

Entertainment

UNLV Junior Dances At Riviera . . .

"SOLID GOLD" A POSITIVE STEP TOWARD GOAL FOR ANTIONETTE L. HAWKINS

As Solid Gold at the Riviera becomes more and more popular, changes become necessary. Perhaps the most noticeable change in the show are a few new faces. These faces joined the show as recognizable faces in the Versailles Theatre became even more recognizable faces on the Sold Gold television show.

With Nicole Romine and Beverly Jeanne moving on to the screen, auditions were held to replace the vibrant dancers. One must remember that with all the dance numbers and costumes tailored to the original group of Solid Gold dancers, new dancers to fill those costumes and follow in those dance steps wouldn't be easy to find.

The first dancer to join the group and become an addition to the 'originals' was Antionette L. "Tonjua" Hawkins. The 21-year-old UNLV junior will finish college with a teaching degree in dance. "I came to UNLV

on a dance scholarship," she says and adds, "for what I wanted to do (performing on the Strip) Las Vegas was conven-



Tonjua

ient."

She can hardly remember a time when she

wasn't dancing. "I started dancing in classes when I was seven, but my whole family danced since I can remember," she says.

Hawkins is very close to her family and calls both Pittsburgh and New York home. There're six in her family and in November for her mother's birthday, she'll treat her mom to her first visit to the western United States.

She readily admits that Solid Gold is her most notable job so far and it's "a noticeable step up from any previous jobs I've had. The quality of dance is good and you have to be a dancer to be in the show; you can't get by in Solid Gold by being a cheerleader, majorette, or model," Tonjua stresses. She includes, "It's talent, not just a costume."

Hawkins appreciates the feedback from the audience and enjoys the live stage although her goals include television work, acting and singing.

She says she spends almost half her time with her boyfriend, David K. Bailey, and other available time with her good friend Troy Townes and of course, "some alone time with myself, too." Tonjua doesn't hesitate to add that along with personal time, she's a full-time student holding down a full-time job.

Although she's not one of the originals, she feels a part of a common goal with the other dancers to always keep the show at the highest of standards and allow

nothing but the best.

"My goals in life are not aimed at being famous or a star, but to be financially satisfied and if the titles of 'fame' and 'stardom' accompany it, well that's another glorified gift of God," she says of her goals and adds that her goals include a B.S. in dance education, dancing professionally, singing, traveling abroad and securing top 'gigs' in the entertainment field. She also smiles and allows that two 'minor dreams' of hers are to have a photographic lay-out in Jet and an article about her in Ebony.

"Without a doubt my family is tops in my life and they are #1 as a single unit," she says reflectively. In Solid Gold her #1 is "You Light Up My Life" (her adagio). In dance, expressive dance ranks #1 with Hawkins. "It allows you to move and extra freedom to really express yourself and your feelings," states Tonjua. Her #1 pet — a lion. "They're cute as cubs, unique as creatures and full of courage," she adds.

An exceptional dancer, Hawkins had many honors bestowed her in her home of Pittsburgh along with scholarships and the like.

However, for right now, Tonjua is just enjoying all the many things she's worked hard for and been blessed with, too. "I'm very happy with life now and I look forward to what the future will bring," she says with a twinkle in her eye.

Jesse Jackson sings, clowns on NBC show

The Rev. Jesse Jackson sang and clowned as host of NBC-TV's "Saturday Night Live," but while he called his performance "political satire, perhaps at its best," not everyone saw it that way.

Jackson said he tried to "walk this delicate balance between message and celebration" as he did impressions of President Reagan and others, portrayed a zany game show host and chastised NBC for failing to hire more minority workers for the show.

The former Democratic presidential candidate got raucous laughter when he confessed to having a "silent passion" for United Nations Ambassador Jeane J. Kirkpatrick, one of the staunchest conservatives in the

Reagan administration.

About 40 members of the Jewish Defense League and Jews Against Jackson demonstrated outside NBC's headquarters, calling Jackson "a racist and an anti-Semite."

After joking and singing as host of "Saturday Night Live," the Rev. Jesse Jackson said he thought NBC was making "an earnest search" for more minority actors and writers on the comedy show.

Jackson chided the network for its lack of minority workers during his stint as guest host of Saturday's program. "Out there in TV land somewhere, there are some black people who want to be funny," he said, urging them to write the network for jobs.

AUDITIONS SCHEDULED FOR THE PLAY "MESSAGE FROM THE GRASS ROOTS"

The play *Message From The Grass Roots* will be presented by the Cultural and Community Affairs Division of the City of Las Vegas' Department of Parks, Recreation and Senior Citizen Activities as part of the Reed Whipple Cultural Center's Black History Month activities.

L. Leain Thompson will direct the play and will hold auditions on Nov. 6, 7 and 8 at 6 p.m. in the Reed Whipple Center Main Theatre, 821 Las Vegas Blvd. No. The play will be performed Jan. 31 thru Feb. 19, 1985.

Blacks, Caucasians

and Hispanics are needed, all types and ages. Scripts will be available for perusal prior to the auditions for those interested.

Message From The Grass Roots, written by Robert Riche, is based on the career of the late Malcolm X. This powerful contemporary drama explores the rise of a modern black political leader from his earliest days as a drug pusher and thief to his ultimate emergence as a major influence on the direction of race relations in American history.

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