

ROUTES

A Weekly Guide to African-American Culture

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

The Third Rhythm



l. to r. Michael Broughton, Lawrence James, Taimak & Bryon Utley

The *Third Rhythm*, written by Chuck Butler, diligently examines a crisis that shakes the foundation of a middle class family and forces it to look at a delicate subject that brings about turmoil and violence. Performed at the National Black Theater, 2033 Fifth Avenue in Harlem, where it enjoyed a three week run before closing on November 17, this frank and enlightening play is expected to reopen in the near future.

Mr. Butler, a poet turn playwright, introduces us to a loving family of a father and two sons who suddenly find themselves estranged when circumstances reveal that the younger son, T.J. (Taimak) is homosexual and in love with his brother's best friend. Shocked and bewildered, the father (Lawrence James) reproaches himself with the predictable question "Where did I go wrong?" After deciding not to blame himself, he insists that T.J. seek psychotherapy—T.J. flatly refuses.

His brother, Jeff (Scot Anthony Robinson) suffers a broader range of emotions—shock, hurt, betrayal and anger, especially at Rashan (Byron Utley) for not only corrupting his brother, so he thinks, but also for threatening his concept of

manhood. After all, Rashan, always dashiki-clad, was one of the boys, and, as such, active in the frequent bull sessions that focus on women and sexual conquests. His revealed persona, however, conjures up fear in Jeff. This fear builds to rage and compels him to commit a violent act against T.J. This act of desperation is the high point of the play and the catalyst for the changes in attitudes that ease the family crisis.

Mr. Butler attempts to say many things with his first play. One is a statement about the way homosexual men see themselves, that is to say, as men. Another is the concept of manhood, which, for him, is not a matter of sexual conquests, but rather honesty, sensitivity, sincerity, intelligence and fidelity—all the qualities T.J. possesses. T.J.'s antithesis is Rashan, a bisexual man, therefore a confused man. For Mr. Butler, sexuality has no middle ground; one must be either homosexual or heterosexual. T.J.'s counterpart, however, is Barry (Michael Broughton), heterosexual friend, who is serious about his integrity and secure in his manhood. Hence, the reason for his ease in telling T.J. "Muscles and a deep voice just don't get it for me, but I support you". Most of all, Mr. Butler is saying "get to know your brother," for you may be his keeper. This is intimated by T.J. while discussing homosexuality with Barry, "Man is made for woman, I'll give you that," he says, adding "and that's the first rhythm. The second is that woman is made for man. The third rhythm is a lot closer than you think."

Directed by Dwight R.B. Cook, the two-act play moves at a fast pace and each scene ends on a dramatic note. Some scenes reach high levels of passion, such as the one in which Barry and Rashan bitterly confront each other over the importance of sincerity, truth and fidelity to a relationship. Mr. Cook sets this scene right in the area between the stage and the front row where the audience is able to feel its full impact.

There's comedy as well, a necessary ingredient in this type of play, and Michael Broughton keeps the audience laughing with grimaces, gestures and funny lines. One of the funniest scenes occurs in the hospital room where T.J. is recuperating from the result of his brother's violence. In talking about the beauty of women Barry passionately describes the female anatomy in graphic detail. Then he looks under T.J.'s blanket. Bewildered, he drops it immediately, saying "Nuthin!"

Scot Anthony Robinson also deserves special mention for a powerful portrayal of a desperate young man struggling with a crumbling foundation of beliefs. And Byron Utley, convincing as a defensive, confused man. T.J.'s character,

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however, could have been more developed, so that we learn what he means when he says that his sexuality is not easy for him. Despite this flaw, the play is ably acted by all five actors, on a stage that Robert Joel Schwartz has designed to resemble a comfortable living room and bedroom. *The Third Rhythm* is truly provocative and, therefore, worth seeing.

—Estelle Whiting

CLUBS AND CABARETS

•Greg Abate Quartet
Nov 25

•Donald Harrison Group
featuring Dr. John
Nov 26 & 27

Birdland • 2745 Broadway
/105th St • 749-2228

•Jon Lucien plus
New York Voices
Nov 26-Dec 1

•Gerry Mulligan Quartet
Dec 3 & 4

•Milton Nascimento with
Ron Carter & Hugo
Galloruso
Dec 5-8

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

•Tower of Power
Nov 25 & 26

•LaVerne Baker
Chuck Jackson
Nov 27

•Elvin Jones Jazz Machine
Nov 29 & 30

The Bottom Line • 15 W.
4th St • 228-6300

Javon Jackson, Mike
LeDonne, Robert Hurst,
Louis Hayes,
Through Nov 30
Bradley's • 70 University
Pl/11th St • 228-6440

Bobby Short
Through Dec 31
Cafe Carlyle • Madison
Ave/76th St • 744-1600

•Big Time Sarah & BT
Express
Nov 24-27
Chicago B.L.U.E.S.
73 Eighth Ave/13th St
255-7373

•Jeanie Bryson
Nov 26-Dec 1

•Ahmad Jamal Trio
Dec 3-8

•Clifford Jordan Big Band
Mondays
Condon's
117 E. 15th St • 254-0960

Jerry Dixon
Nov 30, 10 pm & 11:30 pm
Duplex • 61 Christopher St
• 255-5438

Mose Allison Trio
Nov 26-Dec 1
Fat Tuesdays • 190 Third
Ave/17th St • 533-7902

•John Collianni, Jr., piano
Bill Moring, bass
Nov 26-27, 29-30

•Joanne Brackeen, piano
Cecil McBee, bass
Dec 4-7

Knickerbocker Bar & Grill
33 University Place
228-8490

•Sugar Minott
Nov 27

S.O.B.s • 204 Varick St
(Houston St) • 243-4940

•John Scofield Quartet
Nov 26-Dec 1

•Eddie Chamblee Quartet
Saturdays, 2-6 pm

•Doc Cheatham
Sundays, 3-7 pm
Sweet Basil • 8 Seventh
Ave/Bleecker • 242-1785

Blue Magic
Nov 29 & 30
Sweetwaters • 170
Amsterdam Ave/68th St •
873-4100

Mingus Big Band
Nov 27
Time Cafe • 380 Lafayette
St • 533-7700

Don Pullen Trio
Nov 26-Dec 1
Village Vanguard • 178 7th
Ave South • 255-4037

Kirk Lightsey
Cecil McBee
Through Nov 30
Zinno • 126 W. 13th St •
924-5182

•Brooklyn•

Dave Gordon Quartet
featuring Zane Massey, sax
Nov 29

The New Brown Sugar •
433 Marcus Garvey Blvd •
453-5759

•Queens•

Silk
Nov 23
The Scene • 133-18 Guy
Brewer Blvd • Jamaica •
(718) 525-9256

•New Jersey•

Spanky Davis Quartet
Nov 29 & 30
Trumpets • 6 Depot Square
Montclair • (201) 746-6100

CONCERTS

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

Art Farmer
Dec 6
Miller Theatre Jazz at
Columbia University •
116th St & Broadway •
854-7799

5 Electrifying Men &
1 Very Special Lady
Dec 1, 3 pm

Carl Hall, Dennis LeGree,
Stanton Davis, Ronald
Brant, Raymond Harris,
Roslyn Burrough
St. James Presbyterian
Church • 409 West 141st
St • (718) 624-5090

George F. Handel's
Messiah
Dec 1
St. Philips Church •
204 W.134th St • 862-4940

RESTAURANTS

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—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

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

Pan Pan 5th Avenue
Restaurant/Cafe
Southern cuisine
Informal
1325 5th Ave/110th &
111th Sts • 996-1212. •
Reviewed in 10/20/91
issue.

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.

The Shark Bar
Southern cuisine
• Saturday Gospel Brunch
12:30 & 2:30 pm
• Miles Jaye, vocalist
Dec 3, 8:30 pm
307 Amsterdam Ave/74th
& 75th Sts • 874-8500

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

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 •

Carmichael's
Southern cuisine
Informal
117-08 Guy Brewer Blvd •
Jamaica • (718) 723-6908

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

Minnie Tee's
Southern home cooking
Chicken & Waffles
specialty
200-05 Linden Blvd • St.
Albans • (718) 341-2664

• Long Island •

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

Nakisaki International
Restaurant
Jamaican & Chinese
cuisine
276 Fulton Ave • Hemp-
stead • (516) 292-9200

THEATER

Distant Fires
Through Dec 1
A drama of racism and
misunderstanding at a
construction site in
Baltimore. *Among the*
members of the cast David
Wolos' Fonteno, Giancarlo
Esposito, Ray Anthony
Thomas

Atlantic Theatre Company
336 W. 20th St. • 645-8755

Once on This Island
Through Dec 1
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

Billie, Malcolm & Yusuf
Through Dec 29
A musical, drama.

Emmy Straight, fourth-rate comic, turns up in Heaven to find Billie Holiday, Malcolm X and Yusuf Hawkins trapped in their own greatness and brings them "down to earth."
Castillo Cultural Center • 500 Greenwich St • 941-5800

From The Mississippi 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 PhD.
Circle-In-The-Square (Downtown) • 159
Bleecker St • 307-2700

Thoughts of A Confused Black Man

Fridays & Saturdays, 8 pm
An African's experience in America
Harlem School of The Arts • 645 St. Nicholas Ave • 926-4100

A Bolt From the Blue

Through Dec 8
A women marries into the middle class only to be confronted by her past with the return of her ex-lover.
H.A.D.L.E.Y Players
207 W. 133rd St (7th Ave) • 368-9314

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

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.

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

Don't Explain

Nov 28-Dec 29

Opening night reception: Nov 28

Written by Samuel Harps, directed by Rome Neal
A dramatic presentation with music about the late Jazz trumpeter Lee Morgan. Recipient of 7 AUDELCO awards

Nuyorican Poets' Cafe • 236 E. 3rd St (Bet. Aves B & C) • 465-3167

Zion

Previews Nov 27-30
Opens Dec 1
Directed by Thomas Jones.
A gospel musical about the 30-year struggle by African-Americans to found the first Black church.
Theatre of the Riverside Church • 490 Riverside Drive • 869-3981

Servy -n- Bernice 4Ever

A drama centering on two young adults who are ex-housing project residents—she's black, he's white. They're trying to make it work—life. The language is rough.
Provincetown Playhouse • 133 MacDougal St (Bet. W. 3rd & W. 4th Sts) • 477-5048

The New York Shakespeare Festival

Pericles
A play about how people cope individually and collectively with the loss of people loved. It examines cycles of death and birth/resurrection. *Featured in the cast:* Robert Beatty, Jr., Paul Butler & Sandra McClain

The Public Theater • 425 Lafayette St • 598-7150

Treemonisha

Dec 5, 8 pm
Scott Joplin's African-American folk opera celebrates its 80th Anniversary.
Town Hall • 123 W. 43rd St • 840-2824

• Brooklyn •

Lotto
Through Jan 26, 1992
The Benson family, a typical family, convinced, that winning the lottery will solve all of their problems. One day they

actually hit the jackpot for \$20 million. Lotto is zany and funny.
The Billie Holiday Theatre • 1368 Fulton St • (718) 636-0918/9

DANCE

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater
Dec 4-29
City Center Theatre • 131 W. 55th St • 581-7907

Thuli Dumakude

South African actress & singer autobiographical sketch is interwoven in an evening of music and dance.
Theater Arielle • 432 West 42nd St • 967-7079

• Brooklyn •

Griot New York
Dec 4-7
Choreographed by Garth Fagan; musical score by Wynton Marsalis; set design by sculptor Martin Puryear
Brooklyn Academy of Music Opera House • 30 Lafayette • (718) 636-4100

ART GALLERIES

Bill Hutson
Through Nov 30
The Cinque Gallery • 560 Broadway/Prince St • Room 504 • 560-2098

Joe Overstreet
Through Nov 30
Kenkeleba Gallery • 214 E. 2nd Street • 674-3939

Marble & Granite Gallery
Featuring Zambian sculptor Kimmie Sichelwe, and granite sculpture collection from Zimbabwe.
Marble & Granite Gallery
340 West 14th St (bet. 8th & 9th Aves) • 741-3399

African Images, Part II
Through Dec 8
Robertson African Arts • 36 W. 22nd St, 4th Fl • 675-4045

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.

Origin, Design & Pattern
Harlem Textile Works'
Prints & Fabric Designs
Through Nov 29
Countee Cullen Library •
104 W. 136th St • 534-3377

Picturing Africa: Photographs of the Zulu, 1870-1900
Through Jan 31
Mezzanine, Michael C. Rockefeller Wing
19th century albumen prints by European colonial photographers of the Zulu peoples..

New Guinea Bone Carvings
Through Dec 1
About 100 examples of ornaments, tools, weapons and other small objects.

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

Pleasures and Terrors of Domestic Comfort
Through-Dec 31
The current state of the American Dream of domestic happiness is examined in this photography exhibition. Contributing photographers: Albert Chong, Marilyn Nance, John Pinderhughes, Carrie Mae Weems

Word 2 My Mother
Through Jan 19, 1992
Video installation by Tony Cokes. Employing visual and textual materials, Coke examines

his mother's life and experiences.
The 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.

• **James Van Der Zee**
photos are a part of the exhibition.
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

• **Africa and the Diaspora: Selections from the Permanent Collection**
Through Jun 7, 1992
Includes 95 paintings. Exhibition examines the influence of African art and culture on the art, artists.

and culture of the Americas and the Caribbean.
• **Black Popular Culture**
Dec 6, 7, & 8

Five panel discussions will bring together distinguished artists, critics, scholars and "cultural producers".
Henry Louis Gates, Jr. Cornel West, Judith Wilson, Houston Baker, Marlon Riggs & Thomas Harris
• **From the Studio: Artists-in-Residence, 1990-91**
Ada Pilar Cruz, ceramic sculptor; Leonardo D. Drew, sculptor; Eve Sandler, painter
Studio Museum of Harlem
144 W. 125th St • 864-4500

LECTURES

• **Natsu Ifill: Remembrances of Ad Bates, Norman Lewis Percy Ifill**
Dec 1 2 pm
• **Kerry Jackson**
Dec 8, 2 pm
Cultural historian of Los Angeles. Writer for the *Los Angeles Eagle & Sentinel*.
Hatch-Billops Collection •
461 Broadway, 7th Fl • 966-3231

FREE FOR ALL

• **Long Island •**
Theta Iota Omega Chapter
AKA 4th
Annual Career and College Conference
Nov 24, 2-4 pm

Awareness conference on the college application process for parents and students.
African-American Museum •
110 N. Franklin St.
Hempstead • (516) 485-0470

Gone flying, Dec 2-8
Our next issue will be
Dec 9, 1991. Ed.



3 MONTH TRIAL SUBSCRIPTION \$9

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