

Interracial marriage subject of play

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Darrelle Morgenstern opens a seven performance run of her comedy, "Some of My Best Friends are Jewish Husbands" this Friday at the Off-Broadway Theater.

The play's partial autobiographical story features the marriage of two aspiring actors who move to Hollywood with dreams of stardom and success.

The African American wife, played by Kim Russell, meets the mother and uncle of the Jewish American man in a tense but comedic moment while the nosy intruding neighbor looks on adding running commentary.

Russell is known for her one-woman show portraying Sojourner Truth and as the handwriting expert "The Astounding Kim."

The story develops around the angry husband who loves his wife, but is sometimes jealous and afraid of her success. The husband is supported by a longtime friend and celebrated television star whose tumultuous relationship

crescendos into a shouting match and fist fight.

Kathryn Wingfield plays a street hip African American businesswoman who dreams of selling her business and returning to Africa with the Nigerian prince with whom she had fallen in love. Wingfield, who carries the role with pizzazz, returns to Las Vegas following her success in the Ira Aldridge production of "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom."

Continuously commenting, is the neighbor who is a drag queen and loves to parade around in various gowns and costumes.

The play is one of three that Morgenstern has written. She is well known for her one woman show, "The Legendary Black Ladies of History" in which she displays her talents as a singer. During the show, Morgenstern brings to life Josephine Baker, Rosa Parks, Marian Anderson, Queen Sheeba and Lena Horne.

She began her career as a dancer studying the Ballet Arts Troupe in New York and continued with acting lessons

at the Stella Adler Theater. She appeared in Kramer vs. Kramer, and All that Jazz. Her television credits include Hill Street Blues, Archie Bunker's Place, and Saved by the Bell.

"Some of My Best Friends are Jewish Husbands," is directed by Lee Murray.

She has acted in the F. Murray film "By the Sword" out on video.

Show dates are March 7, 8, 9, 15 and 16 at the Off Broadway Theater, 900 E. Karen Suite D116. A special AIDS benefit performance is slated for Sunday, March 16. Show times are 8 p.m. evenings and 2 p.m. matinee. Senior and children's tickets are discounted. Reservation should be made by calling 644-0921.

Alvin Ailey

(Continued from Page 2)

Their impact has been critical to the success of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre. She was appointed to the Board of the National Endowment of the Arts by the President of the United States.

Obviously, what Ailey has built doesn't need to be fixed, but Jamison is insistent that the Company continue to move forward. She wants to continue the innovation, outreach and the arts and education program.

The Ailey camp is focused at helping at-risk youth and

uses dance, creative writing and other programs to increase self-esteem. By year-end, there will be five centers located around the country working in conjunction with organizations who originate in the region.

The Alvin Ailey American Dance Center is the official school of the Company. It has a certification program as well as a Bachelor of Fine Arts Curriculum under the auspices of Fordham University. There is a foreign student program and a summer intensive program.

Ebony Etchings

By Lanier

How's this grab you? Johnny Newman of the Milwaukee Bucks is getting married on June 20th, and wants recording artist/actor David Peaston to sing his signature song "God Bless The Child" and other sentimental favorites at his wedding. If you recall David's recording career was launched when he repeatedly eliminated all challengers on "Showtime at the Apollo" talent contests several years ago singing his fervent version of "God Bless The Child." Currently, David is touring and starring opposite Beverly Todd in David E. Talbert's fifth hitbound gospel music stage play "A Fool And His Money." Even though he hasn't responded to Johnny's request yet, it stands to reason David will be able to sing at Johnny's wedding in June because "A Fool And His Money" breaks for their summer vacation on May 31st, following a 2-week run at the Merriam Theatre in Philadelphia.

The weekend of April 18th has been set for the Los Angeles Premier Performance of the much talked about and long awaited gospel music stage play "Precious Lord — The Untold Story of Gospel Music." Written by Bettye Favor-Palmer, a San Diego State University graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Music and Philosophy, the play depicts the life of Thomas A. Dorsey who wrote over 400 gospel songs and is referred to by many as 'the father of gospel music.' The Los Angeles Premier Performance will take place at the West Angeles Theatre on Crenshaw Boulevard. Critics seeing the play agree, "Precious Lord" is the most artistically, fulfilling and musically satisfying play to come along lately on the burgeoning 'black theatre circuit.... and that's Hollywood this time! Until the next time, Lanier.

Musical Purlie begins tonight

The musical, "Purlie" begins a three-day run at the West Las Vegas Library Theater tonight.

Under the direction of Platinum Productions' founder Oscar Robinson, the comedy is presented in two acts.

Robinson also stars in the lead role of Purlie Victorious Judson, a tall restless and commanding man consumed with divine impatience and rhetoric with fervor to match.

The setting is a cotton

plantation in a small southern town many years ago. Purlie leaves the plantation for a \$500 inheritance left to his Aunt Bee, but due to Aunt Bee's death, he has to first convince someone to pretend she is Aunt Bee.

Purlie which includes 16 musical numbers and dancing, will be presented at 8 p.m. tonight through Sat., March 8, at the West Las Vegas Library Theater.

For more information call 647-8169.

Entertainment Briefs



SMOKEY REUNITES WITH THE MIRACLES

Smokey Robinson and the Miracles are back together for the second time in 25 years. Last week, Robinson, and the other surviving original Miracles — Claudette Robinson, Bobby Rogers and Pete Moore — gathered in New York City to tape two of their biggest hits, "Ooh Baby Baby" and "The Tracks of My Tears." The performance was scheduled to be a part of the Rhythm and Blues

SMOKEY ROBINSON

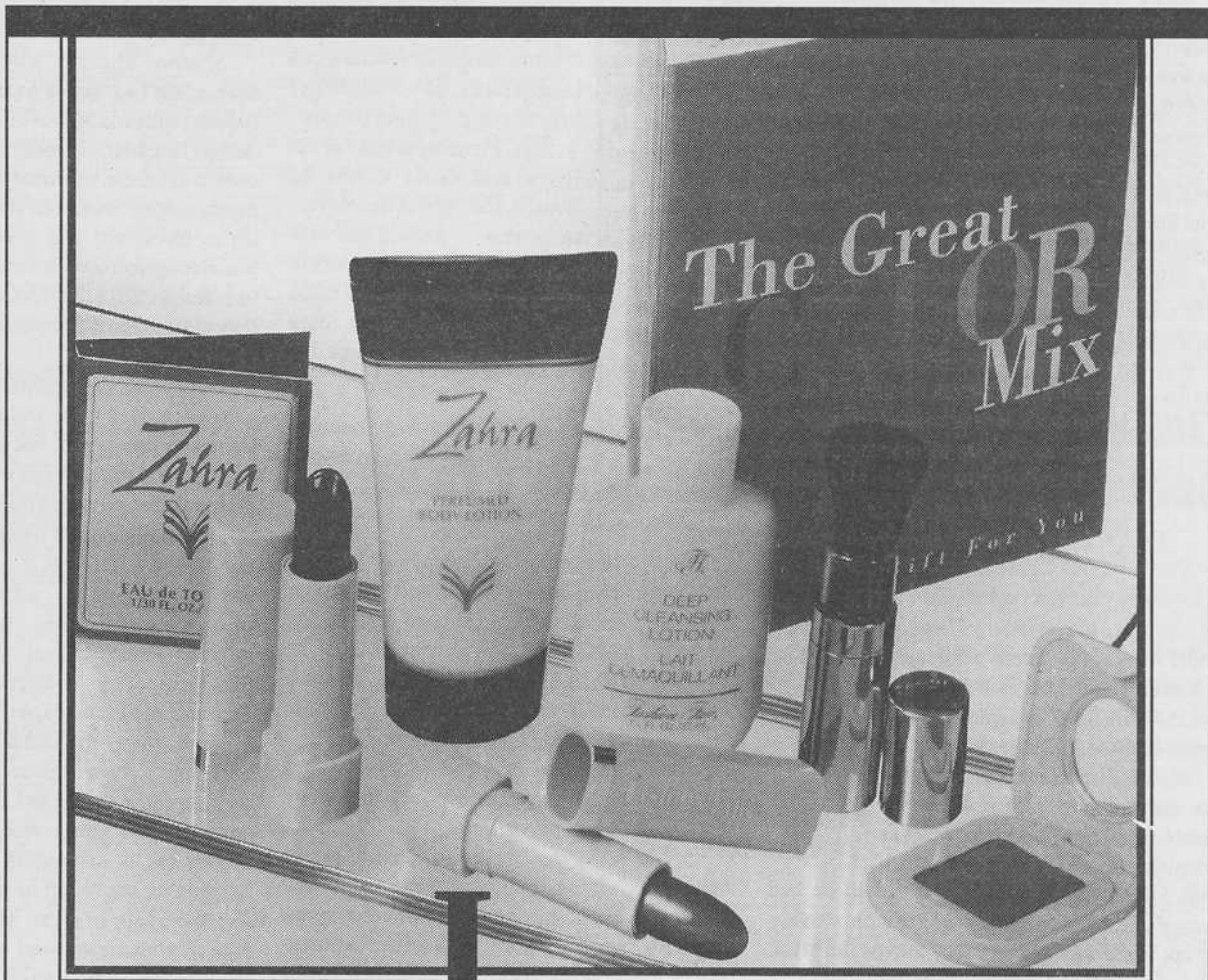
Foundation's Pioneer Awards ceremony. The Four Tops and the Spinners were also to receive Pioneer awards.

BRYANT TO DECIDE CAREER MOVE

NBC Today Show host Bryant Gumbel, who recently stepped down from the morning show, is expected to make his career decision next week. He will be deciding between CBS News or remaining at NBC News. CBS has promised a prime-time magazine and syndicated show. No one is sure what he would do if he remains at NBC.

BLACK ARTISTS HONORED AT THE GRAMMY'S

Kenneth "Babyface" Edmonds earned a Grammy for producing "We Can Change the World," which also garnered *(See Entertainment, Page 16)*



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