoine French Caribbean cuisine Elegant 590 Sunrise Highway • Baldwin • (516) 223-9426

Nakisaki International Restaurant Jamaican & Chinese cuisine Takeout Service too 276 Fulton Ave • Hempstead • (516) 292-9200

## THEATER

God's Trying to Tell You Something Through Mar 8 A gospel musical drama. Musical arrangement by Edwin Hawkins; starring Dennis Edwards, David Sea and featuring Daz Patterson and David Whitfield.

Beacon Theatre • 74th St & Broadway • 496-7070

Resurrection of Dark Soldiers William Electric Black's play about 5 black revolutionaries from the 60s reunited in the 90s. Castillo Cultural Theatr

Castillo Cultural Theatre
• 500 Greenwich St •
941-1234

From The Mississippi Delta

Delta
Written by Endesha Ida
Mae Holland, directed by
Jonathan Wilson. Endesha
Ida Mae Holland's boldly
inspirational, gutsy and
often hilarious autobiographical play. It follows
her life as she blazes her
way from rebellious young
prostitute to Ph.D.
Circle-In-The-Square
(Downtown) • 159
Bleecker St • 254-6330

Loose Ends Mar 3-8 A bittersweet 1970s love affair between two people who cannot live with each other and who cannot live without each other. Directed by Cheryl Rogers. Intar Theatre • 420 West 42nd St • 279-4200

Boesman and Lena Through Mar 22 Written by Athol Fugard A story of two South Africans struggling for shelter, food, love, dignity, and a sense of meaning in the harsh world of apartheid. Manhattan Theatre Club • City Center • 131 West

Easy Livin'
Through Mar 8
A two act play about Jazz
trumpeter Clifford
Brown.Written by Samuel
B. Harps and directed by
Leon Pinkney
National Black Theater •
2033 Fifth Ave • 427-5615

55th St • 581-7907 .

Before It Hits Home Through Mar 22 The story of a 30-year old jazz musician who returns home with AIDS. Second Stage Theatre in association with New York Shakespeare Festival \* 425 Lafayette St \* 598-7150

The Atlanta Affair About the Atlanta child slayings in the 1970s. The Riant Theater • 161 Hudson St • 4th Fl • 925-8353

Buya Africa
Thuli Dumakude, South
African actress and
singer. An autobiographical sketch
interwoven in an
evening of music and
dance.

Theater Arielle • 432 West 42nd St • 967-7079

Medea and the Doll Rudy Gray explores black parent-child relationships.

Continued on Page 8

The Enchanted Basement
• Trinity Church • 57th
St, bet. 9th & 10th Aves •
727-8143

## DANCE

Feld Ballet
Through Mar 22
Darren Gibson labeled "Up & Coming" by the New
York Times
Joyce Theatre • 175 8th
Ave/19th St • 242-0800

## ART GALLERIES

Jean-Michel Basquiat Through Mar 7 Verej Baghoomian Gallery • 555 Broadway • 941-1410

Photography Exhibit: Place and Time. Through Mar 14 Among the arts shown: Gordon Christmas, A.O. Fayemi, Archie Hamilton, Fern Logan, John Pinderhuges and Bill Sanders.

The Cinque Gallery • 560 Broadway/Prince St • Room 504 • 966-3464

#### Marble & Granite Gallery

Featuring Zambian sculptor Remmie Sichalwe, and a granite sculpture collection from Zimbabwe.

Marble & Granite Gallery 340 West 14th St (bet. 8th & 9th Aves) • 741-3399

Milt Hinton
Through Mar 9
Fifty photos from his
collection of more than
6,000 jazz artists he has
worked with will be shown
in this exhibit
Sidney Mishkin Gallery at
Baruch College • 135 East
22nd St

Alison Saar: Slow Boat Through Apr 18 A site-specific installation exploring the nature of myth, religion, and ritual in the urban context. The Whitney Museum of American Art • 120 Park Ave • The public Sculpture Court

#### ·Queens·

Le Jardin Culturel Art Gallery Featuring the Oil and Acrylic paintings by Haitian artists Guy Fleury, Savin, Casimir, Valein I, Valein II & Valbrun; sculpture by Joseph; black and white prints by E. Guerrier

225-09 Linden Blvd • Cambria Heights • (718) 712-9377

#### · Long Island ·

21st Annual Exhibition of Contemporary Black Artists in America Through Mar 6 Great Neck Library • Bayview Avenue at Grist Mill Lane • Great Neck

Textiles: The Spirito of West African Textiles Through April 8 Fiderman Gallery • Axinn Library • Hofstra University • (516) 463-5672

## MUSEUMS & CULTURAL CENTERS

 African Improvisation: Textiles from the Indianapolis Museum of Art Through Apr 19
 Twenty-eight fabrics of rich colors and vibrant votters, showing

Twenty-eight fabrics of rich colors and vibrant patterns showing various aspects of improvisation in African textile design. A sound track of jazz which has its roots in African rhythms accompanies the exhibit.

\*Lecture
Rhythm and Meaning
in African Textiles
Mar 3, 6:30-7:30 pm
Monni Adams,
Research Associate in
African Ethnology,
Peabody Museum,
Harvard University

American Craft Museum • 40 West 53rd St • 956-3535

Lecture Series

Sacred and Secular
Music in Buban
Culture: Kongo, Yoruba
and Carnival Musical
Forms
Mar 3, 7 pm

• Speaker: Felipe Garcia Villamil, a master drummer, singer and traditional leader from Mantanzas, Cuba.

• Workshops
Beadwork for the
Orisha
Mar 10, 6:30 -9:30 pm
Artists Jose Rodriguez
and Manuel Vega will
show workshop
participants how to
design and create
crowns, necklaces,
pendants, bags and
other ritual objects used
to honor the Orisha
(African Yoruba
deities).

•Making a Joyful Noise: How to Make A Shekere Mar 17, 6:30 pm-9:30 pm Madeleine Yayodele Nelson, founder and artistic director of the

Nelson, founder and artistic director of the celebrated performing group Women of the Calabash, will show participants how to make their own shokeres.

Caribbean Cultural Center • 408 W. 58th St • 307-7420

Continued on Page 9

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• Mardi Gras: Designed Ritual Mar 2, 6:30 pm William Erick Perkins, Adjunct Professor of Communications, Hunter College, City

University of New York

Cultural Gumbo:
African, Native
American and Creole
Mardi Gras Traditions
on Film

Mar 9, 6:30 pm

Maurice Martinez,
Director, Social
Foundation of
Education, Hunter
College, City University
of New York

Cooper-Hewitt Museum • 2 E. 91st St • 860-6868

Come all you Gallant Heroes: The World of the Revolutionary Soldier Through Aug 14
A chronicle of the experiences of soldiers in the Continental Army during the War for American Independence. Excepts from diaries and official records are posted on the walls, including one from ex-slave and freeman Jacob Francis.

Fraunces Tavern Museum • 54 Pearl St • 425-1776

Harlem Fashion Museum Authentic slave dresses: a copy of the inaugural gown of Mary Todd Lincoln made by former slave Elizabeth Keckley: five gowns designed by the late Ann Lowe, designer of the wedding gown worn by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis when she married John F. Kennedy; a dress made by Rosa Parks; costumes from Broadway plays The Wiz, Eubie, Grind and Bubbling Brown Sugar.

155 /W. 126th St (Bet. Lenox & ACP Blvd) • 666-1320

Royal Art of Benin Through Sept 13 One hundred-sixty-three cast bronze and carved ivory sculptures examining court life in the former West African Kingdom of Benin, now southern Nigeria.

Metropolitan Museum of Art • 1000 Fifth Ave •

879-5500

708-9400

Allegories of Modernism:
Contemporary Drawing
Through-May 5
This exhibit records
important and multifaceted
role of drawing in art
today. Among the artists
exhibited: Jean Michel
Basquiat, Martin Puryear,
and Glen Ligon.
The Museum of Modern
Art • 11 W. 53rd St •

1+1+1 Works by Alfredo Jaar Through Apr 19 Sculptural works by Chilean-Born Alfredo Jaar examine the impact of multinational capitalism on countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

The New Museum • 583 Broadway • 219-1222

• JazzArts-A Women's Jazz Festival Terri Lyne Carrington, drummer & Melba Joyce, vocalist Mar 9, 7 pm

• Guided Tours
By appointment only
The Schomburg Center
for Research in Black
Culture • 515 Lenox
Ave/ 135th St • 491-2200

· Africa and the

Diaspora: Selections from the Permanent Collection
Through Jun 7
Ninety-five paintings. examining the influence of African art and culture on the art, artists, and culture of the Americas and the Caribbean.

•Films
Mar 7, 2 pm
African Craftsmen-The
Ashanti: The film
introduces Africa, its
people, and the arts and

crafts which are deeply rooted in the history of the continent.

Spirit Catcher-The Art of Betye Saar: The film focuses on the work of the influential artist Betye Saar and the forces which shape it. Studio Museum of Harlem \* 144 W. 125th St

• 864-4500 • Brooklyn •

The New Merengue
Through May 3
The migration of
Caribbean and AfricanAmericans to Brooklyn is
the subject of the
Museum's 29th Grand
Lobby project
The Brooklyn Museum •
200 Eastern Parkway •
(718) 638-5000

\*Westchester\*
Photographic Images of
19th Century AfricanAmericans
Through May 3
These photographs
document the existence of a
successful and prosperous
class of African-Americans
in the 19th century.
The Hudson River

The Hudson River Museum • 511 Warburton Ave • Yonkers • (914) 963-4550

## FILM

March '92 Black Film Festival

An extensive list of films exists. Please call for Titles and Showtimes. Art Gallery of the ACP. Ir

Art Gallery of the ACP, Jr. State Office Building • 163 W. 125th St at 7th Ave • 873-5040

Young Black Cinema Through Mar 5, nightly, except Monday, at 7 pm A selection of short films by young upcoming black filmmakers.

In BaoBab (1989)
 Erik Hamilton Knight
 uses his family back ground as the point of
 departure for an explor ation of the real-ities and
 misconcep-tions of a
 young man's multi

cultural identity.

•Suspect (1991)

Darnel Martin's tight and engrossing thriller takes a critical look at the racial stereotype of black youths as anti-social and sexual menaces.

Occupational Hazard

(1991)
Erick Daniel's dark
comedy with a
supernatural twist.
Haunted by an incident
from his past—which has
already claimed the lives
of three friends—Jeffrey
King chooses to spend
what might be the last
day of his life at an
unsympathetic
psychiatrist's office in a
last effort to reverse his

\*Boss of the Ballet (1989)

Lindley Farley's bizarre offbeat farce about two sanitation men who dream of staging a ballet for the Sanitation Talent Contest. Gus will dance while Jerry will accompany with his oboe. When Jerry's missing oboe turns up at an invalid girl's house, they plot a burglary to retrieve it.

\*Billy Turner's Secret (1990)

Michael Mayson's story of how a young straight man learns the hard way to accept his best friend's homosexuality.

The Public Theater • 425 Lafayette Street • 598-7150

## CHILDREN

The ABC's of Jazz Mar 5, 10:30 am Grades K to 8 Live music, dance, film, and cartoons are combined in an educational presentation about the tundamentals of Jazz

presentation about the hundamentals of Jazz. Guaranteed to create laughs, cheers, and memories for children of all ages. \*HANDBAGS BY

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Kevin Jeff and the Arts of Jubilation! Ensemble Mar 6, 10:30 am

Grades 5 and older
This dance program
incorporates modern,
ballet, and jazz, rooted in
traditional African dance,
and celebrates the
experience of black
America. The company
will provide commentary
about the process of dance,
choreography, and
theatrical production.
Aaron Davis Hall • City

Aaron Davis Hall • City College • 135th St and Convent Ave • 650-6900

## FREE FOR ALL

Harlem Textile Works On View Through Mar 6

Aaron Davis Hall • City College • 135th St and Convent Ave • 650-6900

- Maria, country music singer and guitarist Mar 4.5 pm
- •Nikki Williams, poet & actress Mar 7, 2:30 pm Countee Cullen Regional Branch Library • 104 W. 136th St • 491-2070

Body and Soul: The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater Exhibit

Through May 11
The exhibition documents
the troupe's rich heritage
with a wide-variety of
rarely seen items gathered
from the archives of the
Library and the Ailey
company, as well as from
personal collections of
former Ailey dancers and
collaborators.

Library's Main Gallery • 40 Lincoln Center Plaza • 870-1670

(Continued on Page 11

(Continued from Page 10)

Reading Series

Mar 7, 3 pm

A black journalist led to a world of organized crime through his investigation of a Harlem fire.

Lincoln Square Studio Theatre • 218 West 64th St • 410-0791

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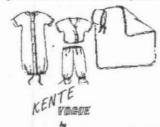
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