

Series presents two plays, queen, comedy, acoustic



By CASSIE YANG
Features editor

Jazz, drama, comedy and dance are just a few of the arts offered by the Cultural Series.

Students and the public are also given the chance to hear and see new age jazz, musicals and acoustics.

The Cultural Series is organized by the Cultural Arts Committee of the Carolina Program Union. Each year, the series presents five nationally acclaimed shows — generally two music shows, one Broadway musical/play, one off-Broadway play and one variety show with dance, puppets, acrobats, comedy and such.

"We make every attempt to make each season unique and entertaining in its own way. In the past we have brought such shows as Ray Charles, Evita, Branford Marsalis, Sophisticated Ladies, Michael Hedges/Liz Story/Montreux, The Second City, and The Jofrey Ballet," said Rajan Shah, chairperson of the Cultural Arts Committee.

The five performances for the 1988 season are as follows:

Greater Tuna — October 20. Carolina Coliseum.
Greater Tuna is a comical play that is said to be a satire of modern day conservatism in the South. It has received four stars by the New York Times. The comedy is an account of the residents of a small country town in Texas named Tuna. The true question is whether or not the characters in this play are fictitious.

Queen Ida — November 10. Carolina Coliseum.
Queen Ida has been nominated for a Grammy three times and won in 1986. Ida plays true French Cajun music. She has performed all over the world with her eight-man zydeco band. She has performed at Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall. At each performance she brings people to their feet dancing; literally turning the Hall into a "dance floor."

For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuf — February 1. Koger Center for the Performing Arts.

The play is written about the trials and tribulations that occur between five sisters. Each sister shares in the love, hate, greed, pain, happiness, anger and anguish of the other. The play is a

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Cultural Arts Committee chairperson

tribute to women and blacks everywhere. This is the show that will open the Koger Center. "We are already anticipating a sold-out show. This show will also mark the beginning of Black History Month at USC," said Shah.

Chicago City Limits — March 20. Koger Center for the Performing Arts

Chicago City Limits is one of the foremost comedy acts in the country. They have been the longest running comedy act ever in New York and have had back-to-back performances at the Improv and Catch a Rising Star. Chicago City Limits span everything from religion to politics. The performance primarily focuses on improv and depend heavily on student participation.

Acoustic Music Show — April 12. Koger Center for the Performing Arts.

"What a night this will be. People are still talking about the last time we had a night of acoustic music," said Shah.

The three top Windham Hill recording artists will play at USC. Turtle Island String Quartet will open the show. Metamora will perform next. Pierre Bensusan is the finale. All three performers have won numerous awards at highly distinguishable festivals like Monterey and Newport. Bensusan is called the poet of the guitar. The music that will be heard this evening will be a mix of true new age jazz and classic acoustic rhythms. There will be hints of European, African, Irish, Indian and American.

"Without a doubt, this season is going to be one of the best that Carolina has ever seen. We are bringing five performances that have been nationally recognized several times over," Shah said.

The Cultural Series is an opportunity for parents to see what USC has to offer for cultural entertainment also. Shah said that many students and the public do not know what is available in the arts.

"There is a great desire and opportunity for students to grow culturally at the university. Unfortunately, the newer students as well as many upper class students are not aware of these opportunities — like the Cultural Series, Carolina Concerts and Carolina Alive.

"We really do need to stress the arts to students. We have so much to offer it's unbelievable."



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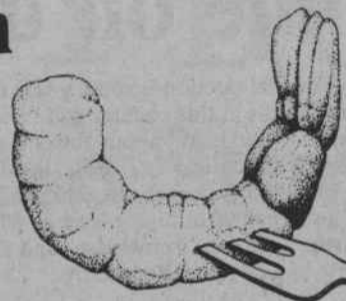
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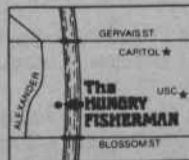
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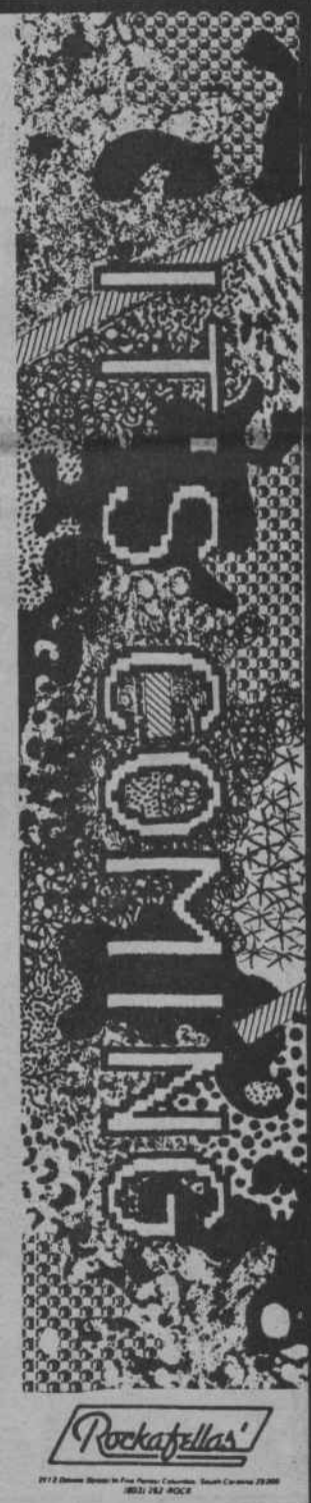
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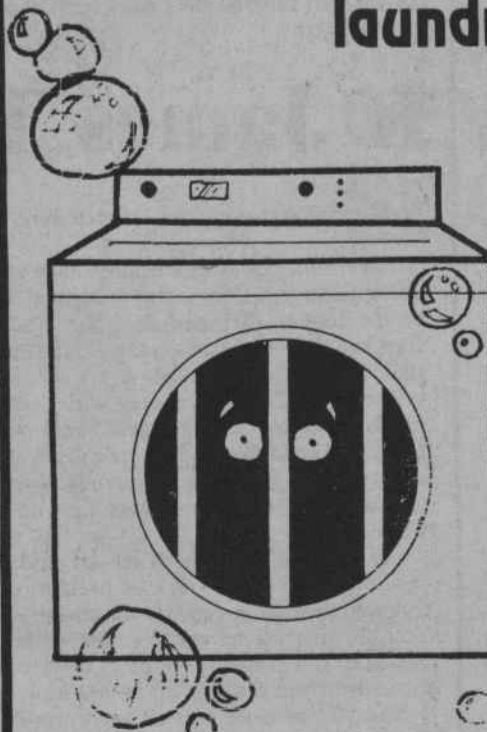


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