

Black Lesbian, Gay Cultural Fest Set for February

By Mark [REDACTED] BLK Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES—The African-American Gay and Lesbian Cultural Alliance is putting finishing touches on its annual African-American Gay and Lesbian Cultural Festival encompassing four days and nights of dance, performance art, theater and film.

From the theater pieces opening the festival on Sat., Feb. 9 through the film screenings on Tues., Feb. 12, black lesbian and gay artists will be touching on every aspect of their lives and experiences in every conceivable medium.

The theater, dance and poetry performances, as well as the history presentation and awards ceremony, to the panel discussions and gala parties will all take place at the Crossroads Arts Academy, 4310 Degan Blvd. in Los Angeles.

Television producer Lamond [REDACTED] is the festival's artistic director. He is also a member of the board of directors of Gentlemen Concerned.

Saturday afternoon opens with a dance performance of *Song for My Brothers* followed by a reprise performance of *Tri-Sections*, written and performed by Ayofemi [REDACTED] with music composed and performed by Debbie [REDACTED]. *Tri-Sections*, made possible in part by a grant from the Department of Cultural Affairs of the City of Los Angeles, is "a dramatic tapestry," where [REDACTED] celebrates her experiences as a lesbian, as a woman who is physically challenged, as a black woman, as a woman who must fight for her right to self-esteem and acceptance from her family.

Also on Saturday afternoon, the art exhibit will open, featuring the work of artists from across the country. Video screenings will begin on Monday and Tuesday. Among the films showcasing the history and presence of black lesbian and gay life are *International Sweethearts of Rhythm*, *Tiny and Ruby: Hell Divin' Women*, *Women in Love*, *Affirmations* and *Tongues Untied*.

Saturday evening's performances begin with the world premiere of *Children of the Night*, a "choreopoem" conceived and staged by Stephen [REDACTED]. A modern jazz-dance set to verbal recitation of poetry with a cappella voices, *Children of the Night* is dedicated to [REDACTED]'s brother, godfather and

friends lost to AIDS.

[REDACTED] began his dancing career in the Joel Noble Dance Company, studying with the Dance Theater of Harlem and the Alvin Ailey School of American Dance among many others. He has performed in videos with Paula Abdul, Steve Winwood and Jody Watley and was nominated for a Hollywood NAACP theater award for the musical *De Obeah Mon*.

Following *Children* is the world premiere of *Saxophone Me, Baby* by Angela [REDACTED], a bluesy story of the isolation and alienation of a black lesbian as she struggles through coming out in her community. Auditions are being held for the seven character performance piece.

Adele [REDACTED], Los Angeles-based poet will perform her work, hailed by critics as "one of the strongest new voices in the Los Angeles poetry scene. Her textural approach toward life is direct, comical and full of wisdom and severe states of pleasure."

Following the Saturday evening performance will be a gala opening night party with yet more performances.

AAGLCA is offering a special \$45 series ticket which will allow admission to all of the performances, screenings and panel discussions of black gay and lesbian artists. The series pass will be the surest way to see the festival as some individual events may sell out prior to the day of the performance. Pass discounts will be available to registered participants of the National Black Gay and Lesbian Conference and to AAGLCA members.

Sunday afternoon, AAGLCA will present a black history and awards program, honoring those persons past and present who "made a significant contribution to the well-being of the African-American gay and lesbian community." Last year's honorees included Stanley [REDACTED] and Sylvia [REDACTED] (no relation). Charles [REDACTED] will deliver the afternoon's keynote address.

Woman, 19, Poses as Man

ANAHEIM, Calif.—A red-faced Orange County Sheriff's Department is on the lookout for 19-year-old Teresa [REDACTED] who is facing charges of suspicion of burglary. [REDACTED] was released from custody when the sheriffs, to their surprise, discovered that the suspect they had arrested—who gave his name as Louis [REDACTED]—was actually a female.

"Even the individual who was arrested with her was surprised," said Sheriff's spokesman Capt. Bon Eason.

[REDACTED] had been arrested previously for impersonation of men. When her gender was discovered after the burglary arrests, [REDACTED] told Sheriff's deputies that Louis was her twin brother. To use the name of another person when arrested would have been a felony charge, but officers could not verify that [REDACTED] did or did not have a brother.

Charges have been refiled for the suspicion of burglary under [REDACTED]'s actual name and gender.

Blacks Get Stein Posts

WASHINGTON—Three men of color have been retained or newly elected as officers of the Gertrude Stein Democratic Club for the coming year. Lorenzo [REDACTED] was elected vice president for administration and Alexander [REDACTED] was elected vice president for governmental and political affairs. Both are members of the D.C. Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gay Men. Mauro [REDACTED], a Latino, was re-elected president. Other officers elected were Mark [REDACTED] treasurer and Karen [REDACTED] secretary.



"The politically correct New Yorkers have decided that being lesbian or gay is sexist. They are requiring everyone to be bisexual."