

## Actress—Playwright Barbara Banta to host two lectures

*The Southwest Gas Distinguished Artists Series presents critically acclaimed artist*

Actress/Playwright Banta will host two lectures: "Improvisational Techniques" at 7 p.m., Jan. 29, and "Writing and Performing the One Person Show" at 7 p.m., Jan. 30, in the Archie C. Grant Hall, room 125, on the UNLV campus.

Banta has mounted her own one woman play, "Through Ruby's Eyes," which is scheduled to tour internationally. "Through Ruby's Eyes" concerns a traveling singer/songwriter and her evolution as an individual, a woman and a performer. According to Banta, "I don't really know yet whether it's a play, but "Ruby" is a very dynamic and funny piece about choices that people make in their lives.

She recently served as Di-

rector of the Intern Acting Company at Players Theatre Columbus, central Ohio's leading equity theatre. She is also the founder of the monthly "New Plays" playreading series at Players Theatre Columbus.

Banta has performed with numerous companies, earned her bachelor and master degrees in theatre, studied at Lamda in London, worked intensively with noted theatre/mime artist Tony Montanaro and danced for two years at Ohio State University.

The Banta lectures are part of the Southwest Gas Distinguished Artists Series. The lectures are free, but space is limited. For more information call 597-4210.

## Grammy Award Winning Lou Rawls Next Artist for "Rap With Artist" Session

Grammy Award-winning Lou Rawls, who'll perform Jan. 24 and Feb. 13 at the Desert Inn, will tape a "Rap With the Artist" session for the archives of the Arnold Shaw Research Center for Popular Music at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

"With the addition of Rawls to our collections, the archives are quickly becoming one of America's major storehouses of musical artifacts," said Joe Delany, who'll host the taping session.

Rawls is not just another singer. He has been active for years raising funds for Black colleges. And, in addition, he has provided his distinctive vocal styling for three animated Garfield TV cartoon specials and one Garfield soundtrack album released in conjunction with the first TV special.

"Rap With the Artist" will be at 2 p.m. Jan. 29, 1991, in Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall at UNLV. It will be free to the public.

Rawls' latest album "Family Reunion" recently yielded a hit single "Too Bad You Belong to Somebody Else." Another single, "When Love Walked in the Door", has also been released from the album, which was produced by the renown team of Gamble and Huff.

In addition to his recording and performing career, Rawls is the corporate spokesperson for Anheuser Busch; his name is virtually synonymous with Budweiser. Through the brewery's sponsorship of "Lou Rawls' Parade of Stars" telethon, begun in 1980, Rawls has railed more than \$50 million for 42 black colleges.

Rawls is also host of the annual syndicated TV special "Lou Rawls Presents Black Gold Hits" and the yearly special "The Budweiser Show-Down," which features contestants who have won regional talent contests from across the country.

Raised in Chicago, Rawls' first exposure to music was in a church choir when he was seven years old. He was greatly influenced by Black entertainers such as Billy Eckstine, Arthur Prysock, and Joe Williams who performed at the Regal Theatre in Chicago.

After high school, Rawls joined the touring gospel group, The Pilgrim Travelers. He performed with the group until joining the Army's 82nd Airborne Division. In 1958, he rejoined the gospel group. Later, he sang background for the legendary Sam Cooke. In late 1959, a producer from Capitol Records heard him performing at Pandora's Box coffee shop in Los Angeles and signed him to a recording contract. His first album in 1966, "Lou Rawls Live," brought him national recognition; the album went gold in sales. His next album, "Love Is a Hurtin' Thing," received his first Grammy Award nomination. His "Dead End Street" won him a Grammy in 1967 for Best Rhythm and Blues Vocal Performance. Other Grammys came for "Natural Man" in 1971 and "Unmistakably Lou" in 1977.

The late Sammy Davis Jr.



Lou Rawls, Grammy-Award winning artist

inaugurated the UNLV interview program in November 1986. Among those who've also been interviewed for the UNLV archives are Academy Award-winning songwriter Sammy Cahn, singer-songwriter Paul Anka, Oscar-winning scorewriter Ernest Gold, songwriter Burt Bacharach,

singer Robert Goulet, and Grammy Award-winners Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gomme.

The center was established by the late Arnold Shaw, then an adjunct professor of music at

UNLV, with the encouragement and assistance of Dr. John C. Unrue, provost and vice president for academic affairs at UNLV.

Among the extremely valuable collections housed by the center are the memorabilia that once belonged to Harold Minsky, the legendary burlesque mogul who virtually revolutionized the Las Vegas show scene in the late 1950s. The major goal of the center—currently directed by Bill Willard, a prominent local journalist and arts enthusiast—is to preserve anything and everything dealing with pop music. Shaw considered Las Vegas a "natural repository of pop music."

For further information about the interview program, please contact Bill Willard at 735-6911. Seats will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

For further information, please contact:

Barbara Hall  
Public Relations Manager  
Performing Arts Center,  
UNLV  
702-597-4039

## Drama and learning for senior adults

*Let the star shine in the Theater for the Senior Adult Course and plays offered this spring*

There will be more opportunities for senior adults to let that star inside of them shine when UNLV offers their spring semester of senior activities. Interested seniors may register for the "Theater for Senior Adults" course. In addition, senior adults are invited to partake in "Morning's at Seven," not only in acting roles but also as behind the scenes support.

The spring classes meet Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. The course will focus on basic acting and directing techniques when working with senior adult performers and choosing plays to be performed for a senior adult audience. The course is free to people 62 and older. Catalog and registration information may be obtained by phoning 739-3631.

Senior adults are also invited to participate by auditioning for "Morning's at Seven," a delightful comedy about the four Gibb Sisters and their neighbors. Auditions will be held Sunday, Jan. 27, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Black Box Theater and Monday, Jan. 28, from 7 to 10 p.m. in the Alta Ham Fine Arts Acting Studio. Both the theater and studio are located on the UNLV campus. Interested persons may sign up for an audition appointment by phoning 739-3666. Remember, no previous theater experience is necessary, just the desire to learn and become involved.



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