

ENTERTAINMENT

Sheila E, Brenda Russell headline 'Women in Jazz' event

By Lanier

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Sheila E, drummer/percussionist extraordinaire and the lively musical director of Magic Johnson's late night talk show, and award-winning singer/songwriter Brenda Russell, author of such classics as "Piano In The Dark," "Only For One Night" and "Get Here If You Can," will headline and perform at the 2nd Annual Women In Jazz benefit, Sunday, July 26th, beginning at 5:00 p.m. at the Vision Complex Theater in Leimert Park.

Presented by the AMASSI Center, the 2nd Annual Women In Jazz concert featuring some of the greatest female performers in jazz will benefit HIV/AIDS risk-reduction services for youth and women at risk in Los Angeles.

Sheila E and Brenda Russell will be joined by Brenda Lee Eager, Lynn Mabry, Maxayne, Sandra Booker, Sweet Baby Jai and Barbara Morrison to name a few of the divas set to grace the stage for this special performance.

The AMASSI Center is an award-winning

organization providing innovative risk-reduction, health, wellness, empowerment and cultural affirmation programs to diverse communities, with emphasis on African-Americans, serving Inglewood, surrounding areas, South Central Los Angeles and Los Angeles County.

Cleo Manago, an outspoken activist, community leader and social architect, heads the AMASSI Center, and through this center, Manago has been positively affecting issues concerning health and wellness for over four years.

Celebs spark 6th Annual Little Miss African-American Scholarship Pageant

With actresses Dawnn Lewis and Suzanne Douglas returning as this year's hosts, the 6th Annual Little Miss African-American Scholarship Pageant taking place at the Universal Sheraton Hotel on Sunday, July 26 will be sparked by a panel of celebrity judges and entertainers. Former "Fresh Prince Of Bel-Air" co-star Tatyana Ali, now an MJJ recording

artist, actress Salli Richardson, comedic actor Guy Torry, R&B crooner Howard Hewitt, actress Ella Joyce and veteran actress/entertainer Ester Rolle are just a few of those included on the panel of all-star judges. Chico DeBarge and Paul Mooney are slated to provide the entertainment.

The Little Miss African-American Scholarship Pageant provides over \$20,000 in moneys and prizes. Event sponsors this year include Pacific Bell, *Essence* Magazine, NFL player Emmitt Smith, Shaquille O'Neil, Xerox Corporation and Fox Television. Paula Poundstone and Kim Coles have donated special scholarships.

L.A. Real, the newest magazine on the tinseltown scene

Tinseltown has given birth to another publication! *L.A. Real* is the title of the newest magazine that promises to be a quality life style consumer magazine with entertainment industry appeal. And according to advance information the focus of the magazine will be hot photographs, music, movies, sports, topics, politics, business profiles, TV and radio real personalities, fashions and the general community. All ages and cultures will be profiled in every issue of *L.A. Real* coming to you from Agoura, California.

Tinseltown Topics

Dennis Rodman of the wild hair color schemes and ace rebounder for the Chicago Bulls will add to his part time movie making career this August when the production of "Simon Sez" gets underway. This is an action-comedy set in the South of France with Dennis

playing the role of a former CIA operative who gets tricked into making a return to the agency to help retrieve a kidnapped girl.

Speaking of film productions, "Why Do Fools Fall In Love," the forthcoming bio pic about 1950 teen idol Frankie Lyman, has come up with an interesting package of players to tell this musical story. Try Halle Berry, Lela Rochon and Larenz Tate for starters.

Comedian D. L. Hughley is movin' on up! His comedy routines have now taken him past concert performances and appearances on BET's Comedy Hour. In case you didn't already know it, he'll be seen and heard starring in a new half hour sitcom series on ABC. The show, conceived and scripted by D. L. and called "The Hughley's," is a very witty comedy series about an African-American family that moves into the suburbs.

Tinseltown golfers and celebs are getting ready for three great charity golf tournaments. Monday, July 27: California Country Club, the 10th Annual H. B. Barnum "Adopt-A-Senior" Tournament. Proceeds supplement senior citizen food programs through the Department of Recreation and Parks. Call (213) 485-4884.

Monday, August 10th: Via Verde Country Club, Pacoima Junior Golf Association's First Annual Benefit Golf Tournament. Proceeds provide training and equipment for junior golfers.

Monday, September 14th: California Country Club, the 17th Annual AABAGA Scholarship Golf Tournament and 3rd Annual Corporate Challenge. Proceeds provide scholarships for inner-city students with "C" average grades.

Gospel singer O'Landa Draper dies from sudden kidney failure

Special to Sentinel-Voice

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Gospel singer O'Landa Draper, a five-time Grammy nominee whose demonstrative style as the director of a choir was imitated by others, died Tuesday. He was 34.

Draper died of kidney failure at Metro Nashville General Hospital. He was stricken suddenly, said his publicist, Erma Byrd in Los Angeles.

He lived in Memphis and was visiting Nashville for the annual Bobby Jones Gospel Explosion.

Choir directors across the country were influenced by Draper's showmanship as head of O'Landa Draper & the Associates.

"His choir was highly choreographed and demonstrative," said Teresa Harris, publisher of *Gospel Today* magazine. "But the music never suffered because of it. They sang with such clarity, with excellent pitch."

The group's latest CD, "Reflections," was a hit last spring, reaching No. 10 on Billboard magazine's gospel album chart. The CD is a recording of a live show in Memphis last

summer. It was the choir's second release on the Nashville-based Warner/Alliance label.

Dave Thomas of the vocal group Take 6 called Draper "an innovator in gospel music."

"His ministry and talent will be greatly missed," Thomas said.

Draper moved to Memphis when he was 13. He graduated from Overton High School, where he headed his first choir. He went on to direct the gospel choir at Memphis State University and formed the Associates as a 12-member choir when he was 22. The choir had about 60 members when he died.

Draper was a five-time Grammy nominee in the best gospel album category and the winner of a Dove Award from the Gospel Music Association.

"O'Landa was a fun-loving believer in Jesus Christ," said Kim Harper, music director of WLOK radio in Memphis and a friend. "The things he wrote, you can hear the happiness. You can hear the joy."

Survivors include his fiancée, Patrina Smith, mother Marie Draper and sister Teresa A. Draper.

Essay

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abuse kids are exposed to. "There are a lot of really good kids. They care about our community. The violence impacts them, but they know they don't have to be a part of it," she said.

McDonald hopes adults will be inspired to take a more proactive role in the lives of children. Next year, she said, she'd like to take the program one step further and set up internships for the semi-finalists, perhaps with the VIP judges.

For the two finalists, at any rate, the program didn't end with the dinner. They will be traveling to Washington, D.C. this month, along with the finalists from 39 other participating cities across the country.

A film shown at the Recognition Dinner outlined the activities in store for the finalists: they will tour the White House, meet Attorney General Janet Reno, and present a bound volume containing copies of all 80 winning entries to the Library of Congress.

Crosby, who visited the United Nations headquarters through a similar program thirty years ago, says that the experience has had a


deep and enduring impact on his life. "We need to recognize the positive things our kids do," he commented, adding that one of the most valuable aspects of his childhood experience was the opportunity to network with other kids from around the nation who were also oriented in positive directions.

The Las Vegas winners who'll be making the July trip are Juliann Malais of Greenspun Junior High and David Laub of J.D. Smith Middle School.


Malais's offering is a two-page poem composed of fifteen stanzas of four lines each, the first and third lines having four accented beats (called metric feet in literary terminology) and the second and fourth lines having three beats. In other words, in terms of formal poetics, it's tightly crafted.

The poem lays out the impact of violence on the writer - she's afraid of gang members lurking on the streets - and proposes solutions: membership in clubs and church groups, having safe places to go spend time, volunteering in community service, and enjoying a happy home


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