

# ROUTES

*A Weekly Guide to African-American Culture*

COMPLIMENTARY

September 16-22, 1991

• (212) 627-5241 •

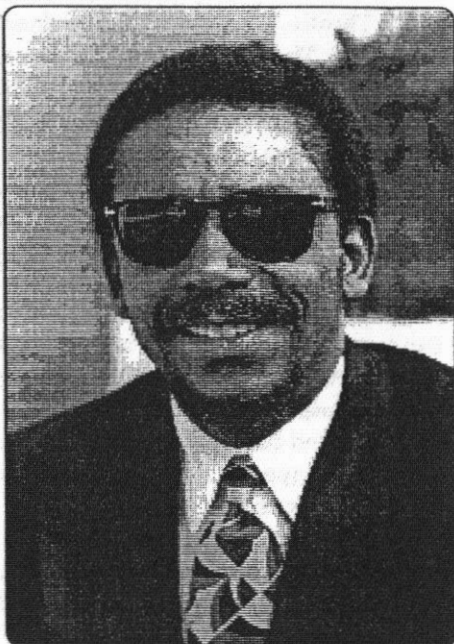
Vol. I, No. 17 • \$1.00

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

## BIG DREAM FULFILLED LARRY L. HAMLIN

**“A** CELEBRATION AND  
REUNION OF  
SPIRIT...(AN)

HISTORIC AND CULTURALLY  
SIGNIFICANT EVENT.” These  
were the words producer and  
artistic director, Larry Leon  
Hamlin used in describing  
the intent and impact of the  
1991 National Black Theatre  
Festival. During the Opening  
night's Gala Dinner Maya  
Angelou recounted the  
successes of the 1989  
Festival, then thanked Larry  
Leon for “dreaming such a  
big dream.”



This year's Festival was again held in Winston-Salem from August 5 through August 10. It was the second of what will hopefully become a bi-annual gala tradition in Black Theatre. For six days, folks from Birmingham to Bermuda, from Louisiana to Liberia participated in cultural activities and educational events which taught them about the complexities of theatre.

Free daily workshops took participants behind the scenes, where they analyzed the various phases of production, from playwrighting, casting and imaging; to contracting and financing; to union VS non-union and profit VS non-profit considerations. Workshops were chaired by seasoned professionals: Bill Duke and Danny Glover conducted a workshop on filmmaking; award-winning playwright Ron Milner led one on playwrighting; a *Living*

*Legends* seminar boasted brilliant veteran actors like Joe Seneca, Helen Martin, Moses Gunn, Esther Rolle and Douglass Turner Ward.

The Festival provided excellent opportunities for networking. Non-performing artists found a platform for themselves in the Festival Market Place, where greeting cards, original oils and watercolors, lithographs, posters, artistic clothing, scented oils and fine hand-tooled leathers were on display. Ruby Dee autographed her books for sale. Michael Sargent peddled his science fiction audio drama. LaVon Williams' wood sculptures were in big demand. Obayana Ajanaku soldered precious metals before spectator's eyes into beautiful, original jewelry.

But the Festival's focus was, as its name clearly states, Black Theatre. And Black Theatre dressed up and showed out like only Black Theatre can. Each day was named after one or two celebrities who were to host the evening's reception. The stars were pre-selected and publicized, but—an unofficial poll was tallied and talked about the following day.

For example, Monday was officially named after Denzel Washington. But the unofficial poll chose the African Drum Ensemble, Helen Martin and Carol Woods, the headliner act for opening night. It began with a powerful "song" of drums that called forth and paid tribute to God and our ancestors. Denzel's Gala Dinner speech didn't stand a chance against Helen Martin's *Living Legends* Awards speech, which began (paraphrased quote) "I know I wasn't asked to speak, but I got somethings to say...". And Carol Woods belted out a song, from the musical *Blues in the Night*—the audience jumped to its feet and gave her a rousing ovation that lasted for several minutes.

Tuesday night, Avery Brooks moved a 1300 plus member-audience to laughter and tears and song in an incomparable performance of the one-man show, *Paul Robeson*. He took seven curtain calls and had, easily, another seven to take had he not been interrupted with the untimely bestowal of a Festival plaque. Unquestionably the night belonged to Avery Brooks, for whom it was named, but the day belonged to Joe Seneca. During the *Living Legends* seminar, he recited an original poem entitled *BAMA*. It filled the audience with pride and hope so fierce that they called to him, and applauded, and wept openly during the thunderous standing ovation that followed.

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This is an account of the first two days. The others were just as exciting. When the Festival came to an end, as all good things must, it finished with the same panache with which it began: the rich rhythmic call and response of African drums permeating the lobby and mezzanine of the posh Stouffer Hotel in salute to God, in salute to our ancestors, in celebration and reunion of spirit.

The 1991 National Black Theatre Festival was truly an historic and culturally significant event. Thank you Larry Leon for dreaming such a big dream. For more information about the Black Theatre Festival call (919) 723-2266.

—Perri Gaffney

## CLUBS AND CABARETS

**Byther Smith, blues**  
Sept 20 & 21  
Abilene Cafe  
73 Eighth Ave/13th St  
255-7373

• **Ricky Ford Quartet**  
Sept 16

• **Fabio Morgera Quartet**  
Sept 17

• **Mark Elf Trio**  
Sept 18 & 19

• **Eddie Bert Quintet**  
Sept 20 & 21

**Birdland**  
Sets 9, 10:30 & midnight  
2745 Broadway/105th St  
749-2228

• **Nestor Torres, flute**  
Sept 16

• **Dianne Reeves, vocalist**  
Sept 17-22

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

• **John Hicks, piano**  
**Roy Hargrove, trumpet**  
**Walter Booker, bass**  
Sept 16-21

• **Santi Debriano**  
**Danilo Perez**  
**Mauricio Smith**  
**Tommy Campbell**  
Sept 22

**Bradley's**  
Music after 10 pm  
70 University Place/11th St  
228-6440

• **Louie Bellson**  
Sept 17-22

• **Clifford Jordan Big Band**  
Mondays  
**Condons**  
117 E. 15th St • 254-0960

**Joe Henderson**  
**Kenny Barron**  
**Rufus Reed**  
**Al Foster**  
Sept 17-22  
**Fat Tuesdays**  
190 Third Ave/17th St  
533-7902

**Russ Kasoff, piano**  
**Linc Milliman, bass**  
Sept 18-21  
**Knickerbocker Bar & Grill**  
33 University Place  
228-8490

**John Stubblefield Quartet**  
Sept 20-22  
**New Music Cafe**  
380 Canal St/W. Broadway  
941-0900

**Papa Wemba**  
Sept 18  
**S.O.B.'s**  
204 Varick St/W. Houston  
St • 243-4940

• **Andrew Hill Sextet**  
Sept 17-22

• **Eddie Chamblee Quartet**  
Saturdays, 2-6 pm

• **Doc Cheatham**  
Sundays, 3-7 pm

**Sweet Basil**  
8 Seventh Ave/Bleecker  
242-1785

**Mingus Big Band**  
Sept 19 & 26

**Time Cafe**  
380 Lafayette/Great Jones  
St • 533-7000

**Nathan & the Zydeco Cha**  
**Chas**  
Sept 21  
**Tramps**  
45 W. 21st St  
(Bet. 5th & 6th Aves)  
727-7788

**Michele Petrucciani**  
**Quartet**  
Sept 17-22  
**Village Gate**  
Bleecker/Thompson Sts  
475-5120

**Terence Blanchard**  
**Quintet**  
Sept 17-22  
**Village Vanguard**  
178 7th Ave South  
255-4037

• **Andy Green Quartet**  
Sept 17

• **Brian Lynch Quartet**  
Sept 18 & 19

• **Anders Bergcrantz**  
**Quintet**  
Sept 20 & 21  
**Visiones • 125 MacDougal**  
St • 673-5576

**Kirk Lightsey**  
**Cecil McBee**  
**Jerry Gonzalez**  
Sept 16-21  
**Zinno • 126 W. 13th St •**  
924-5182

• **New Jersey •**

• **Irene Reid**  
Sept 20 & 21

• **Duke Anderson**  
Sept 22

**Trumpets**  
6 Depot Square  
Montclair • (201) 746-6100

## CONCERTS

**Amateur Night**  
Every Wed, 7:30 pm  
**Apollo Theatre**  
253 W. 125th St • 864-0372

**Toshiko Akiyoshi Jazz Orchestra**  
featuring **Lew Tabackin**  
with special guest **Freddie Hubbard**  
Sept 20, 8 pm  
Carnegie Hall  
881 Seventh Ave/57th St  
247-7800

**Diana Ross**  
Sept 19-21, 8 pm  
Radio City Music Hall  
1260 Ave of the Americas  
632-4000

• **Gospel**

**Willie Neal Johnson** with  
**New Keynotes • Darrell McFadden** and the  
**Fantastic Disciples • Prayer Wheels • Golden Chariots • Genesis Soloist Lillie Hill**  
Sept 22, 4:30 pm  
Mother A.M.E. Zion Church • 140 W. 137th St  
379-3884

## RESTAURANTS

**Abyssinia**  
*Ethiopian*  
Very informal  
35 Grand St/ Thompson St  
226-5959

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

**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 inside and 3  
outside—but has a large  
reputation for good food at  
bargain prices.  
2260 Adam Clayton  
Powell, Jr., Blvd/133rd St  
491-5270

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

**Jezebel**  
*Southern/American cuisine*  
Scarfs, swings and  
sophistication.  
630 Ninth Ave/45th St  
582-1045

**La Famille Restaurant**  
*Southern cuisine*  
Roomy and informal  
2017 5th Ave/ 125th St  
534-9909

**Livi's Restaurant**  
*Caribbean & Southern cuisine*  
Informal  
29 E. 126th St/ Mad. & 5th  
Aves • 831-4931

**Pan Pan 5th Avenue Restaurant/Cafe**  
*Southern cuisine*  
Informal  
1325 5th Ave/110th &  
111th Sts • 996-1212

**Perk's Fine Cuisine**  
*Fine cuisine*  
Elegant & trendy  
Dancing Wed- Sat, 11 pm.  
553 Manhattan Ave/123rd  
St • 666-8500 • *Reviewed in 9/8/91 issue.*

**Sylvia's**  
*Southern cuisine*  
Relaxed and informal  
328 Lenox Ave • (126 &  
127th Sts) • 966-0660

**The Blue Nile**  
*Ethiopian cooking*  
103 W. 77th St/ Columbus  
Ave • 580-3232

**Third World Cafe**  
Third World cuisine(*spices used are from West Africa*)  
A very special little cafe.  
700 W. 125th St /West  
Side Hwy • 749-8199

**Wilson's Restaurant & Bakery**  
*Southern Cuisine*  
A Harlem institution  
1980 Amsterdam Ave/  
158th St • 923-9821  
• **Brooklyn**

**Keur n' Deye**  
*Senegalese Cuisine*  
737 Fulton St (S. Elliot St.  
& S. Portland Ave  
(718) 875-4937

**McDonald's Dining Room**  
*Country home cooking*  
327 Stuyvesant Ave  
(718) 574-3728 • Tues-Sun

**Greene Avenue Grill**  
*Grilled American & Southern cuisine*  
13 Greene Ave/Fulton St  
(718) 797-2099

• **Queens** •

**La Detente**  
*Continental and Caribbean cuisine*  
23-04 94th St • East  
Elmhurst • (718) 458-2172

**Manhattan Proper Cafe**  
*Southern cuisine*  
217-01 Linden Blvd/  
Springfield Blvd  
(718) 341-CAFE

## THEATER

**Cheryl Alexander**  
*Language of the Soul*  
Theater Arielle  
432 West 42nd St  
967-7079

**Once on This Island**  
A musical, set in the  
Caribbean, about a poor  
girl's passion for the son of  
a wealthy landowner.  
Booth Theatre  
W. 45th St/ Broadway  
239-6200

**Our Young Black Men Are Dying And Nobody Seems To Care**  
Through Sept 22  
An original music play by  
**James Chapman** about the  
destruction of young men  
by drug abuse, crime,  
police brutality, alco-  
holism, poverty and AIDS.  
Castillo Cultural Center  
500 Greenwich St  
941-5800

**Who Collects the Pain**  
Sept 19-Oct 5  
Directed by **William Electric Black**.

In 1993, a white Columbia University student meets an African-American girl and they fall deeply in love. The fuse of racial tensions explodes, creating a fallout of tragic proportions.  
Schapiro Theater at  
Columbia University • 605  
W. 115th St • 996-7287

### **Six Degrees of Separation** **Courtney B. Vance**

Set in Manhattan, about a con artist at an elegant dinner party.

Vivian Beaumont Theater  
Broadway/65th St  
239-6200

### **The Good Times are Killing Me**

Tues.-Sat. 8 pm, Mat.- Sat 2 pm, Mat.- Sun 3 & 7 pm  
A play with music, follows the comic coming of age of two girls, one white and one black, as they explore the mysteries of adolescence, music, divided families and racism.

Minetta Lane Theatre  
18 Minetta Lane (Bet. 3rd & Bleecker) • 307-4100

## **ART GALLERIES**

**Robertson's African Arts**  
Gallery of African art.  
*By appointment only*  
36 West 22nd Street, 4th Fl  
675-4045

### **•Brooklyn•**

- To Tell you the Truth**, paintings by Pat Bradley
- Three Visions, the Sacred, The Sublime, the Seminal**  
Ché Baraka, Robergeau Duverger & Kelvin Fraser

Through Sept 30  
Bedford Stuyvesant Center for Art & Culture  
1368 Fulton St, 3rd Fl  
(718) 636-6948  
Mon-Sat, noon-6 pm

## **MUSEUMS & CULTURAL CENTERS**

**Africa Explores: 20th Century African Art**  
Through December '91  
Exhibit explores the continuing vitality of traditional art which coexists today with a modern art that is uniquely African.

The Center for African Art  
54 E. 68th St (Bet. Mad. & Lex Aves) 861-1200.

### **Harlem Textile Works: Prints & Fabric Designs**

A Retrospective  
Exhibition, 1986-1991  
Through Oct 29  
Mon-Fri, 9 am-5 pm  
Faculty Dining Room, 2nd Fl • Wall Gallery • John Jay College of Criminal Justice

445 West 59th St  
237-8698

- Barbara Chase-Riboud**  
*All That Rises Must Converge*, painting
- Horace Pippin**  
*Victorian Parlor I*, painting
- Martin Puryear**  
*Tango*, sculpture

Metropolitan Museum of Art • Fifth Ave & 82nd St  
535-7710

**Robert Colescott**  
*Emergency Room* (1990)  
Museum of Modern Art  
11 W. 53rd St • 708-9400

**Interrupted Life**  
Through Dec 29  
A multi-disciplinary exhibition examining the theme of death in the Western world.

The New Museum of Contemporary Art  
583 Broadway/Houston St  
219-1222

- The African Presence in the Americas**  
Through December
- African-Americans in Space Science**  
Through December
- Guided tours by appointment only**

The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture  
515 Lenox Ave/ 135th St •  
491-2200

**Workshops for Groups:**  
**Block Printing Workshop**  
Through September  
Design with cardboard stamps, printing inks and colored paper.

Two part workshop using watercolors, acrylics and tempera. \$10 per person.  
Reservations required.  
Studio Museum of Harlem  
144 W. 125th St • 864-4500

**American Life in American Art: Selections from the Permanent Collection**  
Through Nov 10

Jacob Lawrence  
*The War Series*, 1946-47  
Whitney Museum of American Art  
945 Madison Ave/75th St  
570-3600

### **Painted Forms: Recent Metal Sculpture** Through December

**Melvin Edwards**  
*Asafokra* (1990)  
96x168x120  
Whitney Museum at Philip Morris • The Sculpture Court • 120 Park Ave South • 878-2550

### **•Bronx•**

**James Buxton**, painted wood sculpture  
Through Oct 31  
Buxton's work involves such personally significant issues as religion and motherhood.

The Bronx Museum of Art  
Satellite Gallery at Hebrew Hospital for Chronic Sick  
801 Co-Op City Boulevard  
• 379-5020

### **•Queens•**

•**Open House**  
Sept 21, 10 am-4 pm  
Open House provides the ideal opportunity to sample, free-of-charge, classes in painting, ceramics, photography, theatre and dance.

•**"Big Nick" Nicholas**, sax  
Sept 21, 12:30  
Performance.  
\$5-Adults, \$3 Children

Jamaica Arts Center  
161-04 Jamaica Ave  
718-658-7400

**Robert Craddock**  
*Voyage of Discovery: Journeys through the New World*  
Through Oct 5

•**Film**  
Sept 21, 3 pm  
•**Speaking In Tongue**, 1988, 78 min  
This powerful film is both music and meditation, as musicians Milfred Graves and David Murray invoke, with their words and their music, the late Albert Ayler and the trauma of Black life in America. Filmmaker Doug Harris will present his film.

•**Mary Lou Williams: Music on My Mind**, 1990, 60 min

Roberta Flack narrates this film which captures the wit, humor, virtuosity and



faith of one of the premiere women practitioners of African-American classical music. *Speaker*, Clayton Riley, author, cultural critic and professor at the New School for Social research.

• **Rap and Before**

• **Rap City Rhapsody**, 1990, 58 min

This award-winning video visually captures the spirit of west coast rap while allowing eye-opening analysis to emerge from those immersed in rap culture. Producer Akili Buchanan will present his work.

• **Black Wax: Gil Scott-Heron**, 1982, 80 min.

Before rap, there were the rappers, the poets of the people, and here is one of the greats who emerged in the 60s.

*Speaker*, Greg Tate, Cultural Critic, *The Village Voice*.

Langston Hughes Community Library and Cultural Center • 102-09 Northern Blvd • Corona-E. Elmhurst • (718) 651-1100

**Candida Alvarez**  
**Paintings: Works on Paper**

Through Oct 13

*Recep.: Oct 1, 6:30-8:30 pm*  
Queens Museum of Art  
NYC Building • Flushing  
Meadows Corona Park •  
(718) 592-5555

## FILM

**Up Against the Wall Black Independent Filmmakers Exhibitions/Conference**  
Sept 18-22

**Program One—Sept 18**

6 pm—*Luther T. Jones*, 1991, 60 min. George Lamboy, director.

7 pm—*Seriously Fresh*, 1989, 22 min. Jamal Joseph, director.

7:25 pm—*Brotherman*, 1991, 5 min. Denise A. Green, director.

7:30—*The View From Here*, 5 min., Adisa, director.

7:35 pm—*Legacy*, 10 min. John Brown, director.

7:45 pm—*Meet the Filmmakers*—James Dickson, Jamal Joseph, Adisa, John Brown, Denise A. Green

8:10 pm—*New Jack City*, 1991, 101 min. Mario Van Peebles, director.

• **Program Two—Sept 19**

1 pm—*A Hero Ain't Nothin' But A Sandwich*, 1977, 107 min. Book and screenplay by Alice Childress. Ralph Nelson, director.

2:50 pm—*King: An Amazing Grace*, 1972, 60 min. Gil Noble, director.

4 pm—*Making of Do The Right Thing*, 1989, 60 min. St. Clair Bourne, director.

5 pm—*Joe's Bed-Stuy Barbershop: We Cut Heads*, 1983, 60 min. Spike Lee, director.

6 pm—*Seriously Fresh*, 1990, 21 min. Jamal Joseph, director.

6:30 pm—*Black History: Lost, Stolen or Strayed*, 1969, 60 min. George Foster, director.

7:30 pm—*Malcolm X: By Any Means Necessary*, 100 min. Gregory Javan Mills, editor.

• **Seminar—Sept 22**

1-5:30 pm—*Independent Filmmaking From A-Z*, hosted by Monty Ross, Co-Producer and vice president of Forty Acres & A Mule Filmworks/A Spike Lee Joint

*The activities at this conference are more extensive than what is listed. And ticket prices vary for each program. Call 873-5040 for information.*

The Museum of African American History and Arts of the International Agency for Minority Artist Affairs Art Gallery • Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. State Office Bldg • 163 West 125th St • 873-5040

## FREE-FOR-ALL

Jeanne Lee Trio & Mickey Davidson

Lisle Atkinson, bass  
Newman Baker, drummer  
Sept 18, 12:15-1:15 pm

The inventive vocalisations of Jeanne Lee wrap and tap of dancer Mickey Davidson create a show full of warmth and vitality as they move through jazz standards and original compositions.

Continental Atrium  
180 Maiden La/Front St  
432-0900

**Readings by Harlem-Based Writers**

Adam Clayton Powell, Jr.:  
*The Political Biography of An American Dilemma*  
Sept 22

Charles V. Hamilton, a professor of Government at Columbia University, traces the extraordinary rise and fall of the flamboyant congressman from Harlem.

Home to Harlem  
1 West 125th St  
831-7367

## 3 MONTH TRIAL SUBSCRIPTION \$9

### ROUTES

#### A Guide to African-American Culture

Old Chelsea Station, P.O. BOX 20103  
NEW YORK, NY 10011

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PLEASE ALLOW 3 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY OF THE FIRST ISSUE.