

National Black Arts Festival Kicks Off 1996 Membership Drive

The National Black Arts Festival (NBAF), the largest and most prestigious event celebrating the work of artists of African descent, kicked off its 1996 membership drive this week, it was announced by Avery Brooks, director of the NBAF.

offer membership packages for everyone, regardless of their financial situation," says Brooks. "For the past eight years, this event has provided tremendous opportunities for African American artists, as well as a vital cultural showcase for the community. With the support of

our members, we hope this year to be able to give back to the Atlanta community more than ever before."

Membership categories include Founder at \$500, Patron at \$250, Associate/Family at \$100, Supporting at \$50, Individual at \$25 and Student/Senior at \$10.

The benefits of membership range from admission to VIP events, complimentary tickets, members-only events and commemorative NBAF posters. Persons joining during the membership drive will have the opportunity to attend the "member's only Caribbean Fete, Feb. 15, which will feature authentic Caribbean food and entertainment. A preview for the 1996 Festival schedule will be announced at this time.

NBAF will co-sponsor a number of special events throughout the city including:

*Opening Night Gala of Ain't Misbehavin'! with the Pointer Sisters, Jan. 9 at the Fox Theater

*A collaboration with the Fox Theater, Coca Cola Series: Hailey's Comet, a one-man show starring John Amos, Feb. 5 and the Cuban Folkloric Dance Ensemble Feb. 13.

The ten-day National Black Arts Festival, scheduled for June 28-July 7, 1996, celebrates the

work of artists of African descent in eight artistic disciplines: music, dance, theater, folk arts, film, literature, visual art and performance art. The NBAF brings to Atlanta more than 150 events, including major musical concerts, dance concerts,

puppet shows, internationally acclaimed theater productions, major visual arts exhibitions and various children's events.

Past performances featured the talents of Maya Angelou, Wynton Marsalis, Stephanie Mills, Danny Glover, Spike Lee,

Nancy Wilson and Harry Belafonte. In 1994, the NBAF attracted more than 1.3 million people to the city of Atlanta and had an economic benefit to the city of more than \$51 million.

For further info on the NBAF, please call (404) 730-7315.

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

You are invited to attend the First Annual Women's Conference presented by the Women of Living Word A.M.E. Zion Church, 1900 Lisa Lane, Friday, November 3, 1995 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, November 4, 1995 at 9:00 a.m. with a Fashion Tea on Saturday at 12:00 noon.

For more information, please call 254-3286

Come and hear the word from Rev. Gina Casey, Fisher Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church, Phoenix, Arizona. See you there!!!

Actor Greg Morris To Announce "Cool Down House"

Friday, November 3, 1995, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., at the Charleston Heights Arts center, 800 South Brush Street (Charleston at Decatur), actor Greg Morris, star of the "Mission Impossible" and "Vegas" television series, will be announcing the opening of "Cool Down House."

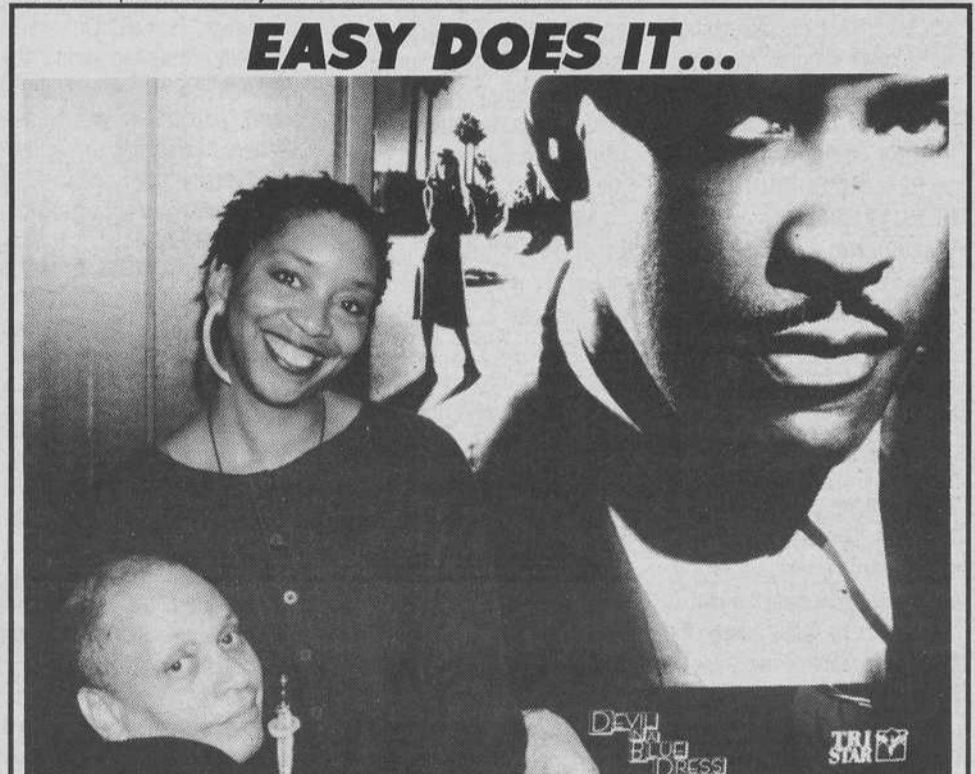
"Cool Down House" is an alternative to domestic violence, a safe place for men to get away from a potentially violent situation.

The fight against domestic violence is essential if we are to protect the very fabric and foundation

of our society. Attorney Gloria Allred will be in attendance to address this fight.

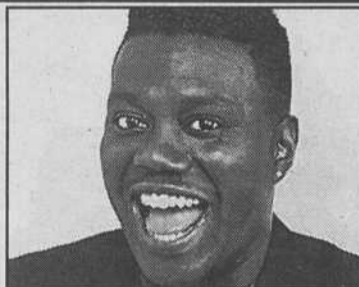
Tickets for this special event are \$50.00 and can be purchased at the United Charitable Foundation of America office, 3340 South Topaz, Suite 110, or at the door of the Charleston Heights Arts Center. Proceeds from the benefit shall go to U.C.F.A. in support of the "Cool Down House."

Music for the benefit will be provided by the gene Redden Trio. For more information, please call 792-4407.



Writer Walter Mosley poured on the charm and captured Isisara Bey, Director, Corporate Affairs, Sony Music Entertainment Inc. (pictured above), while at an SMEI Corporate Affairs symposium and preview screening of the movie based on Mosley's best selling novel, *Devil In A Blue Dress* (starring Denzel Washington as Easy Rawlins). Walter Mosley also spoke candidly about and read excerpts from his newly published novel, *RL's Dream*.

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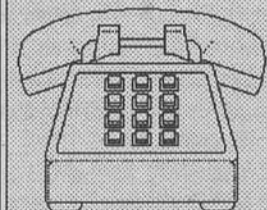
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