

CAROLINA!



Artist Jonathan Green preserves Gullah tradition

By **DESAREE HOLLINS**
Features Editor

You are ten years old. Your daddy has just invited you to go for a little ride with him. You get all excited because you think this little ride is going to be the ride of your life. As you walk out into the yard toward your daddy's car with a big ole' smile on your face. Some of your friends ask, "Where you goin'?" You still got that smile, but you feel a little sorry for them because they're not going with you.

As you plop in the front seat, the heat from the vinyl burns through your cut-off denim shorts causing you to move up to the tip of the seat. By this time, you're enjoying yourself as you bob up and down as daddy pulls out on the lumpy dirt-driveway.

You sit back barely able to touch the floor and you have a little trouble looking beyond the dashboard. It doesn't bother you. You are used to it. Besides, you enjoy the air blowing out of the vent and in your face. But then again, Daddy wants to save gas and then he

tells you to roll down your window instead. That doesn't bother you either because you get to stick your arm out the window to try to hold it in one steady position. But Daddy is driving so fast, the strength of the wind forces your arm to falter against the side of the car.

Riding down the road, you see so many different kinds of colors. You see dark ones and light ones. When you look up, you see white fluffy clouds speckled in the midst of the bright blue sky. When you look down and across you see white and brown blocks along with dots of whites, yellows, and pinks sprinkled in rich greens. You see the rainbows of Miss Anna May, Miss Ruth, and Miss Francis — reds, yellows, and purples, blowing with the same wind your arm is still trying to handle.

Those who grew up in the rural lowcountry of South Carolina in the Sixties and Seventies may be having a difficult time recalling some of these colorful images of clotheslines while speeding down a country road, mostly because of the growing percentage of home-

owned driers.

But 38-year-old artist Jonathan Green has preserved some of these childhood images on canvas. His latest exhibition, "From Deep Roots to New Ground: The Gullah Landscape of Jonathan Green" captures black Southern tradition.

In the painting, "Braiding Hair," Green remembers the tradition of mothers braiding their daughters' hair, in which now more women resort to their local beauty shops for relaxers and perms. In "Colored Clothes," Green reminds us of our mothers and grandmothers hanging clothes on the clothesline.

Green comments on interracial themes in his current works.

"The paintings are not just about black people, they're about all people living in the Gullah community," he said.

Alice Bouknight, McKissick Museum's curator of exhibitions, said Green shows something special in the paintings that reflect the culture.

"The way he captures the human spirit works much more than the landscapes. His works are about characters and places where people live, work, and play," she said. "There is a great deal of strength in his work. There is the culture and human condition. He makes it important to preserve a corner of a culture."

Winner of "The Key to the City" from Georgia, The "On the Move" Award, The Chatham County Medallion, and The Martin



Courtesy of McKissick Museum
"Yemassie Lounge" by Jonathan Green

Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award for the Arts, to name a few; Green has more than 45 paintings in his current collection.

"From Deep Roots to New Ground" is on exhibit in the McKissick Museum. The exhibit premiered April 3 and will continue until August 15.

Town Theatre encourages USC students to participate in productions

By **CARSON HENDERSON**
Staff Writer

The Town Theatre encourages USC student participation in its year-round productions.

Meredith Lashley and her husband, Will, a USC law student, have volunteered at the theater for the past year. Lashley is an English major and said her literary background has always steered her toward acting.

"There is no stress working behind the scenes," she said. "There is freedom of self-expression."

Lashley said the volunteers work

closely together, but the theater needs more university students. She said the volunteers spend much time working with lighting, props and other scenery materials.

Located on Sumter Street, the Town Theatre is a nationally recognized historical site and is the oldest and longest-running operated community theatre in the United States.

Bill Arvay, the theater's business manager, said the facility seeks dedicated students who want to learn about theater operations. Participation "is our whole purpose for being," said Arvay, who is one of the three paid employees. The theater relies on up to 600 volun-

teers each year to help stage its productions.

The volunteers work with the staff to raise money, design and make costumes and scenery, and solicit advertising.

"Theater is an art you learn by doing," Arvay said. The Town Theatre is open to student volunteers, but they have to initiate contact, he said. "It is a substantial time commitment to put on a good show," Arvay said. He also said it takes up to six weeks to prepare for a non-musical and up to 10 weeks to prepare for a musical.

Arvay said the theater's purpose is accomplished when a production

is ready to stage for the public. During the weeks of preparation, work is the only occupation. However, the cast and other volunteers celebrate once a production has opened.

"There is almost nothing in the world that can equal that communication with the audience," Arvay said.

Arvay praised the volunteers' devotion. "These people work themselves silly," he said. "They are dedicated and hard working."

Lashley said more USC students should take advantage of the theater. "Many students not from Columbia or South Carolina don't

realize how close the Town Theatre is," she said.

The theater offers student volunteers an opportunity to learn. Also, students can buy season tickets for \$30, which admit them to five shows between September and May.

Students can sign up to be ushers for shows. Ushers work for an hour before showtime, and they get to see the show for free. Arvay said there is a long waiting list for ushers.

All auditions are open, and experience is useful, Arvay said, but not required.

TAN EASY
739-0221
10 visits for \$30
1344C Knox Abbott Dr.
3 Miles from USC

Think You're Pregnant? Find out Now!
A confidential pregnancy test takes only minutes! Planned Parenthood also provides counseling, complete GYN exams, low-cost birth control and abortion services.

Planned Parenthood
Caring, Convenient, Confidential
256-4908
off Forest Drive between Providence Hospital & Richland Mall
Open Sat. 10-2

Moonlight Madness SALE
1/3 off Storewide
Thursday and Friday only
June 17 and 18, 10-8pm
All Sales Final!
We will be closed Wednesday for preparation

Great buys on men's and women's Summer Clothing
Shorts, T-shirts, Skirts, Tank Dresses
Dress Shirts and Much More.

DEALS
Your Specialty Shop & Mail Order Catalog Outlet
605 Harden St. • Five Points • 765-0645
(Next to Groucho's)