

Entertainment

Unity Theater holding auditions for big play

Unity Theater in conjunction with Nucleus Associates, L.D.C. is holding auditions for "Alice, You're In Wonderland", a contemporary adaptation of Lewis Carroll's book. Story, music, and lyrics are by Ron Stevenson and the production will be directed by Terry Jackson.

They are looking for: three male jazz-tap dancers; one female jazz-tap dancer; two male actors 45-55 years old; one female actress 45-55 years old; two breakdancers; singers, actors, actresses, dancers, and rappers for the chorus; and light and sound technicians.

Dance Theatre of Harlem to appear here April 30

The Dance Theatre of Harlem, one of the world's great dance companies, will make its first appearance in Las Vegas April 30 in UNLV's Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall. The 8 p.m. performance is presented by the Las Vegas Chapter of Links, Inc., in association with the Allied Arts Council of Southern Nevada.

Resume' and portfolio are optional.

Auditions will be held every Saturday at Heritage Hall, 950 W. Owens Avenue, located in the Nucleus Shopping Plaza, beginning April 12 from 9:00 am -- 1:00 pm. For further information, call 367-4247.

An O.S.O.D. Production A Non-Profit Organization.

The Dance Theatre of Harlem was founded in 1969 by Arthur Mitchell, one of this country's most celebrated dancers, as his personal commitment to the people of Harlem following the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. Since that time, Dance Theatre of Harlem members have risen to the top of the dance world as pioneers, establishing new horizons in the history of classical ballet and bringing to it a uniquely American perspective.

The year 1981 began for the Dance Theatre of Harlem with a performance at the White House on the occasion of the Reagan administration's first state dinner, in honor of British Prime Minister Margaret

Thatcher. The company's first performance series that year in the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts concluded with the highest gross sales for any company in the twelve-year history of Washington Performing Arts Society dance presentations.

The Dance Theatre of Harlem's founder and artistic director Arthur Mitchell joined the New York City Ballet in 1955, the first black dancer in the nation to become a permanent member of a major classical ballet company. Since then he has electrified audiences around the world with his performances in the ballets "Agon" and "Arcade," and in such roles as Puck in "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and other roles created especially for him by George Balanchine and other choreographers.

Mitchell rose quickly to the position of premiere danseur with the New York City Ballet. In over 15 years he performed in roles covering the range of their repertoire, dancing with every major ballerina in the company.

Since forming the Dance Theatre of Harlem with financial assistance from the Ford Foundation and the aid of friends, he has been honored by the U.S. Postal Service with the creation of a limited edition "Ballet" stamp cover from an original painting of one of his performance photos. Those covers are now collectors' items, as well as a lasting tribute to his work.

The Las Vegas Chapter of Links, Inc. is presenting the Dance Theatre of Harlem in celebration of their tenth anniversary. The Links, Inc. is a charitable organization of over 5,000 women with over 200 chapters, headquartered in Washington, D.C. and founded in 1946. Nationally, Links, Inc. provides enrichment experiences for talented youth who are educationally disadvantaged as well as for talented youth who need aid.

Tickets for the single performance of the Dance Theatre of Harlem will be priced at \$100, \$50, \$25 and \$10, and all seats will be reserved. Tickets will be available at Bullocks, at the Las Vegas Artists Co-op in the Meadows Mall, and at the Allied Arts Council.

BILLIE ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

Conspiracy Robbed "The Color Purple's" Oscars

N'YORK CITY—The consensus here is that the conspirators robbed "The Color Purple" of its opportunity to walk away from the Academy Awards ceremonies with more than half of the eleven "Oscars" it was nominated for. In consort with a national group of unsuspecting, or maybe not, defenders of the Afro-American male image, a tirade was launched against Spielberg's screen version of Alice Walker's Pulitzer Prize winning novel. This gave the Academy of Arts and Sciences the perfect opportunity to bypass a film which gave African Americans several heretofore denied openings to operate on another H'wood horizon. Quincy Jones, a producer of a big time production and major screen treatment of an Afro-American's novel. The case against the book and the film was then and now, concocted by professional thin skinned thinkers showing regards for fools who are those who liken any group of people to those that are depicted in scripts prepared for the make believe world of H'wood television or radio land. It was an unfortunate break for the initial film career kickoff of Whoopi Goldberg, but in no way will it retard same. Her name announced in nomination received greater applause than the announced winner in her category. It has also just been announced that she currently sequesters from Warner's "Burglar" to a role as a cop in "Public Enemy" opposite John Travolta, for Cannon Films. Whoopi, whose real name is Karen Johnson, is a N'Yorker and early on developed an intimate relation with pain and poverty. According to Mike Nichols who directed attention to her, "She's tremendously talented and a great artist." I think that she and Oprah Winfrey should have won Academy Awards. It's too bad "we" got caught in "Mr. Charlie's" image trap.

WELCOME MAT:—"The Home Coming" of the Dance Theatre of Harlem was as welcome as spring. It was

totally refreshing, like a breeze from the top of a mountain on a hot mid-summer's day. A long overdue event, it was greeted with wide eyes, embraced by warm hearts, a theatre full of prideful people of mixed races and single emotions. The Dance Theatre is a troupe of young delicate performers. In motion they radiate a daring sophistication that's beyond their years. Each performance is of extraordinary strength and balance, responsive to the intent of the composer and choreographer. With a backlog of styles Arthur Mitchell continues to give his youthful artists a fresh approach to the ballet art. So unbelievably talented, each member moves across stage in such musical unison and silent grace it strengthens the knowledge that talent is raceless and divinely endowed.

EYE SEE:—The "Home Coming" audience was almost as talent studded as the stage. Among the tuxedo, sequin dressed aficionados were Melba Moore, Dionne Warwick, Miles Davis, with spouse, Cicely Tyson, Josephine Premice and daughter Susan Fales, who is an off camera member of the Bill Cosby TV show team, Cab's daughter, Chris Calloway, The William Bros. and the delightful Maxine Sullivan, all who entertained the after show special guests between champagne and hors d'oeuvres. Eyed among this group were Lena Horne's designer Giorgio Sant Angelo, M/M Joseph Liebman, Dr & Mrs Bernard Harleston, he's City College's initial Afro-American prexy, M/M Gordon Davis, Commish. Billie Holiday Haynes, Ponchitta Pierce, Arlene Howard, Mrs. Edger Bronfman, Jr., Dr and Mrs. George Dockery, Stephen B. Ratner, M/M Sam Peabody, Terrie Williams and Claire Taylor who celebrated her 16th Dance Theatre opening.

WRITE NEWSY:—Cab Calloway has donated the See ROWE, Page 13

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