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“Don’t Bother Me, I Can’t Cope”

Channing Pollock Collection

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DON'T BOTHER ME, I CAN'T CORE!

A Musical Entertainment Conceived by
Vinette Carroll

Music & Lyrics by
Micki Grant

Original Production directed by
Vinette Carroll

Directed & Choreographed by
MIKE MALONE

Lighting Designer
George Epting

Set Designer
Paul Falcon

Costume Designer
Reggie Ray

Musical Director
Raymond Reeder

Master Electrician
T.W. Starnes

Assistant Musical Director
Daryl Hunt

Assistant Director
Anthony Edwards

Stage Manager
Ebony Vines

Assistant to the Choreographer
Katherine J. Smith

Assistant Stage Managers
Aneka Hylton
Micki Smith

March 10-11; 14-18; 20-25, 1995
7:45 pm

Ira Aldridge Theatre
6th & Fairmont Streets, N.W.
Washington, DC 20059

Director's Notes

There is a song in **DON'T BOTHER ME, I CAN'T COPE**, entitled "TIME BRINGS ABOUT A CHANGE". In many ways that's true and in many ways it isn't true.. Time has not brought about much of a change for "Cope." Much of it remains as timely as ever for those of us experiencing the difficulty and stress of contemporary life. There may be a few references from the past, but consider them history lessons. Nevertheless composer Micki Grant, has provided us with enough material we can all enjoy. Enjoy.

Professor Mike Malone

Who's Who

Anthony T. Bryan - is a Senior of Howard University's College of Fine Arts. "Thank you," to my family here at this University.

Aimee Kikiwa Bryant - is a graduating Senior. She was last seen in **The Stories We Tell**.

Monique Caldwell - is a Musical Theatre major. Her production credits include the lead in **Once On This Island**, **Abyssinia**, and opening the gospel show **God's Trombones**.

April E. Carter - is a Junior majoring in Musical Theatre. Stage credits include **E-Man**, **Once On This Island**, and **A Chorus Line**.

Darnese Yvette Daniels - is a Sophomore studying Musical Theatre. This is her first production at Howard.

Deborah Fewell - is a graduating Senior majoring in Musical Theatre. Her credits include **Once On This Island**, **E-Man**, and this is her third musical performance here at Howard.

Marvin Ford - is a Junior Musical Theatre major. He has performed in numerous productions in the Washington, D.C. area, the most recent being **Black Nativity** at the Kennedy Center.

Napiera Danielle Groves - is a first semester Sophomore Musical Theatre major. Thanks Mommy, James and God.

Taraji Henson - is a graduating Senior majoring in Acting. Her previous performances include **Agamemnon**, **E-Man**, and **Where Eagle's Fly**.

Wendell Jordan - is a Sophomore Musical Theatre major. He can be seen in such films as **Major League II** and soon to be released **American President and Home for the Holidays**.

Kyra Little - is a Junior Musical Theatre major. Kyra has done numerous productions with Mike Malone Including: **Once On This Island**, **E-Man**, **Black Nativity** and **Sepia Stages** at the Kennedy Center.

Karima Aisha Miller - is a Sophomore majoring in Exercise Physiology and minoring in Dance. This is her debut musical performance.

Carlyncia S. Peck - is a graduating Senior majoring in Musical Theatre. Her credits include **Dreamgirls**, **Breakfast in Harlem**, **Queens of the Nile**, **E-Man**, and **The Talented Truth**.

Donerick LaVoid Rainey - is a Senior majoring in Acting from San Antonio, Texas. His credits include **Lord I'm Coming Home**, **Oak and Ivy**, **The Talented Tenth** and an extra in the movie **Malcolm X**.

Christa L. Rivers - is working toward her B.F.A. in Acting. Her stage credits include **Snowfall and the Blues**, **Get to Tomorrow**, **Bubblin' Brown Sugar** and **Dreamgirls**.

Damani Singleton - is a graduating Senior majoring in Musical Theatre. He would like to thank Mike Malone and Al Freeman, Jr. for giving him the many opportunities to perform.

David St. Louis - is a Junior majoring in Musical Theatre. He was last seen in **Rhinoceros** as Dudard and **E-Man** as Diablo. He will soon be seen in **Bessie's Blues** at Studio Theatre.

Wil Walker, Jr. - is a Sophomore English major from Mendenhall, Mississippi. Although, he has participated in several high school productions this is his first college role.

Mike Malone (Director/Choreographer) - is the Coordinator of the Musical Theatre area of concentration in the Theatre Arts Department at Howard University and the co-founder of the Duke Ellington School of the Arts in Washington, D.C. His works have been seen in Europe, China, Russia, Africa, the Caribbean and Brazil. Mr. Malone's professional credits include the television series **Fame**, the Broadway production of **The Great White Hope**, and the video **Lift Every Voice and Sing**. For his work as director and choreographer of **Black Nativity**, he was awarded the 1993 KEEFER Award for Theatrical Brilliance as Best Director for a Musical. He also received the Helen Hayes Award for Best Choreography for the Studio Theatre's production of **Spunk**. His production, **Where Eagle's Fly**, just completed a successful run at the historical Lincoln Theatre.

Anthony Amiri Edwards (Assistant Director) - is a Junior at Howard majoring in Directing. He would like to thank Mike Malone for giving him the chance to work on this wonderful project with him. This is Anthony Amiri's fourth show at Howard University and hopefully next year he will be doing several more. Anthony credits much of his success in life to God, for with him nothing is impossible.

Ebony Afrique Vines (Stage Manager) - is a Junior at Howard University's Department of Theatre Arts and is attempting to broaden her horizons, by debuting as the stage manager for this fine musical. Her credits include as a dancer: **Sweet Charity**, **Dreamgirls**, **Once On This Island**, & **Jump for Joy** to name a few. She sends her love to her father, Ellis Vines and fiance', Ronald.

Aneka Hylton (Assistant Stage Manager) - is a Sophomore majoring in Musical Theatre and this is her first show with Mike Malone. She is a graduate of Duke Ellington School of the Arts where she performed in numerous shows like **Cotton Club Review**, **Drop Me Off in Harlem**, and **Dreamgirls** to name a few. Lots of love to Mom and Dad, P.M. and Cymone.

Micki Nicole Smith (Assistant Stage Manager) - is a Junior in the Theatre Arts Department majoring in the Theatre Arts Administration. She has worked on the technical crew of **E-Man**, **Oak and Ivy** and the Dance Concert, 1994. In the summer of 1994, she worked for D.C. Arts Works on **God's Trombones** and **Abyssinia** as a lighting technician. Thank you God, Mommy and Granny.

Katherine J. Smith (Assistant to the Choreographer) - received her training from Duke Ellington School of the Arts and later received her BFA in modern dance from Philadelphia College of Performing Arts. She has worked with Mike Malone for 18 years and has worked with other renown choreographers: Talley Beatty, Donald Byrd, Ulysses Dove, George Faison, Kevin Jeff, Milton Myers, Rod Rodgers, and more. Her concert dance experience include Dayton Contemporary Dance Company, New World Dance Company, Forces of Nature, Alfred Gallman's Dance Company, and Juba. She has toured Europe in **Black Nativity** in which she also won the KEEFER Award for best female performer in a musical production in Cleveland, Ohio, Karamu Theater 1993. She has also toured Africa in **Spirit**, Beijing, China in the first Pacific Cultural Exchange, Vienna, Austria for the sixth annual Summer Dance Festival and

Seoul, Korea sponsored by American Dance Festival. Ms. Smith's recent theater credits include *The Wiz 92-93 tour*, *God's Trombone*, *Blue's In the Night*, *Black Nativity* at the Kennedy Center and *Where Eagles Fly*, at the Lincoln Theater.

George H. Epting (Lighting Design/Sound Supervisor) is a faculty member in the Department of Theatre Arts and a resident designer for its productions. He has designed over 250 productions on the amateur and professional stage, including designs for Washington Theatre Arts Productions and the historic Takoma Theatre.

Paul Falcon (Scenic Design/Technical Director) is a graduate of Catholic University and is Technical Director for the Theatre Arts Department. He has designed for numerous productions in the DC area including *Angel* (World Premiere), *Sanctuary DC* (World Premiere), *A Lesson From Aloes*, *MacBeth*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Trojan Women*, and, at Howard, *Agamemnon* and *Oak and Ivy*. In addition to his work as a designer, Mr. Falcon is a sculptor. His work has been commissioned by Arena Stage, the Washington Ballet, the Post Office Pavilion, and the Library of Congress as well as for many private collections.

Al Freeman, Jr. (Artistic Director) is Chairman of Howard University's Department of Theatre Arts. He has amassed a prestigious and extensive body of work in his acting career. Among his television credits are the mini-series, *Roots II: The Next Generation*, for which he earned an Emmy Nomination for his portrayal of *Malcolm X*; the PBS productions *Young, Gifted and Black*, *The Chicago Seven*, and *My Sweet Charlie*, which also earned him an Emmy Nomination. He has appeared on *Mod Squad*, *Kojak*, *Law and Order*, *The Bill Cosby Show*, *Homicide* and *One Life to Live*, where for many years he played Detective Ed Hall. Mr. Freeman is a member of the Director's Guild of America. His recent film credits include *Malcolm X* and *The Trial of Jackson Whitaker*. He spent his summer vacation filming Tim Reid's new movie, *When We Were Colored* with alumni Phylicia Rashad, Karen White and Ben Epps.

Reggie Ray (Costume Design/Make-Up Design) is on staff in the Theatre Arts Department and a recent recipient of a Helen Hayes Award for Best Costume Design for *Spunk*. He designed costumes for DC Art Works and Mike Malone's production of *God's Trombones* and *Black Nativity* at Karamu House in Cleveland, Ohio. Reggie has worked with Mike Malone for the past 13 years and credits Mr. Malone for being the major influence in his theatre career.

T. W. Starnes (Master Electrician) has worked as a Master and House Electrician on numerous productions for the Department of Theatre Arts. His credits include *Death and the King's Horseman*, *Once on this Island*, *Antigone*, and *Breakfast in Harlem*.

Raymond Reeder (Musical Director) - is a vocalist, keyboardist, composer and producer. He has written and arranged music for numerous theatrical productions including *Lord I'm Coming Home*, *Spell No. 7*, *Breakfast in Harlem*, *Wait Till the Fat Lady Sings*, *Dreamgirls* and *Once On This Island*. He has worked with recording artists in R&B and Gospel genres both on tour and in the studio, including the Isley Brothers, Angela Winbush, the Teagle Family, Jackie Ruffin and Grammy Award-winning Richard Smallwood. His work on Tony Terry's 1991 hit single "With You" garnered him one of the coveted ASCAP Writers and Publishers Awards.

Daryl Hunt (Assistant Musical Director) - is doing ANOTHER musical. He last performed in the 1993 production of *Once On This Island*. Other productions included *Dreamgirls*, *Bubblin' Brown Sugar*, and *Talent Nite*. Daryl is a proud member of the recording group EnTyme and feels that their talent is going to make their mark on the music industry.

Donnie Scantlebury (Drummer) - is a first year Jazz Studies major from Houston, Texas whose musical repertoire consist of instrumental performances in Thomas Meloncon's *Melting Pot* and *Where Were You in '65*.

Raquis Da'Juan Petree - the first to graduate from the Duke Ellington School of the Arts, with a concentration in the "Performing Arts." He studied musical theatre and theatre dance at AMDA, in New York City. Most recently he has appeared in *Anything Goes* with Melba Moore, choreographed by Louis Johnson, and George Faison's *The Power & The Glory* at the Kennedy Center. Raquis has every intention in becoming one of the world's greatest director/choreographer. "Through God all things are possible."

About Theatre at Howard

Howard University's Department of Theatre Arts, led by Chairman and Artistic Director Al Freeman, Jr., is an internationally acclaimed leader and producer of artistic merit. It has consistently provided a nurturing environment for its students, many of whom have become prominent artists in stage, film and television.

An early leader in the university theatre movement, Howard University offered theatre to the African-American community at a time when institutional racism denied it access to Washington's commercial theatres.

Today, the Department of Theatre Arts continues to present a rich mix of high quality theatre productions to the greater Washington community. Each season presents classical as well as contemporary plays in its two-theatre complex, the 300-seat Ira Aldridge Theatre and the 60-seat Environmental Theatre Space. These plays offer not only entertainment, but also a forum for ideas and discussion.

In response to the challenges posed by the ever-changing relationship of the theatre arts to the contemporary world, the Department has embarked on an exciting and ambitious period of development and experimentation. We will continue to offer our community dynamic productions where excellence is the minimum standard for success. We invite you to join us as we move to electrify the future and forge new tracks.

Production Staff

Assistant Stage Managers

Aneka Hylton

Micki Smith

Assistant Master Electrician

Gregory Reid, Jr.

Lighting Technicians

Isaiah Entzminger

Eboni Graham

Tugeni Horton

DeAnna Patterson

Sound Technicians

Risharnda Tillman

Neil Lewis

Costume Crew

Ky-Moni Abraham

Denise Davenport

LaDawn James

TiffanyScott

Tracie Thoms

Pamela Williams

Costume Shop Supervisor

Ky-Moni Abraham

Assistant Costume Shop Supervisor

Pamela Williams

Costumer Assistant

Kenneth Irvin

Technical Assistants

Aimee Bryant

Marcus McQuirter

David St. Louis

Derek Blakely

Reginald Hanna

Practicum Crew

Mikail Nachash

Clay Pendarvis

Quenton Bullock

Tech Production

Janis McDavid

Conisha Wade

COPING IN 1972

by Sybil Roberts

It is the year 1972, and much of the courageousness and optimism of the previous decade is eroding as the Vietnam conflict lingers, gasping out its lost breath in violent spasms of renewing fighting and failed treaties. Symbols of hope and triumph like Kwame Nkrumah slip away leaving us in quiet longing. Palestinian terrorists clamor onto the world stage seizing Israeli athletes, whose dreams of Olympic gold would be forever tarnished in blood and flames. Yes it is 1972, and the world once again groans under the weight of its own troubles. Domestically, the "gains" made by recently martyred heroes like Martin Luther King, Jr. are being challenged by President Nixon. Affirmative Action is under attack, which would be exacerbated by the Bakke case looming at the horizon. Black students are being shot down in the hallowed halls of the university as they fall prey to the same ignorance that breeds hatred and fear in the larger society. The acquittal of Edward V Hanrahan in connection with the murders of Black Panther Party members Fred Hampton and Mark Clark rubs old wounds raw, and leaves all those who believed "a change was gonna come", smarting and hungry for revenge. Yet in spite of it all, there were those who did "push, walk, and run on in." Shirley Chisholm makes a serious bid for the Democratic Presidential nomination. Two major cities in Alabama would elect Black mayors. Angela Davis is acquitted of murder and kidnapping charges. It is 1995, and Affirmative Action is once again under assault. Everyone is waiting with baited breath to see if justice will prevail in the O.J. Simpson case. In the inner cities, we're facing growing hopelessness and anger of our youth with no viable options. Nevertheless, we look to people like Nelson Mandela, Carole Moseley Braun, and Toni Morrison and know that we're still pushing, walking, and running.

Sybil Roberts is a member of the faculty of the Department of Theatre Arts.

Acknowledgments

The principals and staff of **Don't Bother Me I Can't Cope** extend special thanks to the following people for their overall assistance and support: Dr. Joyce Ladner, Interim President; Dr. Jeff Donaldson, Dean, College of Fine Arts; Mr. Al Freeman, Jr., Chairman of the Department of Theater Arts; Mr Raymond Reeder; Mr. Paul Falcon; Professor George Epting; Reggie Ray; Professor Sybil Roberts; Ms. Claudia Neal; Ms. Janet Johnson; Ms. Stephanie Bradley; Mr. Steve Johnson; Ms. Jeannette Neal; Ms. Jeanne Chilton; Ebony and the girls; and Mrs. Norma Malone

Coming Attractions

Sistah' Girl	March 19, 20
Dance Concert	April 14, 15
Senior Seminar	April 20, 21