

# ENTERTAINMENT

## African-American contemporary dance company to perform



The acclaimed Lula Washington Contemporary Dance Theatre of Los Angeles, one of the country's premiere African-American dance ensembles, will perform at the West Las Vegas Library, 951 W. Lake Mead, on Saturday, January 20 at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$5.00 for children and seniors and \$7.00 for adults, and are on sale next door to the library at the West Las Vegas Arts Center, 947 W. Lake Mead, or at Reed

Whipple Center, 821 N. Las Vegas Blvd.

The performance, which is co-sponsored by the City of Las Vegas Cultural and Community Affairs Division, Clark County Parks and Recreation and the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District, will cap a week of dance workshops for children at the West Las Vegas Arts Center, and two performances on Friday morning at Ruby Thomas Elementary School.

Lula Washington founded her dance theater in 1980 to provide a creative outlet for modern dance artists in south central Los Angeles. She worked with inner city youths who wanted to dance, honing their skills in all forms of movement. The result is a group of adult performers who are energetic and multi-faceted, and equally at home with authentic African dance as they are with abstract modern dance or traditional dance

theater.

The performance in Las Vegas will include a piece choreographed by Reno dancer L. Martina Young, called "Pearls of Obsidian," which incorporates sign language into the dance movements. Segments of the piece are set to the poetry of Langston Hughes, Countee Cullen, James Weldon Johnson and Gwendolyn Brooks.

Critics have raved about the dance company for years. The Village Voice said of their 1989 New York performance: "...dancing, first and foremost. Oh joy!" The New York Times called their performance, "... fervent... rich in implication... impassioned." The dance company has toured internationally and has been a perennial favorite at performances for the International Association of Black Dance Companies.

For more info about the performance, call the West Las Vegas Arts Center at 229-4800.

### Artist Applications are Now Available For Annual Craft Fair

Artist applications are being accepted now through March 18 for the 12th annual Craft Fair & Rib Burn Off planned for May 11 and 12 from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. at Sunset Park. The two-day weekend event features a handmade crafts show, a barbecue, live music, and hands-on children's activities.

The Craft Fair segment of this annual event is open to all artists and crafts persons who are selected by a panel of non-partial jurors, after entry of photographs. Jurist decisions are final. All work exhibited during the Craft Fair must be original, hand-crafted pieces, not mass produced from kits, molds or commercial plans or patterns. All media will be considered. Work displayed during the Fair must be the works of the entering artist or craftsmen and similar in nature to the photos submitted for the jurying process. A limited number of entrants in each media will be accepted in order to provide fair and equitable sales opportunities to all participants. Booth spaces are 12' x 12'. Each booth is \$100.

Applications are available by mail and at all Clark County Parks & Recreation community centers. A minimum of four/maximum six, 35mm photographs must be submitted with a completed entry form and a \$5 jury fee to Craft Fair, c/o Sunset Park, 2601 E. Sunset Rd., Las Vegas, NV 89120 by March 18. Notification of jury decisions will be mailed March 29. Call 455-8206 for event information.

### Take A Walk In The Park

Taking a walk in the park in Clark County is easy if you know where to go. The place to be on Saturday, March 30 is Sunset Park for the annual WalkAmerica to benefit the March of Dimes Birth Defects foundation. The participation target for the 1996 Walk is 3,500 walkers who will try to raise \$250,000 to go in full toward research for healthier babies.

This year's theme is Walk for Someone You Love. In addition to supporting the fight against birth defects which is a leading cause of infant mortality, the Walk is a great way to keep in shape. The Parks and Recreation Outdoor Adventures Running & Walking program is a

### Free admission for Haydn's La Canterina

The University of Nevada, Las Vegas Opera Workshop will present Franz Joseph Haydn's charming comic opera "La

natural way to begin training for WalkAmerica. The program is free to join and is open to all ages. The club offers prizes to participants when you reach targeted mileage. Registration information for the Running & Walking is handled through Clark County Parks & Recreation at 455-8200.

WalkAmerica will cover approximately seven miles through Sunset Park including the path along the new and improved walking and exercise course around the perimeter of the lake and out into the community. Participants will conclude the walk at Sunset Park for a huge post-walk party. Food

(See *Take A Walk*, Page 16)

"La Canterina" (The Songstress) at 8 p.m. January 18 and 19 at the Clark County Theatre at the Flamingo Library. Admission is free.

In "La Canterina" Haydn departs from the stock characters of "commedia dell'arte: there are no buffoons; his cast is somehow both believable and hilarious. Gasparina, an opera diva in early — if not yet full-bloom, and her stage mother Appollonia are residing for free in Maestro Pelagio's music studio.

Gasparina is unwisely receiving the attentions of a wealthy teenager, Don Ettore, at the same time she is "studying" with Don Pelagio. Trouble erupts when the maestro finds this out and he explodes, intending to send them all packing. After much ranting the maestro succumbs to the tricks of Gasparina and is won over in the end. For more info, please contact the UNLV Department of Music at 895-3332.

## Travel with Bates

By Sandi Bates



Welcome to captivating and enchanting Cancun. It's Mexico, yet it is really the Caribbean. It's the beach but it's also history and culture. It's luxurious and extravagant; yet affordable. Flying into Cancun you notice the astonishing water, spreading out from white shores in translucent shades of turquoise, emerald and sapphire. As the plane dips lower, you become aware of the vast green jungle rolling across the Acetin Peninsula, surrounding and dwarfing the airport where you land. Handsome with its black marble floors and tall windows, the Cancun International Airport sparkles with contemporary style. Nearly 14 miles long and a quarter of a mile wide, slender Cancun Island is shaped like a seven facing the mainland and connected to it by bridges at either end. It's arms enclose Nichupte Lagoon, while the outer shores face the Caribbean with the long white beaches that have made Cancun famous.

Cancun Island is known as the hotel zone, though Cancun City on the mainland offers many hotels, too. A lively tropical mixture of shops, markets, sidewalk cafes, restaurants, lodgings, and office buildings, Cancun City is the downtown business center and the place executives on the go and more budget-minded travelers stay. But for sheer luxury and maximum beach time, most visitors stay on the island.

Cancun is endowed with enormous natural beauty and a rich cultural heritage and offers the vacationer superb opportunities for rest and relaxation. Over the past 22 years Cancun has grown from a tiny fishing village into one of the world's most exciting vacation destinations. The city's phenomenal five-star success is due to its pivotal location and spectacular blend of both natural and man-made attributes and the friendly, open-nature of its people. A tropical climate, clear turquoise seas and white sand beaches are set in an area that gave birth to one of America's great prehistoric civilizations. Ancient Mayan culture dot the entire peninsula adding a dimension to this Caribbean resort unmatched by any other. Cancun is Mexico's biggest success story.

A computer was first to spot the narrow 12 mile long island and selected it to become a part of the National Fund for the Development of Tourism's "mega project." When Cancun's creators elaborated the concept of a first-class international resort, the primary concern was location. Cancun offers the best of both worlds. The perfect Caribbean setting with immense stretches of the finest and whitest sand and a turquoise sea, combined with all the cultural attributes of a Mexican destination. This has positioned Cancun in a way in which most resorts in Mexico cannot be positioned.

Imagine a private beach with miles of white sand, lush tropical jungle, untouched for hundreds of years. Mysterious underwater caverns, blue crystalline waters, coral reefs teeming with exotic marine life all in the heart of the magnificent ancient Mayan civilization. Cancun is a complete destination and that is what makes it so popular. However no one is confined to the resort because its central location enables easy access to the regions cultural, historical and natural highlights on short day trips.

Island hopping vacationers can experience the relaxing ambiance of several nearby islands reached by boat from Cancun. Cancun without a cruise is like a marguerite without the booze; the experience just isn't the same. And few visitors can resist sailing off, however briefly, across Cancun's alluring water, whether the goal is Isla Mujeres, Isla Contoy, or simply sunset watching on the lagoon. Day trips to Isla Mujeres for snorkeling, lunch, and shopping in the island's picturesque village. Beautiful beaches surround this laid-back isle. Boats usually provide music on board and open bar with national drinks. Evening party and "private night" cruises to Isla Mujeres, with beachside buffet, live music, and a show.

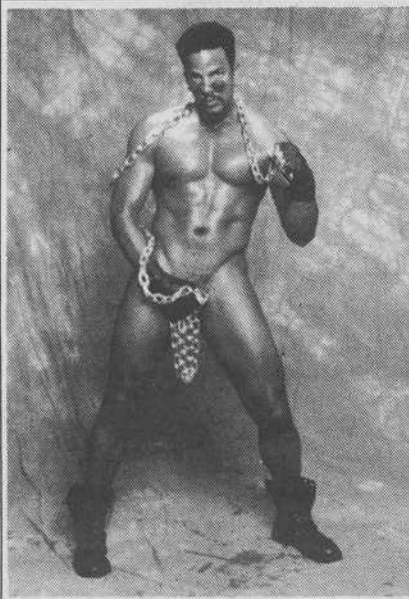
Nearly half of Cancun's hotels are five star rated. Located at the heart of Cancun Island's liveliest area is the Omni resort where I had the personal experience of staying. The salmon-pink marble, polished mahogany and personalized service sets the tone for the exciting resort. Strategically built around pretty patios and pools with the sun drenched Caribbean shores constantly in view. Check with your travel agent for the hotel that will best suit your mood.

Discover the Caribbean Island of legendary pleasures.

#### HELPFUL HINTS

1. Weather is from warm to hot and humid.
2. Take lots of light summer clothing - restaurants are mostly casual; few require dressy attire.
3. You'll find a wide selection of handicrafts at reasonable prices such as: gold, silver, textiles, wood crafts, basketry, leather, onyx, stone carvings, glassware, paper mache and lacquerware.
4. Take lots of sun screen and tanning lotion.
5. Movie camera is a must for the view is breathtaking.

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