

Entertainment



ARTIST OF THE WEEK

By Lady Essence

Good singers are not made, they are born. And Donna Washington, raised on soul, rooted in gospel and very much a daughter of contemporary music, was born to be a singer.

Her father was a Los Angeles minister and naturally Dona began vocalizing in church choirs at a tender age. But she always nur-

tured dreams of becoming a professional R&B pop singer. She was actually offered the opportunity to record a popular music LP as a teen, but her father nixed the idea so that she would be able to participate in a cross-country revival. Donna and her sister Ineta sang lead with John Springer & Bread, a contempo-

rary gospel group who appeared with many choirs, including those of the Rev. James Cleveland and the Academy Cathedral's 1978 LP.

Donna still fostered hopes of singing R&B and pop music, however, and recorded demo tapes in Los Angeles. Capitol signed her immediately upon hearing the demos and released her first album, *For The Sake Of Love*, in 1980.

During the past two years, Donna has performed concerts and surrounded herself with a bevy of talented people, including Chuck Jackson, Natalie Cole, and Aretha Franklin. Chuck produced her second album in 1981, entitled *Going For The Glow*. This album is a platter

filled with tasty delicacies for the most discerning of palates; there is some gospel flavor, hints of jazz, a little pop spice and of course a good helping of soul for the main course.

Her gospel training has helped her in vocal deliveries much in the same way church choir backgrounds helped Donna's influences, Gladys Knight and Chaka Khan.

Donna Washington is bright, young, and very enthusiastic about her work in the entertainment field. She'll be around for a while and hopes that you'll be there with her as she rises to the top.



DONNA WASHINGTON



George Wallace Says "It's A Crazy World"



George Wallace

"It's a cra-a-a-zy world," chuckles comedian George Wallace, as he grins mischievously. The toothy smile is enough. Then he substantiates his statement by pointing out some of life's greater absurdities, and the fun really begins. Like if O.J. Simpson can fly (as he does in his Hertz commercial), why does he need a Rent-a-Car? And, what's he doing at the airport anyway?

Yes, it's a crazy world, and George Wallace is dedicated to preserving it in that condition. "A lot of people go on stage and do an act, but I go on stage to have fun," he says. "I might play with people. We might sing. We're going to be in a living room and we're going to be relaxed. My job is to go out there and make you forget your

utility bill."

Born in Atlanta, Wallace decided at an early age that he was going to become a comedian and began to study the comedy greats that were performing regularly on television. "I was encouraged tremendously by Red Skelton," he says. "I especially loved his characters, like Freddie the Freeloader and Clem Caddleshopper."

Oddly enough, George didn't go through school as the class cut-up. "I was never a wisecrack as a kid," he remembers. "I was really into leadership, but good grades? No way. My mom would look at my grades and ask me, 'what are these D's and F's?' I'd just say, 'doin' fine, doin' fine.'"

Though comedy was

his long-range goal, George did take a detour, studying marketing at the University of Akron. After graduation, he moved to New York and entered the advertising business, working his way up to vice-president of Douglas Leigh Advertising. Once he had set aside enough of the money he had earned there to feel secure financially, he left to pursue his childhood dream by performing in local nightclubs.

During one of his performances, he was seen by the producer of "The Redd Foxx Show," who drafted him for his Los Angeles-based staff as a writer and performer. The L.A. stint was brief and, returning to New York, he debuted his

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