63rd Annual National Association Of Dramatic & Speech Arts Conference

Theme: Surviving The Arts Through The Passage Of Time

Los Angeles Southwest College
1600 West Imperial Highway
Los Angeles, California 90047

April 7 - 10, 1999
National Black Theatre Festival

The National Black Theater Festival (NBTF) and NADSA are currently under negotiation for the newest wing to the NBTF, which will be a college and universities division to the National Festival, which has attracted thousands since its inception in 1989.

The idea actually came about a few years ago. However, as time passed, so did the idea. Recently, the collaboration was revisited by President Myles who has been in direct contact with NBTF’s Founder and Executive Director, Larry Hamlin.

Currently, NADSA has a play festival which awards ratings of “superior, excellent, and good”. In addition to receiving National acclaim, students also receive trophies. NBTF currently focuses primarily on professional theater at its festivals which are held every other year.

The proposed collaboration will allow plays presented at Annual NADSA Conferences, to be presented at the National Black Theater Festival which is held in Winston Salem, North Carolina.

When asked “How will NADSA benefit?,” Myles replied, “This gives HBCUs an opportunity to get exposure from a primarily professional audience and also provides an venue for celebrities and professionals to be more in tune to the activities that are occurring in theater on the post secondary educational level.
She was only six and already had definite ideas about herself and her life. She refused, for example, to play Little Red Riding Hood in her class presentation for Open School Day. "I didn't like the silly, red hooded cape that went with the role," laughs JoMarie Payton. "I wanted to be one of the flowers in the forest because they got to wear beautiful pink tunics."

Payton was just wrapping her ninth season as the effervescent mom of the Winslow household in CBS-TV's "Family Matters," was born in Albany, Georgia, the second oldest of nine children and the oldest girl.

The Harriete Winslow of "Family Matters" actually came into existence two years earlier with Payton as the tart-tongued elevator operator of the ABC-TV series, "Perfect Strangers." Harriette became such a hit with viewers that the producer created "Family Matters" as a spin-off series to star and cast Reginald VelJohnson as her husband, Chicago Police officer Carl Winslow.

Payton was still a year old when her family moved to Opa-Locka, Florida, a suburb of Miami. Her mother, a maid, and her father, a construction worker, were separated when her eldest daughter was eleven. Her mother was a tower of strength, "says Payton," but when she was at work all the children looked after me to take care of things. I learned from my mother. She was my mentor and biggest supporter.

Payton arrived in Los Angeles in the mid-seventies in the touring company of the musical comedy, "Purlie," with Robert Guillaume. Popular locally as an actress, variety performer and club singer, she had been working in an accounting office when she learned that they were casting for the "Purlie" road company. With no music, no resume, no head shot and not even a car, Payton talked her way onstage and auditioned a capella.

But breaking into the business wasn't easy. She found a tiny apartment in the Wilshire area, worked as a temp and was given what she considered to be her best friend, a 26-year-old pink and white Chevy which she promptly named "Betsy." "I was always broke but I was learning about the business, about having photos and music and what it meant to have a career. And I remembered all the things my mother taught me - about being self-reliant," she says.

When Payton's agent told her the "Redd Foxx Variety Show" was looking for a "forties style jazz singer," Payton assured him, "That's what I do best." She wound up doing more than a dozen of his shows, including seven as Foxx's wife in a recurring skit, "Alfonso and Victoria." She subsequently did series pilots for Paramount and ABC, but neither sold.

With all this, Payton still found it necessary to take a full time job at a travel agency, a job she held for over seven years and she didn't give up until she had been working on "Perfect Strangers" for three months.

During the years Payton was with the travel agency, she was able to make guest-starring and recurring appearances on "Silver Spoons," "Small Wonder," "New Cott Couple" and to film key roles in such motion pictures as "Body and Soul" with Leon Isaac Kennedy, "Deal of the Century" with Chevy Chase and Gregory Hines, "Color," with Sean Penn and Robert Duvall, "Cross My Heart" with Paul Reiser and Martin Short, and "Troop Beverly Hills" with Shelley Long and Craig T. Nelson.

Payton has a 14-year-old daughter, Chantale, from her first marriage and is currently married to writer Landru Clark. Deeply committed to educational matters, she has established the Frankie Payton Scholarship Fund at Albany State College in honor of her mother and the JoMarie Payton Celebrity Classic which also raise scholarship funds for Albany State. She has been named Woman of the Year by the City of Los Angeles and was honored with the Alice Award by the National Commission on Working Women.
63rd Annual NADSA Conference Itinerary
“Surviving With Art Through The Passage Of Time”

Wednesday, April 7, 1999

#1
8:00 AM – 9:15 AM
Quality Inn,
President’s Suite

Executive Board Meeting
Presiding: A.C. Myles, NADSA President
Albany State University

#2
9:30 AM – 12:00 PM
LASC Theater

Conference Registration
Presiding: Dr. Anita McAllister, NADSA Executive Secretary
Grambling State University

#3
10:00 AM
LASC Theater

NADSA General Session (Opening)
All Conference Public Meeting
Presiding: A.C. Myles, NADSA President
Albany State University

Invocation

Greetings
Pat Lewis, Chair of Arts Department
Earnestine Robertson, Dean of Academic Affairs
Los Angeles Southwest College

LA Southwest College Gospel Choir
Under the Direction of Charles Ingram

A Special Tribute to Ester Rolle
Dr. Anita McAllister, NADSA Executive Secretary
Grambling State University

Introduction of Speaker
Leroy Meadows, Technical Director
Los Angeles Southwest College

Keynote Speaker
Jo Marie Payton, Actress & Jazz Singer
Best known to TV audiences as Harriette Winslow on the popular sitcom “Family Matters” and for her newly released debut jazz CD “Southern Shadows”.

Introduction of Registered Guest
Dr. Anita McAllister, NADSA Executive Secretary
Grambling State University
Wednesday, April 7, 1999 (continued)

**Closing Remarks**
A.C. Myles, NADSA President
Albany State University

**Announcements**
Al Cowart, Conference Host
West Regional, Director
Los Angeles Southwest College

#4
11:30 PM
LASC Theater

**Judges & Contestants Orientation**
Presiding: Dr. K.D. Godwin, NADSA Vice President
Voorhees College

#5
12:15 PM

**Lunch (On Your Own)**

#6
1:00 PM
LASC Theater

**Interpretation of Prose**
Presiding: Gena Nichols
Los Angeles Southwest College

#7
2:15 PM
LASC Theater

**Workshop A**
"Applying To & Surviving Graduate School"
Presenter: Mr. Stanley Coleman, Louisiana State University

#8
3:30 PM

**High School Interpretation of Prose**
Presiding: Ms. Linda Chamblee

#9
4:30 PM
LASC Theater

**One Act Play Rehearsal (Plays: One, Two, Three & Four)**
Presiding: Mr. Leroy Meadows, Technical Director
Los Angeles Southwest College

#10
5:30 PM

**Dinner (On Your Own)**

#11
7:00 PM
LASC Theater

**Host Production – Los Angeles Southwest College**
Presiding: Dr. K.D. Godwin, NADSA Vice President
Voorhees College

#12
10:00 PM
Quality Inn.
Century Ball Room

**All Conference Mixer**
Thursday, April 8, 1999

#13
9:00 AM
LASC Theater

Dramatic Monologue Competition
Presiding: Mrs. Ava Brewster-Turner
Louisiana State University

#14
10:30 AM
LASC Theater

Students Meeting
Presiding: Brandon Shiver, NADSA Student President
Albany State University

#15
12:00 PM

Lunch (On Your Own)

#16
1:00 PM
LASC Theater

Interpretation of Poetry
Presiding: Mark Henderson, Jackson State

#17
2:30 PM
LASC Theater

Workshop B – Actor’s Symposium
Moderator: A.C. Myles, NADSA President
Albany State University
Presenters: Deirdre Dix, Edge of a Dream Productions
Topic: “Life on the Road”
Raymond Patterson, Actor

#18
3:45 PM
LASC Theater

One Act Play Rehearsal (Plays: Five, Six, & Seven-if needed)
Presiding: Leroy Meadows, Technical Director
Los Angeles Southwest College

#19
5:00 PM

Dinner (On Your Own)

#20
7:00 PM
LASC Theater

One Act Play Festival (Plays: One, Two, Three & Four)
Presiding: Dr. Allen Williams, Grambling State University

#21
10:00 PM
Dragnet Theater

Original Poetry Competition
Presiding: Donald Benjamin Lewis, Dragnet Theater
357 Queen Street, Inglewood
(North of Manchester and West of Prairie)
1999 NADSA Officers

A. Clifton Myles, President
Dr. King David Godwin, Vice President
Anita McAlister, Executive Secretary
Mary Grimes, Assistant Secretary
Dr. Allen Williams, Treasurer
Willie Todd, Publicity Director
Ava Brewster-Turner, Parliamentarian
Brandon Shiver, Student President
Dorian Myers, Student Representative
T. Ture Ivory, Student Representative
Dr. Virgie Harris, Publisher of Encore
Karl Norman, Publicity
NADSA '99

Friday, April 9, 1999

#22
9:00 AM
LASC Theater
Extemporaneous Speaking
Presiding: Mrs. Ava Brewster-Turner, Louisiana State University

#23
10:15 AM
LASC Theater
Workshop C – “Directing for the Stage”
Presenter: J.W. Lewis, Clarke Atlanta College

#24
11:15 AM
LASC Theater
Reader’s Theater Competition
Presiding: Mary Grimes, Claflin College

#25
12:45 PM
Lunch (On Your Own)

#26
1:45 PM
LASC Theater
Dramatic Duo’s Competition
Presiding: Dr. Anita McAllister, Grambling State University

#27
3:00 PM
LASC College
High School Interpretation of Poetry
Presiding: Willie Todd

#28
3:45 PM
LASC Theater
One Act Play Festival (Plays: Five, Six & Seven-if needed)
Presiding: Dr. K.D. Godwin, NADSA Vice President
Voorhees College

#29
5:00 PM
Dinner (On Your Own)

#30
5:00 PM
LASC Theater
High School One Act Play Rehearsal
Presiding: Leroy Meadows, Technical Director
Los Angeles Southwest College

#31
7:00 PM
High School One Act Play Festival

Night Out On Your Own !!!

NADSA '99
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<td>8:30 AM</td>
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<td>Presiding: Mrs. Ava Brewster-Turner, Louisiana State University</td>
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<td>10:00 AM</td>
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<td>“Surviving Los Angeles As An Actor”</td>
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<td>Presenter: Alicia Cole, Founder of Backstage Seminars</td>
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<td>11:30 AM</td>
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<td>Presiding: Mark Henderson, Jackson State University</td>
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<td>Lunch (On Your Own)</td>
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<td>Conference Papers</td>
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<td>Presiding: Dr. Virgie Harris, Editor of Encore</td>
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<td>Fort Valley State College</td>
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<td>Final General Session/Elections</td>
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<td>Keynote Speaker: Dr. Orlando Taylor</td>
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<td>National Communication Association, President</td>
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