

SYMMETRY

Organized in early December 1982, Symmetry is the culmination of a collective idea that Black visual and performing artists in this community, have had for years. The need for a "support" group to help promote Black arts has been a major concern for many of these Black artists, and it is hoped that Symmetry will find a way to fill that need. The term symmetry simply means uniformity, form and beauty based on excellence of proportion. As an adjective, symmetric, it is the sharing of ideas and feelings. The term expresses the basic nature of the group. Being comprised of artists from many areas of the fine and decorative arts, with various backgrounds and training Symmetry forms and unifies (uniformity) concepts built upon the sharing of ideas, experiences and feelings of the individual members. Through this sharing come harmony which makes it possible to strive for excellence as a group. This makes a performance or exhibition pleasurable. For the individual artist, Symmetry give the emotional support to achieve beauty in their art form through that standard of excellence.

During Black History month, we of Symmetry are looking forward into the future. As artist, we will be producing in 1983 and beyond, taking from the past ideas of Black aesthetics and molding them with our own. This program "Harnessing Our Own Expression" exemplifies this shaping process, showing our various styles and talents at their present stages of development; as we harness our own personal expressions through arts. It is our wish that you will find this presentation of music, visual arts, dance, drama, poetry, and fashion extremely enjoyable.

Harnessing our own Expressions

Program: February 19, 1983

4:00 - 6:00 P.M. - Opening Reception And Art Exhibit

Art Exhibit will be located in the Music room and 2nd floor hall of Levis Faculty Center. Pianist: Glen Jordan

5:30 P.M. - Musical Prelude

Vocalist: Ollie Davis, Pianist: Carleton Hines

5:55 P.M. - Introduction And Welcome

6:00 P.M. - A Fashion Array

Original fashions from local designers. Designers: Wade Lester Angela Rivers, and Adrienne Hoard.

6:40 P.M. - THEATRICAL PERFORMANCES

Dance Solo : Sharon Hunter Drama : Leslie and Company

7:00 P.M. - A FASHION ARRAY (continued)

7:30 P.M. - Gospel

Performers: Keaton Clan, & Voices of Praise

8:00 P.M. - POETIC PRESENTATIONS

Poets: Mary Venson, Connie Fitzgerald

8:30 P.M. - THEATRICAL PERFORMANCES

Drama : Leslie & Company Dance Solo: Sharon Hunter

9:00 P.M. INTRODUCTION OF ARTISTS

Music Room will be open for viewing of the Visual Art Exhibit 9:00-10:00

9:15 P.M. Intermezzo

Vocalist: Barbara Suggs, Tim Sharp Violinist: Pam Page

10:00 P.M. JAM SESSION

Musicians: John McClendon, Buddy Davis, Grover Washington.

Vocalist: Terance Carson

SYMMETRY - HARNESSING OUR OWN EXPRESSIONS

TIM DAVIS-Director of Symmetry-Drawing, Sculpture - B.A. Art Education, Eastern Illinois University - M.A. Art Education - University of Illinois, presently producing and teaching in the field of Art. Mr. Davis has exhibited throughout northern and southern Illinois and has collections throughout the midwest. "My interpretations and expressions of form" symbolize that the "spirit of life and change has meanings that the human mind-soul has never felt, visualized or touched." "Praise God...He knows All."

ANGELA RIVERS-Assistant Director of Symmetry-Painting, Drawing-- B.F.A. University of Illinois, Candidate for masters degree at Eastern Illinois University and Southern Methodist University - "My work is a reflection of myself. I try to create a visually sensitive piece, expressive of personal statements, but not diminished by them."

BENNY DRAKE - Painting, Drawing - B.S. Art Education - M.A. Art Education Eastern Illinois University, presently teaching at Urbana Jr. High School.

ADRIENNE W. HOARD is an abstract painter with an international and national exhibition record. She holds a B.S. in Art Education from Lincoln University in Missouri (1970) and a M.F.A. in Painting from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor (1972). She was a Fulbright Scholar in Creative Arts to South Korea in 1980-81, and has held numerous university professorships.

KEVIN COLE - Painter, originally from Pine Bluff, Arkansas where he received his B. S. in Art Education from the University of Arkansas. He is currently working on a M.A. in Education and a M.F.A. as a painter at the University of Illinois-Urbana. His works have been exhibited throughout the South and in New York. He was nominated as one of the most outstanding young men in America in 1982.

FRANK COBBS - Painter - a native of Champaign, Illinois, graduated from Southern Illinois University, 1980. Mr. Cobbs' main interest is a combination of expressionism and realism dealing with the relationship between color and the object in producing forms.

WADE HAROLD LESTER - Fashioner Designer, attended the International Academy of Merchandising and Design, Chicago, Illinois. He feels fashion should satisfy the purpose of the person wearing the garment. It is his aim to make it a pleasing arrangement to the visual eye.

SABRINA GRAHAM - Fashion Consultant has worked in different retail stores in the area specializing in many styles of clothes. She presently has her own modeling agency and school which is called Corinda's named after her daughter. Her agency has shown fashions at Jumers Castle Lounge and the Ramada Inn on numerous occasions.

ELAINE SHELLY - Commentator for fashion shows has studied folk music and reggae at the Jamaica School of Music in Kingston, Jamaica. She is also very talented in the field of piano and vocal music. She states "I am an ethnomusicologist."

(SEE BACK)

LESLIE RAINEY - Actor, is a "Theater Junkie" with 23 years in theater directing and performing, including stints at the "Old Vic" London, England; The Edinburgh Festival, Scotland; The Lyric Theatre, Belfast, North Ireland; and theaters in Los Angeles, Colorado, Virginia and Vancouver, B.C. Leslie's dream is to see a solid Black theatre ensemble come to life in the Champaign-Urbana area. He's a licensed hair-stylist, forty-five and single.

JACQUI JOYNER is the mother of three lovely children and have been a VISTA volunteer. She recently starred in the production of "For Colored Girls Who Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuf" at Danville Community College. She has a love for the stage and has an interest in fashion and opening up her own tailoring business.

GRAILING KING is a graduate of Illinois State University with a B.S. in Communication/Public Relations. At 21 years of age, he is presently working at WYOU Cable Radio in Danville as a Promotion and P.R. Manager.

MARY HUDSON VENSON - Poet, writer - my profession is people, their lives, their emotions. "I am neither better than nor worse than anyone, therefore, I try always to show respect for each person who comes into my life or into whose life I enter."

SHARON HUNTER - Dancer, born in Danville, Illinois, began dance training at Frederick Taylor Dance School, Atlanta, Georgia and later joined the company in 1976. She dances African, Ballet, Modern and Creative. She states the the "creative dance is what she enjoy, choreographing "The themes of the dances I choreograph are very important, I want to feel the movements using lyricism, spiritulism and purity of form.

BRENDA WILLIAMS - Musician, she enjoys music and loves to perform - presently she resides in Champaign and is a musician at two local churches. Her primary instruments are organ and piano. She is vice-president, musician, and vocalist for the Black Chorus, University of Illinois-Urbana.

BARBARA ELAINE SUGGS - A native of Champaign, is a soprano who received a bachelors degree in Music Education from Northwestern University and a masters degree from the University of Illinois. Ms. Suggs' musical background includes a variety of experience including teaching, conducting and solo performances in opera, oratorio, and recital.

PAM PAGE - Violinist received her B. M. E. from Illinois Wesleyan in 1979, and is working on her Master in Education at the University of Illinois. She has taught in the public schools and privately for four years and currently is the Orchestra Director at North Ridge Middle School, Danville, Illinois. She is a violinist in the Danville Symphony Orchestra.

VOICES OF PRAISE - A vocal group which consists of members from local churches in Champaign-Urbana. They have a singing, Christian ministry which is composed of Clarence Lowe, Velma Jackson, Cletus Easley, and Laverne Wheaton.

KEATON KLAN - A vocal group. The Keaton Klan is a part of a religious family tradition, they are the daughters of Rev. W. B. Keaton, Pastor of Pilgrim Baptist Church, Champaign, Illinois. The Klan is composed of Audrey A., Kathy W., Cynthia D., and Kimberly K. They come to praise His name.

CARLETON HINES, a native of West Palm Beach, Florida, is a graduate of Bethune-Cookman College and Florida State University. He is currently in the D.M.A. program at the University of Illinois-Urbana. A lyric tenor, Mr. Hines has performed a variety of roles in oratorio and opera.

OLLIE WATTS DAVIS - Mezzo-Soprano is currently participating in the D.M.A. in voice at the University of Illinois-Urbana. She received her master of science degree in Secondary Education from West Virginia University and her master of Music Degree from the University of Illinois-Urbana. Ms. Davis has wide solo experience and is currently the director of the University of Illinois Black Chorus.

HAROLD "BUDDY" DAVIS, - musician, received his B.S. degree in Music Education at West Virginia State College. His primary instruments are flute and guitar. He has professional performing experience in a variety of musical style, Mr. Davis is currently the Music Specialist at Carrie Busey Elementary School.

TIM SHARP - Tenor, is a masters candidate in Music Education at the University of Illinois-Urbana. He has performed recitals in his hometown of Miami, Florida and Daytona Beach, Florida.

GLENN H. JORDAN - Musician - is a Phi Beta Kappa (honors) graduate of Stanford University with a double major in African and Afro-American Studies and in Psychology. He also received a masters degree in Anthropology and has done further work toward his doctorate. He has played piano (and other keyboard instruments) for various gospel choirs, including radio and recording choirs. He currently works as an administrator and researcher in the African and Afro-American Studies and Research Program.

SYMMETRY

§ AFRO-AMERICAN STUDIES and RESEARCH PROGRAM
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois 61801

SYMMETRY:

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Music Room will be open for viewing of the Visual Art Exhibit - 9:00-10:00 P.M.

9:15 P.M. - INTERMEZZO
Vocalist: Barbara Suggs, Tim Sharp
Violinist: Pam Page

10:00 P.M. - JAM SESSION
Musicians: John McClendon, Buddy Davis, Glover Washington. Vocalist: Terance Carson

Visual Artist: Adrienne Hoard, Al Mitchell, Bennie Drake, Jr., Frank Cobbs, Danny Taborn, Jessie Knoxs, Tim Davis

A special thanks to:
Corinda's Modeling Agency
Oasis Graphic Arts and all people who contributed time, help, and energy.

Children's Matinee

FEBRUARY 27, 1983 - 3:00-5:00 P.M.
DOUGLASS CENTER
512 E. Grove, Champaign, Illinois

Activities and demonstrations in the arts are designed for children. Performances will include a children's choir.

Symmetry's Co-sponsors:
Afro-American Cultural Center
Afro-American Studies and Research Program and Champaign Park District - Douglass Center

SYMMETRY
PO Box 211, Champaign, IL 61820

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5:30 P.M. - MUSICAL PRELUDE
Vocalist: Ollie Davis, Carleton Hines
Pianist: To be announced

5:55 P.M. - INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

6:00 P.M. - A FASHION ARRAY
Original fashions from local designers. Designers: Wade Lester, Angela Rivers, Adrienne Hoard and Jacque Joyner
Fashion Consultant: Sabrina Graham

6:40 P.M. - THEATRICAL PERFORMANCES
Dance Solo: Sharon Hunter
Drama: Leslie and Company

7:00 P.M. - A FASHION ARRAY (continued)

7:30 P.M. - GOSPEL
Performers: Keaton Clan, and Voices of Praise

8:00 P.M. - POETIC PRESENTATIONS
Poets: Mary Venson, Connie Fitzgerald

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Dance Solo: Sharon Hunter

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY ARTS AND HUMANITIES COUNCIL
17 East University Avenue, Champaign IL 61820
217/352-8979

Grassroots Regrant

PROGRAM EVALUATION REPORT

(Return this form 1 month following the completion of this program)

Grant # 26-84

Name of Organization Symmetry

Program Title EBONY ENLIGHTENMENT

1. Program attendance: number of events, paid and free attendance at each.
2. Describe what actually occurred, specifically noting any deviations from the original plan. (Attach copies of programs, publicity, newspaper articles, etc.)
3. Indicate problems you encountered and what you did to overcome them.
4. What were your objectives and how well were they met?
5. What follow-up does the organization plan as a result of this project?

Signed: Jim Damm Phone 344-3164 Date 3/26/84
Program Director

NAME OF ORGANIZATION - SYMMETRY
PROGRAM TITLE - EBONY ENLIGHTENMENT

- I. Ebony Enlightenment - February 5th, 1984 - Illini Union
University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill.
No. of Events - Eight - Art, Music, Theater, Dance, Fashion,
Poetry
Attendance - 105 - Free Event
- II. New Arts - February 10th through 23rd - McKinley Foundation
Champaign, Ill. - Opening - February 10th
No. of Events - One - Art Show
Attendance - 30 - Free Event - Open to the Public
- III. Young, Gifted and Talented - February 18th, 1984
Douglas Center - Champaign, Ill.
No. of Events - Five Events - Dance, Music, Theatre
Attendance - 150 - Free Event - Open to the Public
- IV. Art Celebration - February 26th, 1984 - Danville Community
College - College Theatre - Danville, Ill.
No. of Events - Five
Attendance - 143 - Free Event - Open to the Public

PROGRAM TITLE -
EBONY ENLIGHTENMENT - February 5th, 1984

The program started off with an Art Reception, lasting about an hour in length with musical performances in the background of violin and piano. The next performance was a musical prelude of opera, gospel, featuring individual artist. Following this event was a Fashion Array with many local designers, fashion consultants and models highlighted. Dance and Theatre Performances followed the fashion and during the Fashion Show Part II, music was played by a local D.J. From that point, poets read and a jam session featuring jazz musicals (see attachment). The show this year was video taped and hopefully will be aired on Channel 10 - community access. The complete show went like clockwork - from one performance to the next. All performance exhibitions were of fine quality.

Some problems occurred with space and room for models to dress in the Illini Union. We overcame them by using a storage room. One performer of opera music cancelled out a couple of days before the event because of illness, but we were able to get an artist with the same caliber. Most of the performers rehearsed on their own so when showtime came, individuals were supposed to bring tapes, etc. for the disc-jockey to play them, but a lot of individual artists were unprepared. So that prolonged minutes in the show. To utilize the time, where artist/performers were changing clothes or rewinding tapes - we did talk about the artist, the art show, the raffle and Symmetry. The biggest problem was there were not enough people at the actual show. We had the Union set up at least 500 chairs and the crowd came and went, totalling

about 100-150 people. (See attachments for publicity/flyers and programs).

What were your objectives and how well were they met? The objectives was to enlighten the community to the Arts as a whole & to bring together black professionals, in one way or another, together to share experiences of the Arts during Black History Month. Our objectives were met, even in our Children's Art Show. The young people worked very hard to put on a show and awards were given and over all, it was a very inspirational and a positive feature in the Black community. Our other objective was to promote Black Arts. Now after the second year in existence, we feel confident that our name is out, and people are aware that there are very talented Black artists in the community of Champaign-Urbana.

Our follow-up will be first to organize an Open House, to let individuals know we exist and then, to have more public meetings to enlighten the community about the Arts. We will also send out questionnaires to let individuals know we are in existence and let them tell us what they want from an Arts organization.

PROGRAM TITLE -

VISUAL ARTS SHOW - February 10th through 23rd, 1984

The program consisted of a visual arts show. Paintings and photographs were displayed by the following artists: Benny Drake, Tim Davis, Danny Taborn, Angela Rivers and Charles Butts.

The objective of this program were to broaden and promote community interest in the visual arts and local artists. These objectives were met in this presentation.

As a result of this presentation, Symmetry will coordinate a similar presentation for the Black Women's Conference at the University of Illinois.

PROGRAM TITLE -

YOUNG, GIFTED AND TALENTED - February 18th, 1984

The program began with a speech recognizing Black History Month and a short play entitled Martin Luther King - The Peaceful Warrior. Performances by young people followed. Groups or individuals, in order of appearance, were: The Be-Bop Dancers, Cosmic Dancers, Conrad Davis, Piano and the Player J's Band. Individuals were presented with certificates of participation and skate passes at the conclusion of the program.

Problem: Audition dates for performance - The publicity was sent out by the Champaign Park District through the schools in Champaign-Urbana - not much help in some schools to promote our program - lots of students did not hear about auditions and we had to schedule many appointment dates to try to get students in. Also, students and some performances look very unrehearsed. The older individuals in the organization did put things in