

# Entertainment



## ARTIST OF THE WEEK

By Lady Essence

**SYREETA**, born in Pittsburgh, began singing at the age of three. Her real introduction to performing came at age thirteen when she joined the choir of the prestigious Mather Academy in South Carolina, where she was a student. She remained there for four years and then went on to win several talent shows while in college and build a name for herself on the local scene.



SYREETA

An audition with Brian Holland led her to signing with Motown Records. Her first record, "I Can't Give Back The Love," Wright and her performance convinced Motown that it had an extraordinary find.

Though recording kept her busy, she found time to write her own songs, and like everyone else who met her, Stevie Wonder was impressed with Syreeta the singer/songwriter. But he was equally impressed with Syreeta the woman. Stevie and Syreeta eventually married and their musical collaborations, "Signed, Sealed, Delivered," "Blame It On The Sun," "It's A Shame," and "If You Really Love Me," earned plaudits from critics and the public alike.

Although the marriage did not last, this did not end their friendship nor their musical union, and their continuing working relationship yielded the highly acclaimed Stevie Wonder Presents Syreeta album. Later, when Stevie produced his classic Secret Life Of Plants LP, Syreeta penned the lyrics to and performed "Com Back As A Flower."

Syreeta's next move resulted in her first number-one record as a singer: the poignant ballad, "With You I'm Born Again," which she performed as a duet with Billy Preston. This song thrust Syreeta into the forefront of today's contemporary singers and established her as an international talent.

The true sound of Syreeta comes through on her most recent album, Set My Love In Motion. Syreeta's chemistry with producer Ollie E. Brown,

## WIBC HAS NEW DIRECTOR

Linda W. Bowie has been appointed Executive Director of the World Institute of Black Communications (WIBC), a non-profit organization dedicated to expand the participation of African-Americans in all aspects of the communications industry.

Ms. Bowie, a former administrator of the Dance Theatre of Harlem Library, was also involved in the fund-raising, public relations and publicity efforts for the company. In addition, she worked as Media Specialist for the Montgomery County school system in Maryland where she opened and managed a new media center.

At WIBC, Ms. Bowie is responsible for the development of the coordination of the full range of WIBC programs and services, including fund-raising. The World Institute was founded in 1978 by the National Black Network (NBN), to work closely with major corporations and advertising agencies to foster a greater awareness of the growing economic potential in the African-American communities across the nation.



The great Miss SARAH VAUGHN was special guest at the taping of the SIXTH ANNUAL RHYTHM & BLUES AWARDS SHOW recently at the IMPERIAL PALACE HOTEL/CASINO here in Las Vegas. Greeting her back stage was MARIANNE MARKS, movie and TV actress.

along with Hal Davis, Angelo Bond and William Weatherspoon, has resulted in what many consider to be her most ambitious project.

Syreeta Wright is an immensely talented, qualified, and beautiful lady, and she has just begun to step to the forefront of a new era in Motown history.

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