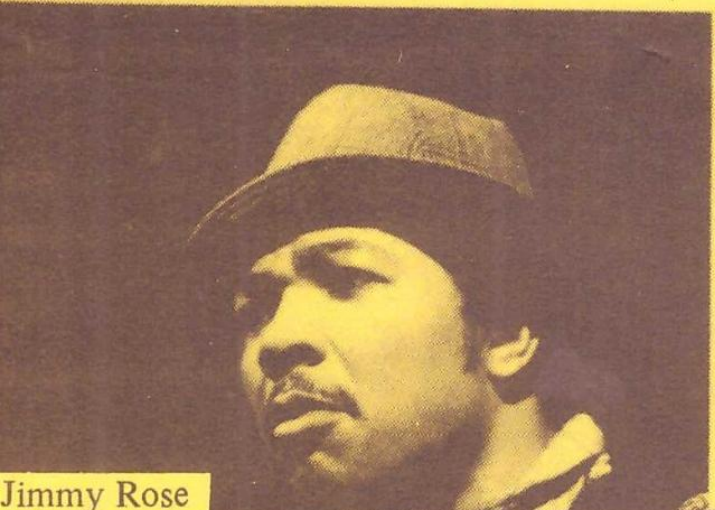


STAUNCH POETS AND PLAYERS



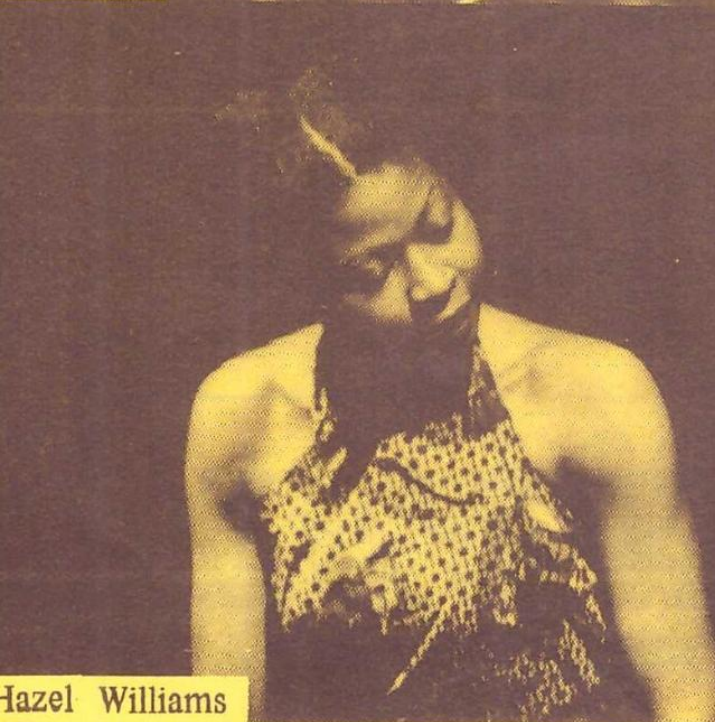
Jimmy Rose



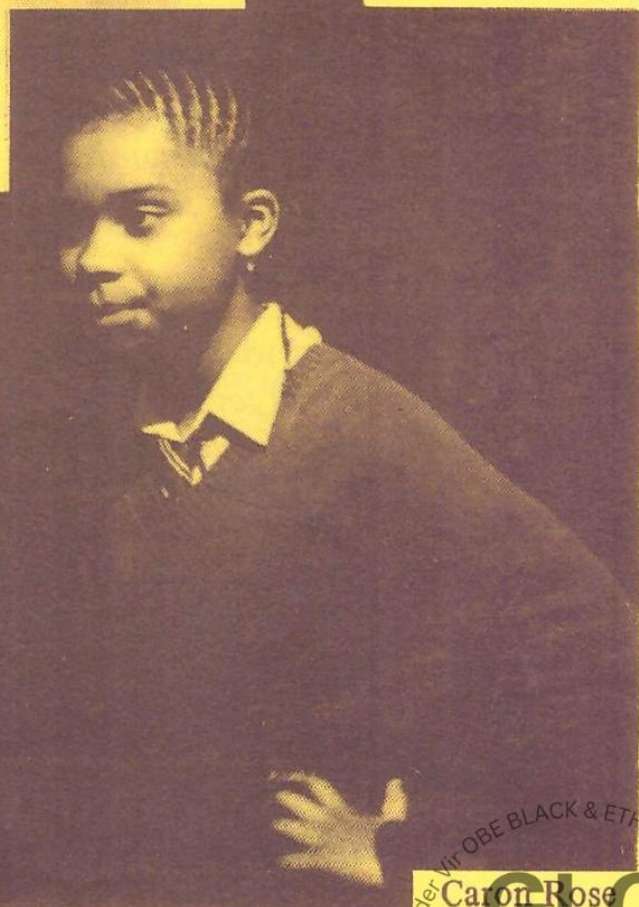
Maureen Hawkins



Don Kinch



Hazel Williams



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STAUNCH POETS AND PLAYERS.

About the Group: The Staunch Poets and Players are a group of actors, dancers, writers and musicians who have come together to present programmes which reflect the inner life of black people in Britain today, including the relevance of life in the Caribbean and Africa. The group began working together some three years ago and have until recently been self-funded, but are now in receipt of grant aid from the Greater London Arts Association and the Arts Council of Great Britain.

The group derives its name from the magazine "Staunch", and much of the work they perform has been featured in the magazine, which is also aimed to reflect opinion by black people in Britain and includes articles on topical issues, poetry, plays, reviews and writings on a wide range of other subjects.

The group consists of "core" members (numbering 6) and draws on a pool of other performers as needed. The musical accompaniment is live (as far as possible) but occasionally taped music is used. Each programme includes some dance and music. Programming is flexible according to the requirements of the venue or school and special provision is made for teachers in schools visited for preparation and follow-up material and activities.

In 1981, the group appointed Joseph Mydell as Artistic Director and participated (with other actors and musicians) in a series of workshops run by Mydell at the Commonwealth Institute. These workshops culminated in a fully-produced musical "In Transit", which was performed at the Institute in June 1981. This production is available for venues from Autumn 1981.

The Group has performed widely in Britain, especially at community venues and for Caribbean organisations as well as for schools, etc, and has been invited to participate in Carifesta 1981. BBC Television Arts Programmes have made a special documentary on the group, to be screened in the Autumn.

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**MAUREEN HAWKINS AND JIMMY ROSE
IN A SCENE FROM REFLECTIONS'**

Programmes:

Reflections - - a series of poems, dances, dialogues and sketches reflecting on life in Britain with memories of life in the Caribbean. Duration approx. 1hr 15 mins.

Cast of 6 (with 1 or 2 musicians additionally or taped music.) Performing - flexible, minimum 12ft x 15 ft. Lighting plot available. Props required: 3 chairs.

Prophet without Honour. - a dramatised biography of Marcus Garvey, based on the life and writings of this significant figure in the history of black people. Specifications as for "Reflections". Props required: table or desk, three chairs.

In Transit - a musical, based on the journey of black people from Africa to the Caribbean and to present-day Britain. This is a fully-staged production, first performed at the Commonwealth Institute 10th - 13th June 1981. There is a cast of 9 with 4 musicians. Duration (with interval): 2 hours. Scenery, costumes, props lighting plot etc available. Performing area: approx 20ft x 30ft. Pros. arch or open stage (but note that the existing scenery is high - 10 ft to 15 ft).

NB. Cast for all productions includes one juvenile.

Other programmes.

Workshops based around the work of the group and magazine. These can cover writing, acting, dance and music(incl. African music and dance.) Can be tailored to suit specific requirements, eg the dramatic use of Caribbean dialect etc. For any age group.

Schools : performances of *Reflections* and *Prophet* are available for schools; adapted to run for about 1 hour, with optional discussion/workshop following.

Involvement with schools can include a series of follow-up sessions, based around the childhood experiences and lifestyle of significant figures from history(e.g. Marcus Garvey.)

Poetry recitals/lectures: can be arranged as required: please enquire of the Director.

Fees: These may vary according to the situation, but basic fees for schools and workshops are £75.00; for smaller performances £150 - £200; for the musical 'In Transit' £400.

Travel expenses and accomodation/hospitality are required for engagements beyond a radius of 50 miles from the Greater London area.

Contact: Don Kinch(Director), Maureen Hawkins(Secretary) or Richard Austin (Administrator) at
180b, Holland Road, London W14.
Tel: 01 603 7559.

"..... a most effective piece of dance drama. Don Kinch's play shows us life in African villages, rudely broken by the slave gatherers. We then move to the Caribbean and finally to London, where not all the dreams of the West Indians are rose-coloured.....

I liked particularly Caron and Jimmy Rose, Hazel Williams,.... and Maureen Hawkins who is given a superb speech towards the end of the play."

-Anne Morley-Priestman. The Stage, 9.7.81(review of 'In Transit').

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