

# ENTERTAINMENT

## Ebony Etchings, etc.

### "TOP OF THE ETCHINGS..."

Tinseltowners and Pasadena residents are eagerly awaiting curtain time at the New Revelation Community Outreach Theater in Pasadena, April 30th!! That's when internationally renowned actor Greg-Alan Williams who plays the co-starring role of tough but loveable Sgt. Elerbeen on the popular internationally syndicated "Baywatch" television series will present a premier benefit performance, and play the title role in the PBS Award winning play, "The Life and times of Deacon A. L. Wiley" to benefit the New Revelation Community Outreach Center of Pasadena, located at 855 North Orange Grove Boulevard.

This benefit performance for the Pasadena Youth Center will climax Greg's '93 national tour of the production that was launched in February at the Great American History Theater in St. Paul, Minn., and wrapped the end of March with a record

breaking week long run in Atlanta, Ga., as a Jomondie Theater production after playing to record breaking audiences in various cities and at black college campuses across the country.

Proceeds from this benefit performance will help the center operate their programs offering aid and assistance at all learning levels. Also provide academic enrichment in reading, writing, and arithmetic; science, mathematics, English and Black History. Vocational training in job skills, job applications and interview preparedness, plus supervised physical training classes in sports, aerobics, dance and drama, arts and crafts, with spiritual guidance and enrichment as a mainstay of the overall program thrusts.

A review from the Variety section of the Daily Star Tribune in Minneapolis regarded the play and Greg's performance as

outstanding. Excerpts from the review are as follows, "Williams, as Deacon Wiley, enters by greeting audience members as he would a congregation, turning the clock back to 1904 and setting the stage for a relaxed and expansive Sunday-evening church meeting. Wiley begins to testify, telling how he came to Los Angeles, and of his childhood on a plantation.

He draws detailed, striking pictures of life under slavery, down to the clothing he wore, and games he played as a child. But Wiley's pain ultimately cuts through his nostalgia, as he remembers the scars on his mothers back and a brother sold away from the family.

One suspects that there is a lot of Williams himself in Deacon Wiley, whose messages underscore self-worth, responsibility and the family. But Wiley doesn't pretend to be a preacher.

What he offers is not a sermon, but his own rich store of parables, penetrating observations, and heartfelt sorrows.

Williams the author gives a generous and moving performance as Wiley; he has the un-

forced, flowing style of a born storyteller, sketching in a few words or gestures a host of characters like Tim the overseer, a freedman who becomes a slave again to alcohol, or the successful sharecropper who refuses to teach his fellows how to figure.

No self respecting Sunday-evening church service would be complete without rousing music, and Deacon Wiley delivers!!

Though it is virtually a one-man show, Williams receives outstanding musical backup from Billy Washington, as Brother Hudson, and the audience-as-congregation is pulled in as well, on several rounds of "Jacobs Ladder."

This benefit performance to aid the financial concerns of the New Revelation Youth Center of Pasadena is another example of Greg's willingness to aid and assist others. Risking his life to rescue Japanese-American, Takao Hirato from an angry mob during last years riots in Los Angeles was a paramount!!

For the sake of 'helping at-risk youngsters and adults avoid the possibilities of failure in today's society,' Greg Alan-Williams is urging the public to support and be amongst those attending his benefit performance of "The Life and Times of Deacon A. L. Wiley," Friday

## SENTINEL-VOICE TOP 10 SINGLES

- 1.) FREAK ME - Silk
- 2.) IT WAS A GOOD DAY - Ice Cube
- 3.) NUTHIN' BUT A G THANG - Dr. Dre
- 4.) HIP HOP HOORAY - Naughty By Nature
- 5.) I'M EVERY WOMAN - Whitney Houston
- 6.) DON'T WALK AWAY - Jade
- 7.) SO ALONE - Men At Large
- 8.) COMFORTER - Shai
- 9.) SO INTO YOU - SWV
- 10.) DEDICATED - R. Kelly and the Public Announcement

**NEW #1 SONG:** Nuthin' But A G Thang

**PICK HIT OF THE WEEK:** Dedicated

**TOP JAZZ CATS FROM THE CAT HIMSELF:** 1. Walter Beasley - Intimacy 2. Fattburger - On A Roll 3. Kenny G. - Breathless 4. Richard Elliot - Soul Embrace 5. Norman Brown - Just Between Us 6. Mr. Fingers - Introduction 7. Incognito - Tribes, Vibes & Scribes 8. Everette Harp - Everette Harp 9. Ramsey Lewis - Ivory Pyramid 10. Marilyn Scott - Smile

evening April 30th, at New Revelation Community Outreach Center's Theater, 855 North Orange Grove Boulevard, in the City of Pasadena, California.

Tickets and additional information can be obtained by calling the center, at (818) 795-0700; or checking with popular ticket selling outlets around Los Angeles and Pasadena.

Speaking of popular performers and fund raisers, The United Minority Contractors Association, Inc., and Technical Trade School are presenting a Black-

Tie Fund Raiser you don't want to miss!

The event will feature the lovely and talented Ms. Barbara McNair in a toast to Black Broadway on April 17th, at the Shark Club Dinner Theater, located at 1030 South Grand Avenue.

Proceeds from this gala featuring Barbara will provide unemployed veterans with an opportunity to learn a viable trade, and offers the homeless a chance to improve their plight... ..and that's Hollywood this time!! Until the next time, Lanier.

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## THE ARTISTRY OF CARON WHEELER

If art and music (and by association, music makers) reflect life; if music is the microcosm of life's macrocosm, it's hardly surprising that a good portion of what passes for music these

days is constituted around 'minimizing the risk' or playing it safe, sticking to the tried-and-tested formulas and re-hashing old ideas. Which is why CARON WHEELER's latest work,

**BEACH OF THE WAR GODDESS** stands out, a testament to the innovative, creative force that has propelled this unique artists to a new level of expression.

Lyrical bold and musically adventurous, CARON WHEELER's much awaited new solo project comes almost three years after the release of her critically-acclaimed **UK Blak** solo debut. "It's a tribal funky kind of record and it reflects what's going on inside me. The first album initiated people into where I'm coming from but don't know that it had the substance of grooves that this one has."

Recorded in New York, London, Los Angeles and Jamaica, **BEACH OF THE WAR GODDESS** features 13 Wheeler compositions and writing collaborations and a cover of the Jimi Hendrix classic, "Wind Cries Mary" and was produced by a range of exceptional producers including Jimmy Jam & Terry (See Wheeler, Page 11)

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