

# ACHÉ

FEBRUARY, 1989

Vol. 1, No. 1

A PUBLICATION FOR BLACK LESBIANS



For more  
artwork,  
poetry and  
info. on artist  
Storme Webber,  
see page 11.

Aché is a publication by and for Black Lesbians. Aché was born out of our need, as Black Lesbians in the bay area, to have our own issues addressed, separate from the larger "Women of Color" community. As Black Lesbians we find ourselves without vehicles of expression that are distinctly ours.

We started out with an idea to print a newsletter for our friends: to keep up with each other, and what we were doing. However, through the input of many, the idea grew into much more.

Now, we ask that you help us: by using us as your bulletin board; submitting your articles, art and poetry; and sharing your resources. Give us your input so that Aché may grow and come to reflect the diversity of our community.

Lisbet and Pippa

# PROFILE

The following is a conversation between Pippa Fleming of Aché and Sue Tircuit of A Woman's Place bookstore collective at 4015 Broadway St. in Oakland. A Woman's Place is the oldest women's bookstore in the country, and is currently in the midst of a struggle to keep its doors open.

P: Why does Mama Bears continue to be successful while A Woman's Place is potentially going under?

S: I think Mama Bears has a few components we don't have. They have a café. You need something other than books to keep a place going. Even Cody's has found that out. You can't just be a book store and if you are, you have to be small. Mama Bears also has events in the evening which are women only. I think this is what keeps them going.

P: Is there something inherently wrong with the collective process that finally leads to internal struggle?

S: I don't think there's anything wrong with the collective process itself. I think it's the individuals that get involved in it that may not

understand the process because the way the world is set up and how education is set up. We're not taught to deal in the collective process. We're educated to deal with competitiveness, capitalism and all this other stuff. We try to fit ourselves in a collective and all the other stuff we've been raised with comes out and I think that's what happens. It's not necessarily that the collective process is wrong.

P: What changes need to happen for A Woman's Place to survive, as well as thrive?

S: We need to look at diversifying what we have. It would be nice to have a café. I'd like to keep this space because it's nice and large for women's events. We need to keep on top of events as well as having them here. I think we're beginning to recapture where we

were before. We're becoming more specialized again.

P: If you could share any advice about doing business in the women's community, what would it be?

S: A willingness to be open to everybody. I'm a heterosexual Black woman. A lot of women who come in here are Lesbian separatists. A lot of our volunteers are separatists as well. Our differences don't prevent us from working together. I think it's important to just be open-minded.

\* \* \* \* \*

Sue would like to invite women of color to get involved in the volunteer program at A Woman's Place. Meetings are Tuesdays at 7:30PM. For more information, call 547-9920.

Aché is a free monthly publication by Black Lesbians for the benefit of all Black women. Aché is available the 1st of each month and the deadline for all submissions is the 15th of each month. Handwritten & typed material will be accepted. Include name, address, & phone no. on all submissions. The editors will not print words & images we deem to be racist, sexist, ageist, etc. There is no fee to list resources, personals, services, etc.

Mail all correspondence to:  
Aché: P.O. Box 6071, Albany, CA. 94706

## FROM THE EDITORS

We started Aché, first of all, because we couldn't think of a good enough reason not to. Everybody we talked to seemed to think it was a great idea, but we all know a great idea and 75 cents will get you a bus ride. We finished Aché and present it to you this month, to prove to our friends, but mostly to ourselves, that we could actually come through. Aché is nothing that hasn't been done before. Those before us did not survive due to lack of support (financial & other.) We will publish Aché out of our own pockets, but we need you to help, by actively supporting and responding to us. Please, let us hear from you. Until next month, Aché.

Lisbet & Pippa

# 2ND BLACK GAY & LESBIAN CONFERENCE

This month the 2nd annual National Black Gay & Lesbian Conference will be held in L. A., Feb. 17-20. Sponsored by the Black Gay & Lesbian Leadership Forum, the theme for 1989 is "LOVING OURSELVES, HEALING OURSELVES, PREPARING FOR THE 21ST CENTURY".

## ABOUT THE FORUM...

The Black Gay & Lesbian Leadership Forum was established in March of 1988 to provide more and better opportunities for Black Lesbians and Gay men to exchange information and gain new skills concerning urgent issues facing our community. The purpose of the Forum is to help strengthen existing institutions serving Black Gay and Lesbian people.

\* \* \* \* \*

The 2nd Annual National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conference is a four day forum designed for Black Gay men and Lesbians to share the wealth of information gained from our particular viewpoints and experiences as members of both the Black and Gay/Lesbian communities.

For information on the Forum or additional information on the Conference, contact them at:

P.O. Box 29812

Los Angeles, CA. 90026

213-667-2549

\* \* \* \* \*

## SCHEDULE

### FRIDAY, FEB. 17, 1989

8am to 5pm. -- AIDS Institute

6pm to 8pm -- Reception at the

### Minority AIDS Project

8pm to until...-- Concert/Dancing at the Catch One disco. (The Catch One is the largest Black-owned Lesbian and Gay disco on the west coast.)

### SATURDAY, FEB. 18, 1989

8am to 5pm -- Registration

9am to noon -- Opening Plenary

Noon to 1:30pm-- Lunch for PWA's

1:30pm to 5:30pm -- Workshops

7pm to 1am -- Banquet and dancing  
 \*\*This banquet will be dedicated to the late Sylvester, with a musical tribute to "The Black Women of the Blues" by performer JAI. Sylvester will become the 2nd recipient of "The James Baldwin Memorial Arts and Letters Award", joining last year's winner, Audre Lorde. The award will be accepted by Sylvester's mother at Catch One.

### SUNDAY, FEB. 19, 1989

9am to 10:30am -- Church service

9am to 1pm -- Workshop sessions

1pm to 3pm -- NMAC Luncheon  
 \*\*\*Natalie Cole will present to Whoopi Goldberg (via video tape) the "Frederick Garnett Memorial Award" for her outstanding contribution to the fight against AIDS.

3pm to 4pm -- Closing session

### MONDAY, FEB. 20, 1989

8am to 12:30pm - Leadership Roundable

\* \* \* \* \*

Speakers and workshop presenters will include political and civil rights leaders as well as Black Gay and Lesbian leaders. Last year's speakers included: Angela Davis, Danitra Vance, and Maxine Waters.

\* \* \* \* \*

Focus areas for the workshops include:

- AIDS! What does it mean to Black Gays and Lesbians?
- Creating and strengthening Black Gay and Lesbian institutions
- Building a stronger political voice
- The quality of life & relationships
- Black Gay and Lesbian enterprises and financial stability
- Creating coalitions and networks

\* \* \* \* \*

This year the conference will be held at:

UNIVERSITY HILTON HOTEL

3540 S. FIGUEROA STREET

LOS ANGELES, 90007

213-748-4141 / 1-800-872-1104

### REGISTRATION FEES:

\$70 Includes all workshops, receptions, concert/dances, and Sat. banquet. (Add'l. fee for AIDS Institute). Register Sat., Feb. 18. For more info. call 213-667-2549.

# THIS MONTH IN...

## DANCE

**Feb. 2-5 Bebe Miller and Company** premiere several new works at Theatre Artaud  
Thurs. & Sun. \$12 / Fri. & Sat. \$15 All shows 8 pm  
450 Florida St., S.F. 621-7797

**Feb. 22-26 Alvin Ailey Dance Company**  
Wed. - Sun. 8 pm plus Sat. & Sun. matinees @ 2 pm  
Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley campus

**Feb. 23 Master Dance Class w/Alvin Ailey Co.**  
For intermediate level dancers only. Held at CitiCentre.  
1-2:30 pm \$10 (pre-registration required)  
1428 Alice St., Oakland 451-1230

## EVENTS

**Feb. 17-20 The 2nd Annual National Black Gay & Lesbian Leadership Conference** in being held in Los Angeles. The theme for 1989 is "'LOVING OURSELVES, HEALING OURSELVES, PREPARING FOR THE 21ST CENTURY" to be held at the University Hilton Hotel @ 3540 So. Figueroa St., Los Angeles.  
**For more info on the conference, see pg. 3.**

## FILM

**thru Feb. 13 "Brightness"** is a 1987 film from Mali by director Souleymane Cisse. The film is about rites of passage in the ancient Bambara culture of Mali and features some of the most wonderful photography ever. Don't miss.

thru 9th -- \$5/(\$4 w/card), 1st 2 Sat/Sun. shows \$4  
Daily @ 7:15 & 9:15, + Sat./Sun. 1:15, 3:15, 5:15  
@ York Theater 2789 - 24th St., S.F. 232-0316  
10th-13th -- daily @ 5, 7:15, 9:30 & Sat./Sun 2:45  
@ U.C. Theatre, 2036 University Ave., Berk. 843-6267

**Feb. 7-8 "Black Orpheus"** This 1960 Brazilian film is the story of lovers Orpheus and Eurydice set in Rio de Janeiro during Carnaval. This movie is beautiful and wild!!  
Showtimes: 2:15, 7:15, 9:15 \$4.50/\$3.50 matinee  
The Red Vic Movie House, 1659 Haight St. 863-3994

**Feb. 9 Maya Deren's Haitian footage** In 1947, Maya Deren went to Haiti to do a film on Haitian dance, but instead became obsessed with Vodun. Her footage remained unedited and unreleased at the time of her death. Tonight, this body of material will be shown, complete and unedited. (Some footage was made into the film "Divine Horsemen: The Living Gods of Haiti" which will also be shown on the 21st & 22nd.) My instincts tell me this will sell out fast, so do yourself a favor, be there early!  
Shows once at 7:30 pm. \$4 558-8129  
San Francisco Art Institute 800 Chestnut St., S.F.

**Feb. 10-11 "Joe's Bed-Stuy Barbershop: We Cut Heads"** is an early film by Spike Lee (1983). It's showing with **"Wild Style"**, a look at NY graffiti artists set in the South Bronx. \$5/(\$4 w/card), Sat/Sun. mat. \$4  
"Joe's..": Fri. 8pm / Sat. 2, 5 & 8pm  
"Wild Style": Fri. 9:15 / Sat. 3:15, 6:15, 9:15 pm  
York Theater 2789 - 24th St., S.F. 232-0316

**Feb. 12-15 "King James Version"** is a 1987 film by indepent filmmaker Robert Gardner set in Harlem and the South, about a young girl's coming to terms with competing religious beliefs within her family. It's playing with **"Clarence & Angel"**, an earlier work by Gardner. \$5/(\$4 w/card), 1st 2 Sat/Sun. shows \$4  
"King James": Sun. 2:40, 6, 9:15 / Mon.-Wed. 7:30 pm  
York Theater 2789 - 24th St., S.F. 232-0316

**Feb. 15 "Black Orpheus"** (see previous description on the 7th & 8th). Playing with another Brazilian film **"Bye, Bye, Brazil."** Showtimes are:  
"Black Orpheus": 1, 5:30, 10pm / "Bye..": 3:10, 7:40  
Castro Theatre, Castro/Market St. 621-6120

If there's anything else you'd like to see or help us cover in the calendar, let us know. To list something in next month's calendar, mail the info. by Feb.15th to **Aché**, P.O. Box 6071, Albany, CA. 94706

# THIS MONTH IN...

**Feb. 16-17 "Malcolm X"** This 1972 film, narrated by James Earl Jones, documents the story of Malcolm's journey from Harlem to leader of the Black Freedom Movement. \$5/(\$4 w/card)

Showtimes are: Thurs. & Fri. 7:30 and 9:15 pm  
York Theater 2789 - 24th St., S.F. 232-0316

**Feb. 18 "Towards Black Identity"** This show is a selection of various Black independent films dealing with Black culture. Includes an overview by Ben Caldwell, whose film "I and I", about Black music and its African roots, is being shown. Another entry is "Illusions", a portrait of racism within the 1940's Hollywood system. Shows at 7:30pm. Tickets are \$4.  
Bayview Opera House, 4705 - 3rd St., S.F. 558-8129

**Feb. 20-21 "Leadbelly"** This 1976 film, directed by Gordon Parks, stars Roger B. Mosley, as Huddie Ledbetter (better known as Leadbelly), a giant of Delta blues. \$5/\$4  
Showtimes: Mon. 2:15, 4:30, 7, 9:20 / Tues. 7, 9:20pm  
York Theater 2789 - 24th St., S.F. 232-0316

**Feb. 21-22 "Divine Horsemen: The Living Gods of Haiti"** by Maya Deren. This 1947 film was edited posthumously with Deren's footage from Haiti, where she filmed Haitian Vodun ceremonies. \$4.50/\$3.50 mat.  
Showtimes: 2:15, 7, 8:10, 9:20  
The Red Vic Movie House @ 1659 Haight St. 863-3994

**Feb. 22-23 "Scar Of Shame" (1928) and "Blood Of Jesus" (1941)** are 2 gems from the heyday of Black independent filmmaking. These are 2 *rarely* shown films. \$5/(\$4 w/card Showtimes: "Scar" 7:30 / "Blood" 9:15  
York Theater 2789 - 24th St., S.F. 232-0316

## RADIO

**Feb. 2, 9, & 16 "Rhythm Drive"** w/Avotcja featuring the whole spectrum of musics from around the world (this show is on daily M-F with different hosts)  
4:30-6 pm KPFA - 94.1 FM

**Feb. 4 & 11 "The Secret's Out"** w/Bari Scott features jazz, reggae, r & b, some African and Caribbean  
8pm-11pm KPFA - 94.1 FM

**Feb. 4, 18, & 25 "A Closer Look"** profiles Black writers (in order) Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, and Dorothy West. KQED FM 88.5

**Feb. 6 "The Soundstage"** w/Donald Lacy. Black History special featuring readings by Langston Hughes, Margaret Walker and Nikki Giovanni. 2:30 pm KPFA - 94.1 FM

**Feb. 7 & 14 "Bring In The Noise"** w/host Davey D has a mix of house, hip-hop, rap and the whole spectrum of urban dance music. 2:30-4:30pm KPFA - 94.1 FM

**Feb. 9 "Straight from the Source"** w/Anisa Rasheed  
A program on issues facing the Black community.  
8 pm KPFA - 94.1 FM

**Feb. 13 "The Soundstage"** w/Donald Lacy. His weekly Monday show features soul, oldies, political satire and music from the Funkadelics to Gil Scott-Heron. He also has a similar show on Saturday mornings from 8-10 am on KPOO @ 89.5 FM.

**Feb. 23 "A Burst of Light"** w/Audre Lorde  
taped late last year at Stanford 12:15 pm KPFA - 94.1

**Feb. 23 "Sisterfire '87 Highlights"**  
w/Alice Walker, Sweet Honey, Odetta, and Toshi Reagon  
1:30 pm KPFA - 94.1 FM

## TELEVISION

**Feb. 1 & 4 "Dateline Freedom: Civil Rights & the Press"** Personal accounts and archival footage of the media's coverage of the early 1960's.  
1st) 8:30 pm KQED ch. 9 4th) 10:30 PM KQEC ch. 32

**Feb. 1 & 5 Lorraine's Hansbury's "A Raisin In The Sun"** This 1986 Kennedy Center production's cast includes Esther Rolle and Danny Glover.  
1st) 9 pm KQED ch. 9 5th) 11:30 pm KQED ch. 9

**Feb. 1 & 2 "That Rhythm, Those Blues"**  
A profile of black rhythm and blues performers.  
Shown both nights at 12 mid. KQED ch. 9

**Feb. 4 "Brown Sugar - The Depression Yrs."**  
Pt. 2 in a series on Black female performers includes profiles on Billie Holiday, Hattie McDaniel & Ethel Waters. Great footage!! 5 PM KQEC ch. 32

**Feb. 5 "Blind Tom: Thomas Bethune"** Profile of the blind pianist/composer from mid 1800's to his death in 1908. 11:30 pm KQEC ch. 32

Continued on page 8....

# CALENDAR - FEBRUARY 1989

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>BLACK HISTORY MONTH</b></p>	<p><b>Note:</b> As this is Black history month, this calendar is especially abundant. Future calendar's will be much less overwhelming.</p>		<p>1 F - "Brightness" 7:15-9:15 pm T-"A Night At/Apollo" 8pm T - "Joe Turner.." 8 pm TV-Civil Right/Press 8:30 pm TV-"A Raisin In/ Sun" 9 pm TV-"That Rhythm/Blues" 12am</p>	<p>2 R-Rhythm Drive 4pm F - "Brightness" 7:15-9:15 pm D - Bebe Miller &amp; Co. 8 pm T-"A Night At /Apollo" 8pm T - "Joe Turner.." 8 pm TV-"That Rhythm/Blues" 12am</p>	<p>3 F - "Brightness" 7:15-9:15 pm D - Bebe Miller &amp; Co. 8 pm T - "A Night At/Apollo" 8pm TV-"Say Amen..." 10 pm TV-"A Raisin In/ Sun" 11:30pm</p>	<p>4 F-"Brightness" fr. 1:15-9:15 pm R - Langston Hughes 1:30 pm TV - "Brown Sugar-pt. 2" 5 pm D - Bebe Miller &amp; Co. 8 pm R - "The Secret's Out" 8pm T - "A Night At/Apollo" 8pm</p>
<p>5 F-"Brightness" fr. 1:15-9:15 pm T - "A Night/Apollo" 2:30 &amp; 8 TV - "Cotton Club..." 7 pm D - Bebe Miller &amp; Co. 8 pm TV - "Blind Tom" 9pm TV - "Brown Sugar pt.4" 10 pm TV - "Say Amen...." 10pm</p>	<p>6 R - "The Soundstage" 2:30 pm F - "Brightness" 7:15-9:15 pm T - "Joe Turner.." 8 pm TV - "Cotton Club..." 12 am</p>	<p>7 F - "Black Orpheus" (see pg. 4) R - "Bring In/ Noise" 2:30 pm F - "Brightness" 7:15-9:15 pm T - "Joe Turner.." 8 pm TV - "Running w/Jessie" 10 pm</p>	<p>8 F - "Black Orpheus" (see pg. 4) F - "Brightness" 7:15-9:15 pm TV - Gordon Parks 11:30 pm TV - Black flyers 12:30am</p>	<p>9 R-Rhythm Drive 4pm F - "Brightness" 7:15-9:15 pm R-Straight from/Source 8pm F-Maya Deren Haiti film 8:30 TV-"Watch Me Move" 12:45am</p>	<p>10 F - "Brightness" F-"Joe's Bed-Stuy"/"WildStyle" T - "Joe Turner.." 8 pm TV - "Ethnic Notions" 11:30 pm TV-Chicago music 12:30am</p>	<p>11 F - "Brightness" F-"Joe's Bed-Stuy"/"WildStyle" TV - "Brown Sugar-pt. 3" 5 pm R - "The Secret's Out" 8pm T - "Joe Turner.." 8 pm</p>
<p>12 F - "Brightness" TV - "Running w/Jessie" 2 pm F - "King James..." / "Clarence..." F - "Bird" &amp; "Paris Blues" TV - "Precious Memories" 5 pm TV - "Watch Me Move" 6 pm TV - Ballet Co. of Harlem 7 pm TV - "Ethnic Notions" 9 pm</p>	<p>13 R - "The Soundstage" 3pm F-"King James"/"Clarence" 7:30 F - "Brightness"</p>	<p>14 R - "Bring In The Noise" 2:30 F-"King James"/"Clarence" 7:30 F - "Black Orpheus" (see pg. 4)</p>	<p>15 F-"King James"/"Clarence" 7:30 T-"Don't Let /Dream Go" 8pm TV-Chicago music 12:30 am</p>	<p>16 R-Rhythm Drive 4pm F - "Malcolm X" 7:30 &amp; 9:15 T-"Don't Let/Dream Go" 8pm T - "The Outsider" 8pm</p>	<p>17 E - Black Gay/Lesbian Conf. T - I-Fresh Express 7:30 pm F - "Malcolm X" 7:30 &amp; 9:15 T-"Don't Let/ Dream Go" 8pm T - "The Outsider" 8 pm</p>	<p>18 E - Black Gay/Lesbian Conf. R - Zora Neale Hurston 1:30 pm T-"Don't Let/Dream Go" 2:30/8 T - "The Outsider" 2:30/8 pm TV - "Brown Sugar-pt. 4" 5 pm F-Towards Black Identity 7:30</p>
<p>19 E - Black Gay/Lesbian Conf. T-"Don't Let/Dream Go" 2:30, 8</p>	<p>20 E - Black Gay/Lesbian Conf. F - "Leadbelly" TV - Thurgood Marshall 11 pm TV - "Ethnic Notions" 12:00 am</p>	<p>21 F - "Divine Horsemen" F - "Leadbelly" 7:00 &amp; 9:20 pm</p>	<p>22 F - "Divine Horsemen" F-"Scar of Shame"/"Blood ..." D - Alvin Ailey Dance 8pm T-"Don't Let / Dream Go" 8pm</p>	<p>23 R - Audre Lorde 12:15 pm R- Sisterfire '87 Highlights 1:30 R-Dance Class w/Ailey Co. 1pm F-"Scar of Shame"/"Blood ..." D - Alvin Ailey Dance Co. 8pm T-"Don't Let /Dream Go" 8pm T - "The Outsider" 8 pm</p>	<p>24 D - Alvin Ailey Dance Co. 8pm T-"Don't Let /Dream Go" 8pm T - "The Outsider" 8 pm</p>	<p>25 R - Dorothy West 1:30 pm D - Alvin Ailey Dance 2:30/8 T-"Don't Let/Dream Go" 2:30/8 T - "The Outsider" 2:30/8 pm TV - "Thurgood Marshall" 9 pm</p>
<p>26 D - Alvin Ailey Danc. 2:30/8 T-"Don't Let/Dream Go" 2:30/ 8 TV - Josephine Baker 10 pm TV - "Wild Women..." 11:30 pm</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>Calendar abbreviations are as follows: D-dance, E-events, F-film, M-Music, N-nightlife, R-radio, T-theater, TV-television See pages 4, 5, and 8 for specific details on all calendar listings.</p> <p>To list an event on next month's calendar, send notice by Feb. 15th to: Aché, P.O. Box 6071, Albany, CA. 94706</p>			

# THIS MONTH IN...

(continued from page 5)

## TELEVISION (CONT.)

**Feb. 5 & 18 "Brown Sugar - The 1960's to present"** last in a 4-part series looking at Black female entertainers including Diahann Carroll, Tina Turner and Aretha Franklin.

5th) 10 PM KQED ch. 9 18th) 5pm KQEC ch. 32

**Feb. 5 & 6 "Cotton Club Remembered"**

Through interviews, film clips and performances, famous Cotton Club performers remember the famous N.Y. club.

5th) 5pm. KQEC 32 6th) 12 mid. KQED ch. 9

**Feb. 5 "Say Amen Somebody"** 10pm KQEC ch. 32

**Feb. 10 & 12 "Frontline: Running w/Jessie"**

10th) 10pm KQED ch. 9 12th) 2pm KQED ch. 9

**Feb. 8 "Gordon Parks"** A profile on this award-winning photographer/writer/director/composer.

11:30 pm KQED ch.9

**Feb. 8 "Flyers In Search Of A Dream"** A profile of early Black aviators. 12:30 am. KQED ch. 9

**Feb. 9 & 11 "Watch Me Move"** An incredible documentary on Black dance from the 1800's to the present.

2nd) 12:45 am KQED ch. 9 11th) 6 pm KQEC ch. 32

**Feb. 10, 12 & 20 "Ethnic Notions: Portraits of Prejudice"** A documentary on the depiction of Blacks in popular culture.

10th) 11:30pm KQED ch. 9

12th) 9pm KQEC ch. 32 20th) 12 mid. KQED ch. 9

**Feb. 10 & 15 "Precious Memories: Strolling 47th St."** Documentary/performance on Chicago's pioneers of jazz and blues.

10th) 12:30 am @ ch. 9 15th) 12:30 am @ ch. 9

**Feb. 11 "Brown Sugar-The 50's"** pt. 3 in a 4-pt. series looking at Black female entertainers including film clips/profiles on Hazel Scott, Katherine Dunham, Eartha Kitt and Dorothy Dandridge.

5 PM KQEC ch. 32

**Feb. 12 Dance Theater of Harlem**

7 PM KQEC ch. 32

**Feb. 20 "Thurgood Marshall: The Man"** A profile of the 1st Black assoc. justice on the Supreme Court.

20th) 11pm KQED ch. 9

**Feb. 26 "Chasing a Rainbow: The Life of Josephine Baker"** w/priceless footage 10 PM ch. 9

**Feb. 26 "Wild Women Don't Have The Blues"**

A chronicle of female blues performers. 11:30 pm ch. 9

## THEATER

**thru Feb. 5 "A Night At The Apollo"**

w/ New Vaudevillian Derique McGee

\$12 - \$16 Oakland Ensemble Theater

1428 Alice St., Oakland

839-5510

**Feb. 1, 2, 6, 7, 10 & 11 "Joe Turner's Come and Gone"** w/Roscoe Lee Browne \$10-19

415 Geary St., S.F. 673-6440 (Tickets almost gone...)

**Feb. 15-26 "Don't Let This Dream Go"**

A Gospel tribute to Mahalia Jackson.

Wed. - Sun. 8 pm / Sat. & Sun. Mat. 2:30

1428 Alice St., Oakland

839-5510

**Feb. 16-25 "The Outsider"** A play by Cecil Brown adapted from the Richard Wright novel. Directed by Idris Ackamoor.

Thurs.-Sat. @ 8pm / Sat. matinee 2:30

Black Repertory Group, 3201 Adeline, Berk. 652-2120

**Feb. 17 "The I-Fresh Rappers & Future Media"**

The I-Fresh Express blends 'scratch' video, slides/film, and a group of teenage rappers into an overview of Afro-American history. Also a screening of "Joe's Bed-

Stuy Barbershop" by Spike Lee. 7:30 pm \$5

Bayview Opera House, 4705 - 3rd St., S.F. 558-8129

The calendar listings may change without notice; please double-check with the source for any last minute changes. To list something in next month's calendar, please mail notice by Feb. 20 to: **Aché**, P.O. Box 6071, Albany, CA. 94706

# WHAT ABOUT IT?? (more than music)

I overheard a conversation the other day, where someone was commenting on the music played at a party she was at. Her observation was "...and finally they took that salsa stuff off, and put some Black music on." Having heard this comment numerous times in various forms, it's obvious there's a lot of confusion as to what is Black music.

Black music is music whose roots are African and/or are created by peoples of African descent. Salsa, for example, is music whose roots are African. The basic rhythms and percussions instruments used in salsa are of direct West African descent, and were spread throughout the Spanish-speaking Caribbean, with the African peoples who eventually populated those areas.

As these Caribbean peoples, particularly Cubans and Puerto Ricans, migrated to the northeastern and metropolitan cities of the U.S., they brought their music, (one style of which is salsa) with them. This music eventually influenced jazz, rock, and other north-american Black music forms.

This is by no means meant to be a complete history of salsa. It is just some very general information to make the point that there is no single type of Black music. People of African descent are populating just about every place there is on this earth, and out of this diaspora has come the most creative and influential musics that exist.

\*\*\*\*\*

Here's a short list of radio programs that feature various forms of Black music:

## THE ALL 'N ALL

"La Verdad Musical/The Musical Truth" hosted by Avotcja

Fridays - Noon to 3 on KPOO

Avotcja plays jazz, blues, salsa, hip hop, and the whole spectrum of musics from the Caribbean, South America & Africa, from soca to soukous to samba. Also interviews and ticket give aways. Not to miss.

## AFRICAN/CARRIBEAN/SALSA

"Spirit of Carnaval" Sunday night from 10-11PM w/David McBurnie features soca, calypso, music of the West Indies and the French Antilles (also does ticket give aways) on KPFA (94.1 FM)

"Quindembo" Fridays 9AM- 12 on KPOO (89.5 FM) w/John Santos features Afro-Cuban, Puerto Rican, salsa & Latin jazz

Salsa show with Chata Gutierrez Sat. 12-4 PM on KPOO (89.5 FM)

## GOSPEL

"The Gospel Experience" 6-AM on Saturday mornings w/Emmit Powell on KPFA (94.1 FM)

## OLDIES

"Doo Wop Delights" Fri. 11:30PM-1AM on KPFA (94.1 FM)  
Doo wop, oldies w/Opal Nations

More radio programming is featured on pg. 5...

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While we may not be so quick to acknowledge & recognize these musics as ours, others are busy selling, copying, and calling it their own however indirectly. American and British white musicians have been recycling blues and rock & roll for years. Steve Winwood has been re-hashing Jr. Walker & the All-Stars' riffs for

years and has been nominated for Grammy's more times than Jr. Walker could ever hope to.

New and old Londoners are topping the charts with their versions of Motown standards. George Michael and Rod Stewart are practically part of the Motown revue. Peter Gabriel and David Byrne didn't make up those slick rhythms; they went to Africa (literally) to find some "new" ideas.

And if it were not enough that Paul Simon received a Grammy and \$millions for "discovering" South African music; it is rumored that he is now collaborating with salsa's most innovative pianist/composer, Eddie Palmieri. Stay tuned as Simon "discovers" Latin America.

It should be noted that most musics are a fusion of forms, and musicians from various backgrounds have always collaborated to create fresh, new styles. However, we should recognize that the music industry and media in general, are racist institutions. Black musicians do not receive the same respect, recognition, promotion, airplay, monies etc., that white musicians do, even when playing the same style of music. Only a handful of Black musicians ever receive major media attention.

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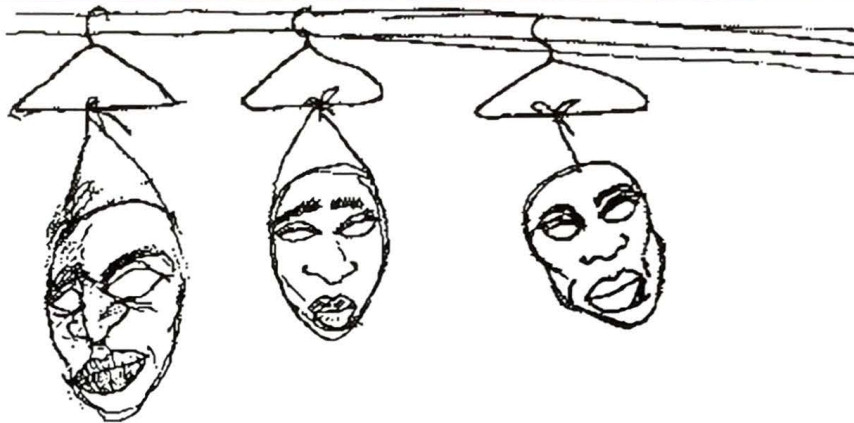
In this column I would like to try to keep abreast of new releases, artists to look out for, as well as artists overlooked. Also look for TV & music program highlights and issues that will hopefully stimulate discission.

NEXT MONTH: music reviews, best of '88, new releases in '89 and the Grammy's.

**CAROL FIELDS**



## WHAT'S THE BIGGEST PROBLEM FACING THE BLACK LESBIAN COMMUNITY ?



**Madonna, computer data researcher, Oakland**

Pessimism that comes from a lack of finances. We don't have the financial resources so we tend to believe that nothing can come together. If we all believe that it's possible to do something at very basic levels and believe that we can succeed, we could very well accomplish a lot. There are also problems we have in terms of communicating and identifying each other. We're not able to get rid of the pessimism because we don't get together or communicate with each other. I think these are major problems.

**Betty, student, Walnut Creek**

A lack of visibility. I think Black Lesbians face a lot more crisis' than other groups of people, yet we get the least assistance because we're not out there fighting like everyone else is. It's difficult when there's no unity in the community. We're separated by class and our own internalized homophobia.

**Shakira, customer service rep., Pasadena**

Learning to love ourselves. I think most of us need to learn to

deal with the internalized oppression we've lived with most of our lives. Especially being lesbians, we're not only oppressed as being Black and female, but lesbian as well. We need to look at ourselves in the mirror and say we love ourselves and we also need to be able to look at our sisters on the streets and say we love our sisters. Often we tend to turn to other people besides ourselves. I also think making support accessible for Black lesbians in the community is an issue. I don't think there's enough support for us in the community because we're so hidden or most of us don't come out and that makes us less accessible to each other.

**Barbara, phone company, San Francisco**

I think our biggest problem is defining our priorities. Are we Black Lesbians or is our blackness first and our lesbianism second? I also think finding each other is difficult. It's hard to find women we're compatible with.

**Rita, graduate student, Bloomington, Indiana**

There are too many of us who are closeted. Even if their shit is

closeted, they should at least be able to respect other Black lesbians who choose to be out. I think this is a big conflict and most folks in my environment don't want people to know about them because they have too much to protect.

"Speak Easy" will be a monthly forum where you respond to various topics. In order for this column to work, we **need** your feedback. Please, send us your thoughts and comments. Don't like the topic? Send us one of your own.

Next month's topic is:

**Do class differences keep Black Lesbians from getting together?**

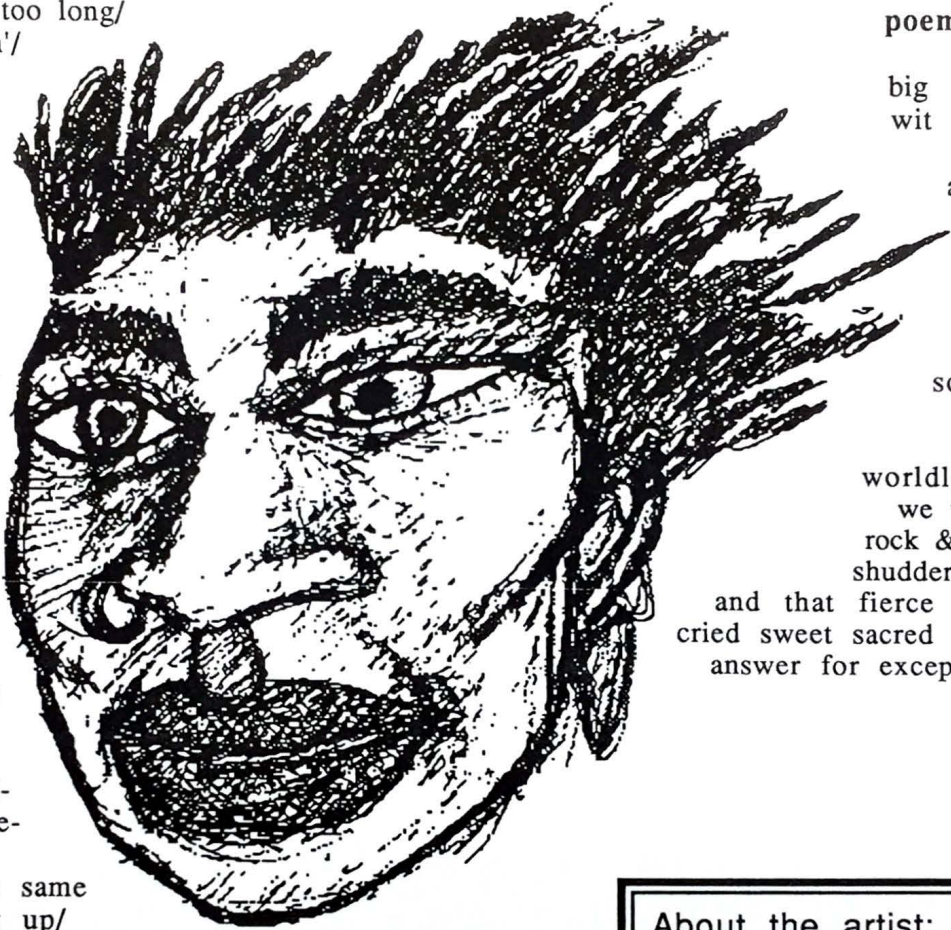
Deadline for response is Feb. 15th. Please specify if you would not like your name included.

Mail to: Aché, P.O. Box 6071, Albany, CA. 94706

# POETRY/ARTWORK BY STORME WEBBER

all poetry/artwork copyrighted 1988-89

if i sit still & quiet for too long/  
my mind starts jumpin'/  
mis ceg enation  
mama/mama/"all blk  
men wanna do iz rape  
you/how do you think  
i got storme?"  
my skin the color of  
sambo's pancakes &  
them tigers he made  
run all around  
that tree till the blk &  
the orange/beige  
made yella/so his  
mama cd make him  
more pancakes/he  
loved em so  
unfortunate child-  
hoods are like rocky  
hills/you cn either  
keep climbing over  
& around all that mess  
scratching & cutting  
yrself/or you cn grab  
on (the edges are well-  
defined/give you some-  
thing to hang onto &  
toughen yr skin at the same  
time) & keep climbing up/  
sometimes you cn look back/for a  
minute/just for a minute/just to see how far  
you've come/but not too long/vertigo might hit  
& you cd tumble back down/to where they're  
callin you "come back come back to us"  
instead i say these words over & over until they  
lose their magic/their bad magic  
& gain some whole new stuff/gris-gris for some  
deep blk amazon power roots  
what's in my blood/native magic/alaskan  
shaman & louisiana red people/  
norwegian sailors & dark spanish men/  
an american blend/  
w/dreadlocks & scuffed-up boots



poem for a diva

big strong women  
wit fierce attitude  
in the street  
an exquisitely  
arched eye-  
brow may  
be/all she  
has/ for you  
but she got  
something else  
to show me  
behind that  
worldly camouflage  
we was soft-to-soft  
rock & water & earth  
shuddered rose & fell  
and that fierce strong woman  
cried sweet sacred tears i had no  
answer for except to hold her:  
tighter

About the artist:  
Storme Webber is a  
performance artist/poet,  
born in Seattle, WA.  
She splits her time  
between San Francisco and  
New York City, and is  
currently living on the  
lower East Side working  
on her first book of  
poetry: "Diaspora."

# THE BACK PAGE

Wanna let someone know how you feel? Perhaps you'd like to organize a trip, need a roommate or an apartment? Whatever you want or need, let the community know, through the **Aché Back Page**. It's **FREE**.

The deadline for all submissions is the 15th of each month.

## GROUPS

### **Lesbians of Color Support Group**

Thursdays 6:30-8:30 PM  
3rd floor @ Pacific Center  
2712 Telegraph Ave.  
841-6224 (childcare provided)

### **Large Black Lesbians**

Talk about our lives, not necessarily about our weight, stretching and movement. Call Jan or Sharon @ 531-9267 for info.

### **Bay Area Black Lesbians and Gays**

meet 1st Wednesday of each month @ 7:30 pm  
1540 Market St. Suite 230  
San Francisco. 864-0876

### **Lesbians of Color sketch group**

call 848-7433 or  
826-8856 for information.

### **NIA Collective**

The NIA Collective was created by and for Black lesbians during the Black caucus at the 1987 Lesbian of Color conference in San Francisco. The word "nia" means "purpose" in Swahili. NIA's goals are to help initiate a supportive network for Black lesbians. P.O. Box 40134, Berkeley, 94704. Call 532-2758 for info.

### **Gay Feminist Women of Color Group**

Billy De Frank Community Center. 1040 Park Ave., San Jose, CA. Call Rose @ (408) 298-5742 for info.

## NOTICES

### **Roommate Wanted!!**

Looking for a woman who's interested in finding a 2 BR apartment in SF, Oakland, or San Leandro. Cats okay, dogs-no thanks. I'm looking for an uninhibited and open-minded person to live with. If interested, call Barbara, Mon. thru Fri. 9:30-5pm @ 267-5355.

**"Black Lesbian Relationships: A documentation of our lives."** We are looking for women interested in

telling their stories or sharing resources in producing the above documentary. For more information call 534-9232.

**BRAVA! For Women in the Arts**, a multi-cultural organization of women artists, is holding auditions for original performance works involving theatre, music, and/or dance & movement for a new series entitled "Taking Shape." Pieces should be 15-20 minutes long or excerpted from longer works. Auditions will be held on February 19, for performances held in April, May and June, 1989. Call 861-4515 for an appointment and more information.

### **Botanica Oshun**

347 - 15th St.  
Oakland, CA. 94612  
(415) 835-8804

### **Books**

Reference materials

Candles

Orisha tools

Over 200 herbs & spices

Essential oils

Incense

Bubble Bath

Massage Oils