

ROUTES

A Weekly Guide to African-American Culture

SUBSCRIPTION
FORM INSIDE

January 27-Feb. 3, 1992 • (212) 627-5241 • Vol. I, No. 34 • \$1.00

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

THE DIGNITY OF THE UNDEFEATED

"I have the soundest of reasons for being proud of my people.
... Ours is the truest dignity of man, the dignity of the undefeated."

Ethel Waters, *His Eye is on the Sparrow*

What do Marian Anderson, Ralph Bunche, Ossie Davis, Ruby Dee, Katherine Dunham, Ella Fitzgerald, Althea Gibson, Dizzy Gillespie, W.C. Handy, Lena Horne, Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, Mahalia Jackson, Jacob Lawrence, Joe Louis, Claude McKay, Leontyne Price, Paul Robeson, Bessie Smith, Fredi Washington, and Ethel Waters have in common? They were all photographed by Carl Van Vechten between 1932 and 1962. Some people say that Van Vechten, critic, essayist, poet, photographer, and millionaire novelist, was a dilettante. Others say he was a Renaissance man. Whatever label applies, his contribution as catalyst and chronicler is undeniable.



Fredi Washington, the classic tragic mulatto who portrayed Pinkie in the 1934 film, *Imitation of Life*.

In the 1920s, Van Vechten championed African-American artists, writers, and performers in several publications including *Vanity Fair* and the *New York Times*. He was a one-man public relations firm, opening doors and facilitating mainstream notice and support. With amazing energy, he alternated between the enclaves of

wealth and power in America and Europe. But wherever he went, he always came back to Harlem.

In 1932, six years after publishing his controversial novel, *Nigger Heaven*, Van Vechten turned to portrait photography, an avocation which consumed him the rest of his life. Fifty of his portraits are on display at the Manhattan East Gallery, 202 E. 76 Street. The gallery director, Julia Hotton, has extended the show, 'O Write My Name': *Harlem Heroes*, through February 1. The same exhibit, sponsored jointly by Eakins Press and the Schomburg Center for Research, can be seen through February 29 at the Harlem School of the Arts, 645 St. Nicholas Avenue. The HSA exhibit was designed with a school population in mind.

This show demonstrates that in these inflationary times, a picture can be worth a million words. Take for example the portrait of Bill "Bojangles" Robinson. Gone is the kindly dancing, dark grandfather wearing gloves and holding little Shirley Temple's hand. In his place is a dignified and virile black man. This photograph suggests the thesis that a society celebrating but wary of Robinson's sensuality forced him into a white-gloved strait-jacket. Van Vechten's portraits capture the integrity and sometimes the tragedy of some of the forgotten, some of the unsung, and some of the remembered heroes from a pivotal period of this century's history.

The Manhattan Gallery offers an intimate setting. It's almost as though the people in the portraits could saunter right off the walls, sit down on the plush white sofas and converse and be quite at home in the classic ambience. Ms. Hotton has editorialized the exhibition in the way the photographs are grouped. For example, she places four of the guiding spirits of the Harlem Renaissance on a wall all by themselves. They become in a sense, the fulcrum around which the show is organized.

Charles S. Johnson, the first editor of *Opportunity*, the Urban League's magazine, was later president of Fisk University. Johnson, a sociologist from the University of Chicago, preferred to wield his considerable influence quietly. Next to him, side by side in the center, the Johnson Brothers from Florida, hold court. John Rosamond, trained at the New England Conservatory, composed the music for the Negro National Anthem, *Lift Every Voice and Sing*, and James Weldon, a school principal, a lawyer, a novelist, an arts historian, a lyricist, a diplomat fluent in Spanish, an administrator for the NAACP, and a university professor, wrote the lyrics. Alvin Locke completes the powerful quartet. The urbane Mr. Locke, the first black Rhodes scholar, philosophy graduate from Harvard and

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Oxford and the University of Berlin, and professor at Howard University, was the most learned critic of the period.

James Bartow, the artistic coordinator at the Harlem School of the Arts, decided, after discussion with Ms. Hotton, to hang the exhibition alphabetically. The first portrait is of Lottie Allen, a domestic. Each portrait includes biographical information and a quote either from the person in the portrait or something representative. Lottie Allen has one of the most memorable quotes, from Walt Whitman, summing up the theme of the exhibition, dignity no matter the station in life. "... dismiss whatever insults your own soul, and your very flesh shall be a great poem . . ." Bartow sets some people apart by elevating their portraits above the level of surrounding ones, for example, W.E.B. Dubois and the concert singer, Roland Hayes.

The display at the Harlem School of the Arts ends with two novelists, Margaret Walker, author of *Jubilee* and Richard Wright, author of *Native Son*. This exhibition which begins with a day worker and ends with two intellectual giants, one male and one female, acknowledges the full spectrum of lives that must be paid attention to when we think of the Harlem Renaissance. It was a time when immortals walked the Harlem pavements, but just as importantly it was a time when the common man and woman went to work everyday, raised their children, and fought their private battles for the betterment of the race. They too participated in the struggles, in the creation of a oath century legacy. Van Vechten has personalized a moment and given us precious mementos of the past, people frozen in time, frozen in their prime. The story of the Harlem Renaissance has not yet been completely told, but it can never be fully told without Carl Van Vechten. Through his art, critical genius and ubiquitous presence, Carl Van Vechten made himself indispensable.

—Barbara Lewis

CLUBS AND CABARETS

Bob Kindred, Gene
Bertoncini, Sean Smith
Through Feb 8

Andiamo! • 1991
Broadway • 362-3315

• Greg Denard Group
Jan 29

• Joan Tyler
Jan 30

• The Harper Brothers
Jan 31 & Feb 1

Birdland • 2745 B'way
/105th St • 749-2228

Dizzy Gillespie with
Jimmy Owens, Roy
Hargrove, Red Rodney,
Wynton Marsalis, Doc
Cheatham, Jon Faddis,

Claudio Roditi, Wallace
Roney, Donald Byrd,
Charlie Sepulveda, Lew
Soloff & Terence

Blanchard
Jan 28-Feb 2
The Blue Note • 131 W.
3rd St • 475-8592

Phillip Harper, Benny
Green, Santi Debriano
Jan 27-Feb 1

Bradley's • 70 University
Pl/11th St • 228-6440

Modern Jazz Quartet
Through Feb 15
Cafe Carlyle • Madison
Ave/76th St • 744-1600

Big Time Sarah & the
BTS Express
Jan 228-Feb 1
Chicago B.L.U.E.S. • 73
8th Ave/13 St • 255-7373

Thuli Dumakude &
Djoule African
Feb 1

Open Wed-Sat
Club Harambee • 127 W.
43rd St • 819-1133

Haarlem Nocturn
Through Feb 8, 10 pm
Andre De Shields, Debra
Byrd, Frieda Williams,
Adrienne Lenox & Billy
Swindler.

A cabaret show about a
young man who journeys
from a small town to the
big city and back again.

La Mama E.T.C. 74A East
4th St • 475-7710

Carrie Smith & Roland Hanna Quartet
Jan 28-Feb 2

Condon's
117 E. 15th St • 254-0960

Illinois Jacquet Big Band
Jan 28-Feb 2

Fat Tuesdays • 190 Third Ave/17th St • 533-7902

James Williams, piano
Ray Drummond, bass
Jan 29-Feb 1

Knickerbocker Bar & Grill • 33 University Place • 228-8490

• **The Rhythm Dogs w/Cookie Watkins**
Jan 27

• **Jay Owens & The Pocket**
Jan 28

• **Phil Guy, Casey Jones & Big Wheeler**
Jan 30

Manny's Car Wash • 1558 3rd Ave • 212 369-BLUE

Mark IV Lounge
714 St. Nicholas Ave • Harlem • 283-9033/9070

• **Lonnie Youngblood & The Blood Brothers**
Fri. & Sat.

• **Ike Smalls Trio**
Wed-Thur

• **Bill Saxton Trio**
Mon

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

Ladysmith Black Mambazo
Feb 2
S.O.B.'s • 204 Varick St/Houston • 243-4940

• **Mulgrew Miller Trio**
Jan 30-Feb 2

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

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

Jean Carne
Jan 31-Feb 1

Sweetwaters • 170
Amsterdam Ave/68th St
• 873-4100

The Book

Nite Club & Bar • Harlem's premier club
2246 7th Ave Harlem • 283-9189

Mingus Big Band
Jan 29

Time Cafe • 380 Lafayette St • 533-7000

John Abercrombie Trio
Jan 28-Feb 2

Village Vanguard • 178 7th Ave So. • 255-4037

• **Carola Grey Quartet**
Jan 28

• **Kenny Davis Quartet**
Jan 29 & 30

• **Eddie Henderson with His All Star Quartet**
Jan 31-Feb 1

Visiones • 125 MacDougal St • 673-5576

Jane Jarvis & Ed Polcer
Through Feb 1
Zinno • 126 W. 13th St • 924-5182

- Bronx -

"Lady Eye" Cocktail Lounge • The Uptown Club
4638 White Plains Road
• 652-8259

- Brooklyn -

• **Talib Kibwe Quartet**
Jan 30
• **Ken Simon Group**
Jan 31-Feb 1
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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- New Jersey -

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- New Rochelle -

Palace Nite Club
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CONCERTS

• **Laff Tuesdays**

• **Amateur Night**
Wednesdays

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

Odadaa

Feb 1, 8 pm

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- Long Island -

Gospel Concert

Feb 1, 7:30 pm

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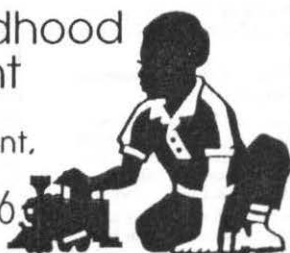
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111th Sts • 996-1212. •
Reviewed in 10/20/91
issue.

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Reviewed in 9/8/91
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Continued on Page 7

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Continued on Page 8



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Judith Anderson Theatre •
422 West 42nd St • 840-1234

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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 55th St • 581-7907

Living Easy
Through Feb 9
A two act play about jazz trumpeter Clifford Brown.
National Black Theater •
2033 Fifth Ave • 427-5615

Man, Woman, Dinosaur
Jan 29-Feb 9
Regina M. Porter, director, featuring Robinson Frank Adu, Jihmi Kennedy, Oni Faida Lampley, Sharif Rashed & Clarice Taylor.
A surreal tale about a black man who carries on his father's tradition of selling handmade dinosaurs. His life is turned upside down when a mysterious nurse is hired to help him take care of his caustic, wheelchair bound mother.
Playwrights Horizons' New Theatre Wing • 416 W. 42nd St • 279-4200

• Brooklyn •

Lotto
Through Feb 23
The Benson family, a typical family, con-

vinced, 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

A Woman Called Truth
Through Mar 1, Sat, 8 pm, Sun, 2 pm, no performances on Feb 2 & 9
A drama by Sandra Fenichel about Sojourner Truth; featuring a score of American slave songs. With Patricia R. Floyd.
Open Eye New Stagings •
270 W 89th St • 769-4143

• Queens •

Our Young Black Men are Dying and Nobody Seems to Care
Feb 1
An original music play by James Chapman about the destruction of young men by drug abuse, crime, police brutality, alcoholism, poverty and AIDS.
Black Spectrum Theatre •
119th Ave & Merrick Blvd • (718) 723-1800

ART GALLERIES

Julius Forbes Lane
Through Feb 28
The cultural history of Harlem is fully depicted on canvas in the 19 original oils and acrylic paintings.
Art Gallery of the ACP, Jr. • 163 W. 125th St 749-5298

Salvador Dali, Zule, C. Butler Pendley, J. Pavlo da Fonesca, Giorgio Simonai, Dinder McCannon, Dr. Yvonne Cole Meo, Leroy Campbell, Sheila Keefe, Tabya Jacobi, Riggi, Mervin Lynch, Simil
The Bratton Gallery • 20 Cornelia St (West 4th St & 6th Ave) • 254-6787

• Holiday Prints, Drawings
Through Jan 31

Robert Blackburn, Betty Blayton, Edward Clark, Nanette Carter, Gregory Coates, Nadine De Lawrence, Alejandra Delfin, Melvin Edwards, Gilbert Fletcher, William Hutson, Gerald Jackson, James Little, Al Loving, Tyrone Mitchell, Jack Whitten, Charles White, Frank Wimberley, Richard Yarde

• Auction/Reception
Jan 30, 5-7 pm
The Cinque Gallery • 560 Broadway/Prince St • Room 504 • 966-3464

Carl Van Vechten—American Portraits: Harlem Heroes
Through Jan 30
Manhattan East Gallery of Fine Arts • 202 E. 76th St • 988-5802

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

• 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 •

Quietly Bold: Frontline Women
Through Feb 23
Anne Noggle photo exhibit addresses women in the military from World War II to the present, with special emphasis on their role in Operation Desert Storm.

Continued on Page 9

The Museums at Stony Brook • 1208 Route 25A
• Stony Brook • (516) 751-0066

MUSEUMS & CULTURAL CENTERS

• No Name Gospel Singers

Feb 2, 2 & 4 pm

A five-member a cappella ensemble whose repertoire ranges from old-time southern spirituals and folk songs to original compositions.

• Feb 1 & 2, 1 & 4:30 pm

• **African-American Colonial Dance**
Children of Dahomey recreate experiences and celebrations of slaves living in the Hudson River Valley during the late 18th century.

• Origins of Gospel Music

A musical journey with L.D. Frazier from spirituals to the influences of gospel in current music.

• An Urban African-American Community: The Uses of Historic Preservation

Using slides, Joan Maynard discusses how a Black historical society in Brooklyn is used as a museum of African-American history and explains how an historic site is used as a resource for teaching local history and communal pride.

Leonhardt People Center (2nd Floor) • In the Charles A. Dana Education Wing • American Museum of Natural History • Central Park West at 79th St • 769-5800

Come all you Gallant Heroes: The World of the Revolutionary Soldier
Through Aug 14

This exhibition chronicles the experiences of soldiers in the Continental Army during the War for American Independence. Excerpts from the diaries of soldiers are posted on the walls, including one from ex-slave and freeman Jacob Francis.

Fraunces Tavern Museum • 54 Pearl St • 425-1776

O Write My Name:

Harlem Heroes, American Portraits Through Feb

Carl Van Vechten's privileged view of Harlem's heroes is the focus of the photographic exhibit.

Harlem School of the Arts • 645 St. Nicholas Ave • 926-4100

• *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..

• Royal Art of Benin

Through Sept 13
An Exhibit of 163 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

1+1+1 Works by Alfredo Jaar

Sculptural works by Chilean-Born Alfredo Paar examine the impact of multinational capitalism on countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America

The New Museum • 583 Broadway • 219-1222

• Guided tours by appointment only

• Film-The Legacy of Arturo Schomburg & The Dream Keeper

Feb 1, 10:00 am- 2:00 pm

• Black Tie Gala Benefit

Feb 1, 5:30 pm, Reception; 7:00 pm Performance; 8:00, Dinner

Hosted by Maya Angelou & Amiri Baraka

• Jazz Arts

Feb 2, 1 pm

Special preview of artworks by Romare Bearden, Milt Hinton, Sam Middleton, Chuck Stewart & others; and *New World Africans*
An art exhibit of 19th century African descendants both slave and free, in rural and urban communities who made important cultural and economic contribution in south America and the Caribbean

• Jazz Concert

Feb 2, 3 pm

In the Langston Hughes Auditorium

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

• African Mask Making Workshop

Feb 1, 2 pm

African masks, leaping antelope masks and flying masks are just a few of the masks that you can make and take.

• Gallery Talk: *From the Studio: Artists-in-Residence 1990-1991*

Feb 2, 2:00 pm

• *Africa and the Diaspora: Selections from the Permanent Collection*

Through Jun 7

Includes 95 paintings. Exhibition examines the influence of African art and culture on the art, artists, and culture of the Americas and the Caribbean.

• From the Studio:

Artists-in-Residence, 1990-91

Through Mar 1

Ada Pilar Cruz, ceramic sculptor; Leonardo

D. Drew, sculptor; Eve Sandler, painter
Studio Museum of Harlem • 144 W. 125th St
• 864-4500

• **Brooklyn** •

The New Merengue
Jan 31-May 3

The migration of Caribbean and African-Americans to Brooklyn is the subject of the Museum's 29th Grand Lobby project. The site-specific work is designed by Houston Conwill, sculptor, Joseph De Pace, architect and Estella Conwill Majozo, poet.

The Brooklyn Museum • 200 Eastern Parkway • (718) 638-5000

African Musical Instruments & Africa Revisited: A Slide Show by Bilal and Rahkiah of Ethno Modes Folkloric Workshop

Feb 3, 4 pm

In *African Musical Instruments* renowned musician Bilal will give an introductory talk on and African instruments.

Africa Revisited: A slide Show features everyday scenes from African life taken from 1972 to 1990 by Bilal and Rahkiah Abdurahman.

Brooklyn Public Library • Bedford Branch Library • 496 Franklin Ave • (718) 638-9544

• **Staten Island** •

1992 American Express Jazz Festival at Snug Harbor

• **Tito Puente and His Latin Jazz All-Stars**
Feb 1, 7 & 9:30 pm

• **Jazz on Film: A Song is Born (1948)**
Feb 2, 2 pm.

Technicolor musical featuring performances by Louis Armstrong, Lionel Hampton and Benny Carter with Danny Kaye.

• **Introduction to Jazz Dance**
Feb 2, 3 pm

Snug Harbor Cultural Center • 1000 Richmond Terrace • (718) 448-2500

FILM

Daughters of the Dust
Through Jan 28

Written by Julie Dash
Set in the legendary Sea Islands (off the South Carolina/Georgia coast) in 1902, the story follows a Gullah family (descendants of West African slaves) on the eve of its migration to the North.

Film Forum • 209 West Houston St • 727-8110

Black History Month '92 Film Festival
Feb 1-29

An extensive list of films to shown exists. Please call for Titles and Showtimes.

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

FREE FOR ALL

• **Brooklyn** •

• **Films**
Jamaican Art & Jamaicans in London
Jan 29, 1:30 pm

The Brooklyn Public Library • Bedford Branch • Franklin Ave at Hancock St • (718) 638-9544

• **Inside Bedford-Stuyvesant**
Through Feb 22

A video preservation project featuring highlights from one of the first black-produced community access television programs. The half-hour magazine aired from 1968-70.

The Rotunda Gallery • Cadman Plaza West & Orange St • (718) 855-7882



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128-16 Rockaway Blvd •
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Feb 3, 5 & 7, 10:30 am
William's life is the world
of books. Through
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only dreamed of before.
What happens when the
world of dreams become

the world of reality? The
Unexpected Visitor
arrives when you least
expect it!!!

Salt and Pepper •
Lincoln Square Studio
Theatre • 218 W. 64th St
• West of Lincoln Center
• 262-4989

**The Washingtons: Free
Africans in 19th Century
New York**

Feb 2 & 16, 2 pm

In this two character
drama, Mr. and Mrs.
Washington recount their
family's successful effort
to spirit a runaway slave
to freedom. Study Guide
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students.

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Orchard St • 431-0233

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