

1994 NATIONAL BLACK ARTS FESTIVAL LOOKS AT 30 YEARS OF TRADITION



AVERY BROOKS

ATLANTA — With a focus turned to 30 years of African American improvisational tradition, the National Black Arts Festival (NBAF) announce its major performance lineup and key programming at a news conference held in the historic Paschal's Motor Hotel on Martin Luther King Boulevard, Jr. in the heart of Atlanta.

Hosted by festival Artistic Director Avery Brooks, best known for his television roles as "A Man Called Hawk" and Commander Benjamin Sisko on

the popular "Star Trek: Deep Space Nine," the NBAF outlines the festival overview, **The African American Improvisational Tradition 1963-1993: Thirty Years of Struggle Toward A Vision of Salvation.** Brooks called the NBAF "a forum for the celebration of the culture of people of African descent and their art of living." He called the African American people a nation "whose genius has moved the world...giving the 20th century a dictionary of freedom." He also pointed to the significance

of announcing the 1994 festival from Paschal's, a safe haven for Atlanta African American politics, and an institutionalized breakfast and strategy meeting site from the early 1950s to this day. The National Black Arts Festival, scheduled July 29 - August 7, celebrates the work of artists of African descent in eight

disciplines: music, film, literature, theater, dance, folk art, performance art and visual art. For the first time, Brooks noted, the festival will add a health component, working in conjunction with the Morehouse School of Medicine, the National Black Women's Health Project, the Centers for Disease Control and

several prominent U.S. physicians, as well as Dr. Abbo Hassan Abbo, a Sudanese gynecologist who has worked for more than 35 years to repair the damage caused by female circumcision throughout the African continent.

Title corporate sponsorship of the festival is provided by The

Coca-Cola Company and AT&T. The Fulton County Arts Council, Philip Morris USA, The Rockefeller Foundation, The Pew Charitable Trusts, Delta Air Lines, Ford Motor Company, NationsBank, Southern Bell BellSouth, the National Endowment for the Arts, the City of (See *Blk Arts Festival*, Pg 16)

BUDDAH RECORDS CD COLLECTION CAPTURES EXCITING MUSICAL ERA

What do The Lovin' Spoonful, the birth of Bubblegum, Sha Na Na and the '50s craze, and artists as diverse as Melanie and Curtis Mayfield have in common? The answer can be found in *The Buddah Box*, the latest in a series of collections from Essex Entertainment.

Actually, *The Buddah Box*, billed as a three-CD history of Buddah Records, is not so much a box set as a time capsule. It represents the recorded legacy of perhaps the most noteworthy independent label during one of the richest, most exciting eras in American popular music.

Primarily covering the decade between the mid-'60s and the mid-'70s, the collection spotlights the versatility that kept Buddah a major player at a time when labels rose, flourished and withered like roadside weeds. With nearly 50 selections, it of-

fers a cornucopia of styles and approaches, from folk-rock to psychedelia, from bubblegum to soul, funk and beyond.

Buddah's story is the tale of a handful of dynamic musical forces - Art Kass, who founded it; Artie Ripp, who oversaw its predecessor, Kama Sutra Records; Neil Bogart, who brought a new vision to it; and Jeff Katz and Jerry Karsenetz, who produced, with a frequently changing roster of singers and bands, a multitude of classic pop hits. Together they oversaw one of the most diverse and dynamic rosters on any label in that highly creative time. Along with the artists mentioned above, Bill Withers, Gladys Knight & The Pips, The Ohio Express, Brewer & Shipley, The 1910 Fruit Gum Company, The Lemon Pipers

and many others were all on board.

The story begins with Ripp, former assistant of musical entrepreneur George Goldner, who had been behind hit artists like Frankie Lymon, The Flamingos, the Chantels, and Little Anthony & The Imperials. Ripp, with Hy Mizrahi and Phil Steinberg, set up Kama Sutra Productions in 1964 with a staff of producers and songwriters. They were joined in 1965 by Kass, who had come from MGM Records, and the four founded the Kama Sutra label, which had a distribution deal with MGM.

The new label hit straight out of the chute with the Lovin' Spoonful, one of the most exciting of the American responses to the British Invasion. They are represented in this collection with

hits like "Do You Believe In Magic," "Daydream" and "Summer In The City," which lit up the airwaves in '65 and '66.

With the income generated by the spoonful, Ripp was able to assemble a staff that produced a series of records under names like the Tradewinds and The Innocence. Ripp himself would fill in for album covers and personal appearances now and then.

Kass, disenchanted with the MGM distribution deal, soon spun off Buddah records as an outlet for new artists, bringing in 24-year-old Neil Bogart, another ex-MGM staffer. Bogart teamed up with produced Katz and Kasenetz (the "Super K" guys) and some studio musicians and, under the names The Ohio (See *Buddah*, Page 25)

RITES OF PASSAGE

The dynamic role of "rites of passage" or "transition rites" has long been recognized in transmitting cultural, pro-social values to young people. To become fulfilled and productive members of society, adolescents must know what is expected of them as adults. This requires caring involvement from adults, careful preparation for adulthood and a formal recognition when such status has been achieved. A companion "Rites of Passage" series for females ages 12-18 is currently being scheduled for programming at West Las Vegas Library. Everyone is welcome as audience to observe the participants and learn from the discussions.

Participants who attend at least seven programs receive a Certificate of Completion. Fill out and submit sign-up sheet to West Las Vegas Library by June 26. Free admission

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|---------------------|-------|--|
| Tuesday, June 28 | I. | "Positive Self Esteem" |
| Thursday, June 30 | II. | "Peer Pressure" |
| Tuesday, July 5 | III. | "Dealing with Racism." |
| Thursday, July 7 | IV. | "Positive Role Models." |
| Tuesday, July 12 | V. | "Conflict Resolution." |
| Thursday, July 14 | VI. | "Sexuality and Relationships." |
| Tuesday, July 19 | VII. | "Parenthood Responsibilities." |
| Thursday, July 21 | VIII. | "Male and Female Roles." |
| Tuesday, July 26 | IX. | "Employability Skills" and techniques to land a job. |
| Thursday, July 28 | X. | Short and long term "Goal Setting." |
| Tuesday, August 2 | XI. | "The Family Unit in Africa." |
| Thursday, August 4 | XII. | "Higher Education." |
| Tuesday, August 9 | XIII. | "Politics in Black America." |
| Thursday, August 11 | XIV. | "Black History" in America. |
| Saturday, August 13 | XV. | Rites of Passage Closing Ceremony / C.O.D.A.M.E. Performance
Dr. Al Gourrier discusses "The Seven Principles of Kwanzaa." Certificate of Completion awards
Performance by Children of Diaspora African Musical Ensemble. Conf. Rm., 1 pm - 2:30 pm |



Simba Wachanga
--Swahili for "Young Lions."

Drawing by Barry Ventus
Green Valley High School

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