

EBONY FASHION FAIR



The 23rd Annual Ebony Fashion Fair is featuring Orlando Cruz, a model sponsored by R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.'s More cigarette brand. Here, Cruz is showing off a brown tweed suit designed by Brioni of Italy to Eunice W. Johnson, producer and director of the Ebony Fair that will visit over 150 U.S. CITIES THIS SEASON.

LAS VEGAS, Nev.—New shapes, colorful combinations and a "Free Spirit" attitude make up the fashion forecast for 1981, according to the Ebony Fashion Fair which will show its new collection at the Frontier Hotel on April 5.

"No longer is one dominant look going to be the only option available for the well-dressed, fashion-conscious individual," explains Mrs. Eunice W. Johnson, producer and director for the 23rd annual Ebony Fashion Fair. "With enough imagination, you can turn heads in the same suit you bought last year."

The key to unlocking the fashion world's new freedom, Mrs. Johnson believes, will be balance. Designers like Blass, McFadden and de la Renya, all of whom will be represented at the Ebony Fair, are returning to an opulent look, "but it's opulence based on realistic shapes and easily interchangeable jackets, pants and skirts.

"Looks are so diversified today," she adds. "Women can go out to restaurants wearing extravagant pouf-shape skirts with years of beading and ostrich feathers. Or they can wear an elegant cashmere sweater and a pair of well-tailored pants and be the best-dressed person there."

The same theories will hold for the fashion-conscious male and this year's Fashion Fair will again include male models Orlando Cruz and William Pettaway. Cruz, the model sponsored by R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.'s More cigarette brand, will wear a brown tweed suit by Brioni of Italy and a variety of other creations by both Italian and Black designers.

Las Vegas is one of 93 cities on the Fashion Fair schedule this spring. The fair began in 1958 and has grown in both elegance and prestige. The troupe includes models, wardrobe mistresses, a music director, a stage manager and a commentator.

And the Ebony Fashion Fair is more than just an evening of fashion. It's an opportunity for local citizens to contribute to charities and public service organizations in this area. In its 22-year history, the Fashion Fair has generated over \$12 million for worthy projects across the country.

The Las Vegas show is being sponsored by Gamma Phi Delta Sorority. Local production coordinators are Irene Parker, general chairman; Teola Williams, ticket chairman; Ruby Arnie, publicity chairman. The Fashion Fair will be held at the Frontier Hotel on April 5 at 7 p.m.

"It's a real pleasure for us to co-sponsor the Ebony Fashion Fair again this year," says Robert S. Mitherman, More's special events manager at Reynolds Tobacco. "I hope the people here won't pass up the opportunity to see an outstanding fashion show and, at the same time, contribute to local charity."

LCCR Names Ralph Graham Neas As Executive Director

WASHINGTON, D.C., MARCH 31—The Leadership Conference on Civil Rights (LCCR) today named Ralph Graham Neas as Executive Director of the 31 year old coalition. Mr. Neas was Chief Legislative Counsel to former Senator Edward W. Brooke of Massachusetts and most recently served in the same position with Senator David Durenberger of Minnesota.

In making the announcement, Clarence Mitchell, LCCR Chairman, indicated that Mr. Neas, a senior Senate staff leader on civil rights issues, has had a long history of working with the Leadership Conference. Mr. Mitchell praised Mr. Neas for his strong commitment to equal rights, equal justice and equal opportunity as demonstrated by his successful efforts on behalf of the extension of the Voting Rights Act and the extension of the Equal Rights Amendment and passage of the D.C. Voting Rights Amendment and many other major civil rights measures.

"His role in these efforts was not only to help coordinate the strategy and resources within the Senate, but also to serve as the principal Senate liaison with the appropriate federal agencies and with civil rights organizations throughout the country," commented Mr. Mitchell.

"We are indeed fortunate to have someone with his civil rights background, with extensive experience and familiarity with congressional procedures coming on staff at a time when we must counter the mounting attacks on the programs for which we have fought so hard and so long," Mr. Mitchell said. He added, "We know that the Leadership Conference will benefit greatly from Mr. Neas' reputation as a coalition builder who can work with both Democrats and Republicans on both sides of Capitol Hill. This capability, combined with his substantive and procedural knowledge, will be especially important as we confront today's critical civil rights issues."

In addition to civil rights, Mr. Neas' responsibilities include labor, ethics, campaign reform, transportation, criminal law and tax legislation. Mr. Neas also worked as legal counsel on civil rights matters to the Congressional Research Service of the Library of Congress in the early 1970's.

In accepting the appointment, Mr. Neas said, "I am honored to have this opportunity to serve as the Executive Director of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights. During my eight years with Senators Brooke and Durenberger, I was fortunate to have worked closely with many of the people who represent the organizations comprising the leadership Conference. And I now look forward to strengthening these relationships as we try to resolve the new and complex civil rights challenges of the 1980's."

A native of Brookline, Massachusetts, Mr. Neas is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and the University of Chicago Law School. He is a founder and a member of the Board of Directors of the Guillain-Barre Syndrome Foundation; a member of the Board of "It's a Small World," a children's news network; and is listed in "Who's Who in Politics".

The Leadership Conference on Civil Rights is a coalition of 150 major national organizations representing Blacks, Hispanics and Asian Americans, labor, the major religious groups, women, the handicapped, minority businesses and professions seeking to advance civil rights for all Americans through enactment and enforcement of Federal legislation.

NAACP Opens Job Bank

Due to the large number of unemployment alone with the economic situation in the City of Las Vegas and Clark County, the Las Vegas Branch of the NAACP has established a community Job Bank. The program is directed by Mr. Hampton Ginger, Chairman of the Labor & Industry Committee of the NAACP.

Realizing that the largest number of unemployed in our community are those citizens of ethnic and minority groups, with Blacks making up the major percent of this total. The figures are extremely high among Blacks who find themselves out of work with no meaningful form of support for themselves and their families.

In order to try and help eliminate some of the unemployment problems in the Las Vegas Branch of the NAACP offers the Job Bank Program as a means of coordination people with jobs and positions available.

Mr. Ginger organized the program back on February 18th, 1981. To date, the Job Bank has 127 occupations and 105 persons now registered into the program. Some 40 persons have been referred and employed since the beginning of the program.

The goal of the program is to have at least 700 skills and 500 persons into the bank by the end of this year.

We need more persons to register their skills into the job file so that as jobs become available we will be able to match the job skills required, with persons, possessing those skills. Also, an apprenticeship program is being developed through some of the local industries and companies.

Those interested can stop by the NAACP office, located at 1040 W. Owens Ave., between the hours of 9:30 a.m., and 5:30 p.m., to register or receive additional information.