

Entertainment

PAULENE MYERS TO GIVE PERFORMANCE OF "MAMA"

Paulene Myers, acclaimed actress of the theater, film and television, will perform her one-woman show "MAMA" at the Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 821 Las Vegas Blvd. No. on Wednesday, Feb. 6 at 8 p.m. This program is presented by the Cultural and Community Affairs Division of the City of Las Vegas' Department of Parks, Recreation and Senior Citizens Activities as part of Black History Month events and will be here for the one evening show only. Tickets will go on sale Jan. 29 at the Center.

MAMA is a highly praised presentation characterizing six black women of literature and history, each of a different time, different social status and different geographical area, but with experiences, motherhood, personal strength and an integrity in common.

Ms. Myers' considerable and wide-ranging talents allow her to become completely submerged in each character, and she makes her astounding transformation with bulls-eye accuracy and lightning speed (costume changes are done on stage).

The metamorphosis begins with Myers' own Mama, as she plays both her Mama and herself as a little girl, weaving from the threads of her own childhood the fabric of the entire performance. From the moment her commanding voice booms forth to awaken a recalcitrant, whining seven-year-old, the spirit of this first Mama permeates the atmosphere, wafting throughout the entire evening like a guiding force.

Other portrayals in the presentation include Tacey Johnson, a poor woman from the 1960's who drinks to forget that her husband beats her;

Mrs. Hampton of Montgomery, Alabama, a woman of aristocratic background, who is dignified and rich, but involved; Mrs. Benbow who has not money, but enriches her life by a refusal to be bitter; a well-known slave, Aunt Rachel, who worked for Samuel Clemens and is identified in a Mark Twain story; and immortal Isabella, better known as Sojourner Truth.

In a career that spans more than 30 years, Ms. Myers' theatrical training began at New York's New Theatre School and she made her Broadway debut at the Ambassador Theatre in "Growin' Pains." Since then she has been featured Broadway and national companies of such major productions as "A Member of the Wedding," "Anna Lucasta" and "The Blacks."

Her love affair with the theatre and dedication to her own heritage have given birth to two award-winning productions, "Mama" and "The World of My America." Presented together as "Paulene Myers' Black America," they garnered for their creator the Scotsman Fringe First Award at the prestigious Edinburgh Festival. In addition, "Mama" has received two Emmy nominations and an Iris Award, and "The World of My America" received the Los Angeles Drama Critics Cricle Award.

Among the great variety of roles played by this talented actress were Mrs. Ward on "The Days Of Our Lives" for 3 years; Judge Pittman in "I'll See You In Court"; Judge Morrissey on "General Hospital"; Grandma Jane, the crafty, comical, gambling oldster in a wheelchair on the Tony Orlando and Dawn Show; Judge Ramsay in the Archie's Civil Rights Episode of "All In The Family; Grandpa's sugar

"THE WILLOW BUILDING" A Black History Month Event

"The Willow Building" written and directed by L. Leain Thompson will be presented in the Reed Whipple Cultural Center to celebrate Black History Month. The play

Recreation and Senior Citizen Activities.

A reception will follow the opening night 8 p.m. performance on Thursday, Jan. 31. The show will run thru Feb. 10 with



L. Leain Thompson

is co-sponsored by Jacobs Ladder, Inc. and the Cultural and Community Affairs Division of the City of Las Vegas' Department of Parks,

8 p.m. performances on Thursday, Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. matinees on Sunday.

The play tells the story of a Black Vietnam War

lump, Lena on "The Good Times"; and Rosie Sanders, devoted nurse of Maurice Stokes played by Bernie Casey in "Big Mo," which she was nominated for an

Image award for best actress. In the feature film, "Lady Sings The Blues," she portrayed the salty madam who hired Billie Holiday.

Tickets for MAMA are

Veteran Booker Tanber, who is emotionally and spiritually shattered by the traumas of battle and readjustment. His life leading nowhere, he cannot hold a job and his companions are as lost as he is. He loses touch with his girl and his service buddy and best friend. His decline eventually comes to a temporary stop.

In a daring and controversial third act, the playwright deals with Booker's final destiny.

Mr. Thompson reveals a perceptive sense of character in his cast of players. His forceful sense of language and speech rhythm give the anger and droll humor authenticity. A quietly intense charisma is there all the time as Thompson brings Booker vividly to life for us.

"The Willow Building" replaces the originally scheduled "Message

\$7.00 for adults and \$5.00 for students, senior citizens and handicapped. For ticket information or reservations call the Reed Whipple Center at 386-6211.

From The Grass Roots."

Ticket prices are \$3.00 for adults and \$2.00 for students and senior citizens. Call 386-6211 for reservations and further information.

ART EXHIBIT HONORS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The Clark County Library District is sponsoring the "Third Annual Art Exhibit in Honor of Black History Month."

All local artists and collectors are invited to bring in a sample of their work for exhibit. All mediums are accepted. Therefore, if you like to draw, paint or have a special collection, contact the West Las Vegas Library at 1402 North "D" Street or call 647-2118 for additional information.

The entry deadline is Jan. 25 at 5:00 p.m., with the Gallery Opening & Reception on Feb. 1 at 6:00 p.m.

All art will be on display for the entire month of February.

Age Requirements are 13 years of age and older.

There are no fees.

LIVE ON STAGE
SIZZLING MUSICAL REVUE
 Starring LARRY MARSHALL
 Featuring ETHEL BEATTY
 And Many Others From
 ORIGINAL MOVIE CAST

Critics Rave:
BILL WILLARD (VARIETY)
 "Spirit of early Harlem Years ...
 brings back the extraordinary
 essence of Cab Calloway."
SANDY ZIMMERMAN (KREL Radio)
 "Dazzling production numbers ...
 exceptionally talented cast ... It's a winner!"

COCKTAIL SHOW—7 & 11 P.M.
 Dark Thursdays
 Includes 2 Drinks

\$14.50
 Plus Tax

736-0240

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