

VANESSA'S STAR RISES ON BROADWAY



VANESSA WILLIAMS

By Antoinette Dykes
It is another humid Saturday evening in New York City but the audience leaving the Broadhurst Theater on 44th Street and Broadway doesn't seem to mind a bit. Buzzing with excitement, these people have just witnessed Vanessa Williams' stirring performance as Aurora, the lead character in the Tony Award winning play "Kiss Of The Spider Woman."

Agreeing with the crowd's assessment, The New York Times reviewed Williams'

"AFRICAN-AMERICANS IN HAWAII" DEC. TOUR

A "cultural interest" independent tour is offered by Teachers Travel of Santa Monica for the upcoming holiday season. Participants in the tour *The Black Experience in Hawaii* visit Honolulu, Hawaii from December 16 to December 22

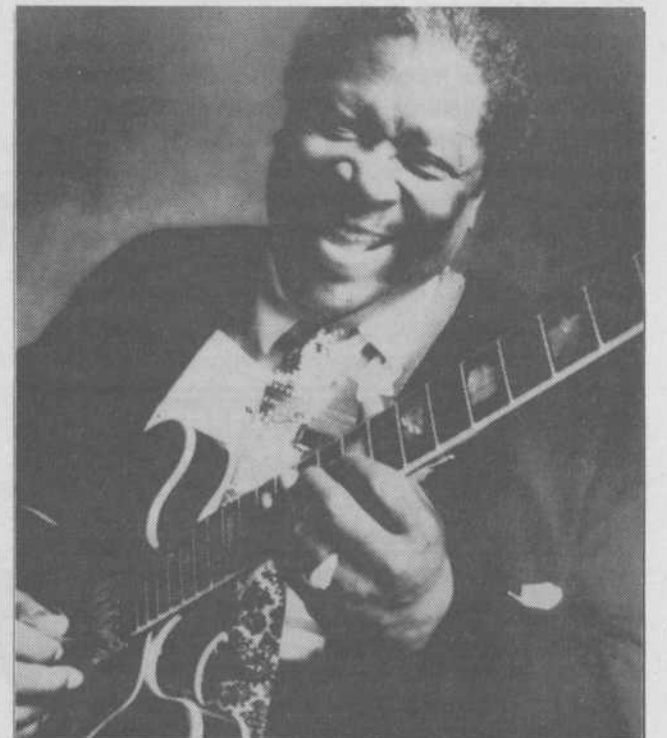
appearance as follows: "Sleek, proud and breathtakingly confident, the recording star has taken over the role of Aurora... Whenever she's onstage, the temperature in the Broadhurst Theater shoots up about 20 degrees. The air-conditioning bills are going to be hell to pay, but the box office is bound to start jumping as word of her performance gets around."

I was fortunate enough to have been able to steal a moment from the super starlet after yet another standing ovation for her

heartfelt portrayal of Aurora. Asked how she feels about being the star of the Broadway hit, Williams responds, "It's a

powerful role, full of singing and dancing and acting. The people who know my musical theater (See Vanessa, Page 23)

THE KING OF BLUES



The King of Blues, B.B. King, will be performing this Saturday, October 1st, in The Blues Music Festival. This concert will also feature Little Feat, as well as Dr. John. The show starts at 8:00 p.m. in the Aladdin Theatre for the Performing Arts.

BOOK GIVES NEW MEANING TO THE THREE R'S: RACE, RHYTHM & REALITY

In a humorous, alarming tale skillfully weaved around the 1993 Dinkins-Guilani election *Do Platanos Go Wit' Collard Greens?* entertains and enlightens, while powerfully tackling issues of racial identity, Black-Latino relations, big city politics and police corruption.

In this his debut novel, New York University School of Law alumnus, David Lamb, brings us a riveting, sensuous tale of Black and Latino love, revealing the cultural convergence to be as beautiful as Dizzy Gillespie and Mario Bauza knew it would be when they first fused Jazz and Salsa. *Platanos* cadence captivates like Miles Davis' 'Sketches of Spain', while interweaving serious bits of history, politics and culture. As you follow Freeman Woodson's journey of police corruption, you're reminded of the headlines of the

past year, and inspired to read deeper into them.

Lamb's writing gracefully transforms traditional English to smoothly stimulate Black and Latino speech, making *Platanos* a phonetic masterpiece. Employing character driven dialogue reminiscent of Derrick Bell's *Faces at the Bottom of the Well*, Lamb's prose, with his hip hop flavoring, encourages the reader to ponder, along with the characters, the complexities of America's racial dilemma.

With joy, anger and laughter, every page, from it's opening sense to it's confrontational closing moments, deeply explores the question posed.

Do Platanos Go Wit' Collard Greens? is published by I Write What I Like, Inc. (\$8.95 paperback, P.O. Box 30, NY, NY 10268-0030; (800) 247-6553, \$2.50 shipping and handling).

for six nights in the Waikiki area. Cost: \$1,749 per person double occupancy; \$2,058 single.

The tour features roundtrip air from Los Angeles, six nights accommodation at a Waikiki Beach-area lodging, roundtrip airport transfers in Honolulu, a city tour, a discussion brunch, and assisted visits to sites of relevance to the tour theme. In addition, the Hawaii tour offers an exciting visit to the "Big Island" of Hawaii, home of the beautiful (See Hawaiian Tour, Page 23)

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Still I rise.

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