



Temba

The Black Theatre Company

**"One of the most successful and certainly the
busiest black theatre company in Britain"**
(West Indian World)

presents

**A major programme of plays and workshops
including**

CHAMELEON

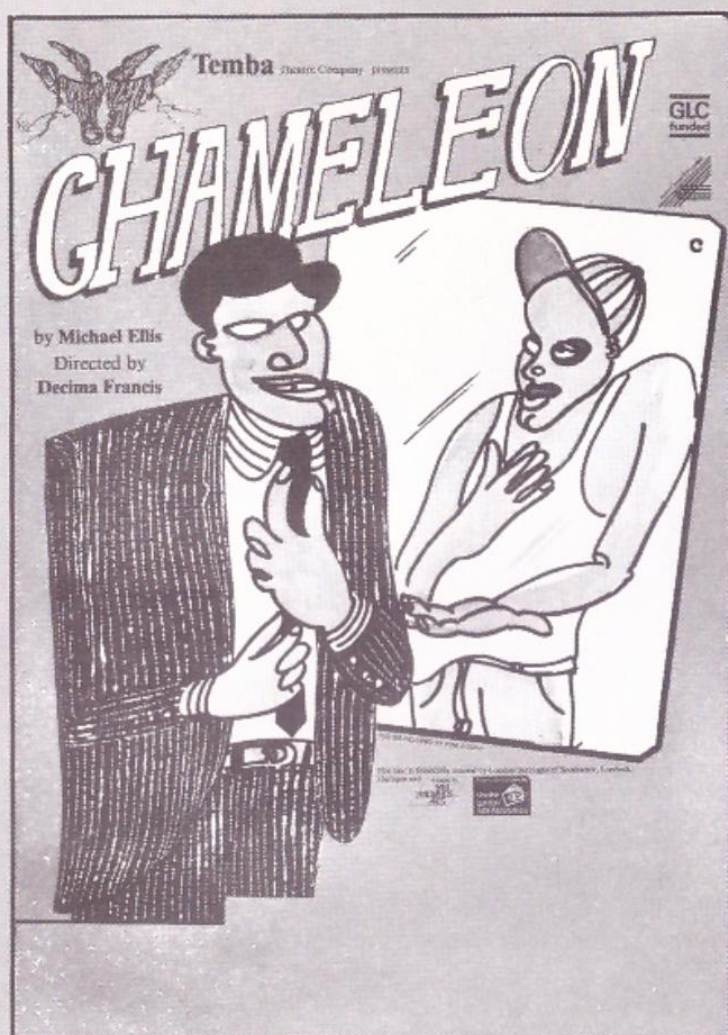
by
Michael Ellis

&

ALL YOU DESERVE

by
Debbie Horsfield

September, 1985 – January, 1986



CHAMELEON

Benjamin Howard is a flashy, fast talking West Indian, the kind of person our ethnic magazines would call a "Black achiever". He is determined to get to the top whatever the cost! Marcia Jackson is an attractive, shrewd and intelligent Black British woman. Benjamin is no match for her.

Is Benjamin the symbol of the new rising Black middle class?

The roles of the sexes, the social pressures on Black people and the questions of status and identity in white society are all raised in this highly informative and entertaining play.

Chameleon is revived by popular demand.

THE WRITERS

Michael Ellis is a new Black playwright. He has worked in the past with community theatre groups in Lambeth and Southwark in South London. His previous plays have been *Temporary Rupture* and *Starliner* 2001.

He is currently in receipt of an Arts Council Bursary to write an historical play.

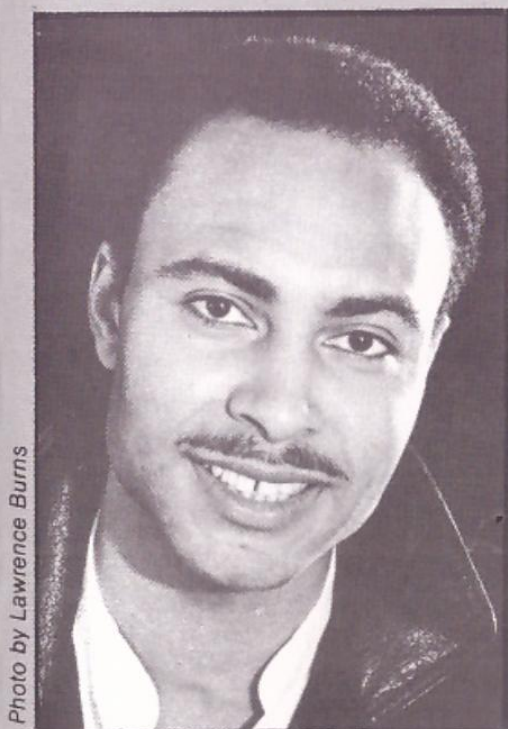


Photo by Lawrence Burns

Michael Ellis



Photo by Allan Titmuss

Debbie Horsfield

Debbie Horsfield comes from Manchester. She has a degree in English Literature from Newcastle University.

Her previous work includes plays for Radio 4's Afternoon Theatre; a play for Theatre Venture at Stratford East; *Touch and Go* for the Croydon Warehouse; and three plays for the Liverpool Playhouse – *Red Devils*, *True Dare Kiss* and *Command or Promise*. She is currently writing a series for BBC TV and completing a commission for the Liverpool Playhouse.

About Temba

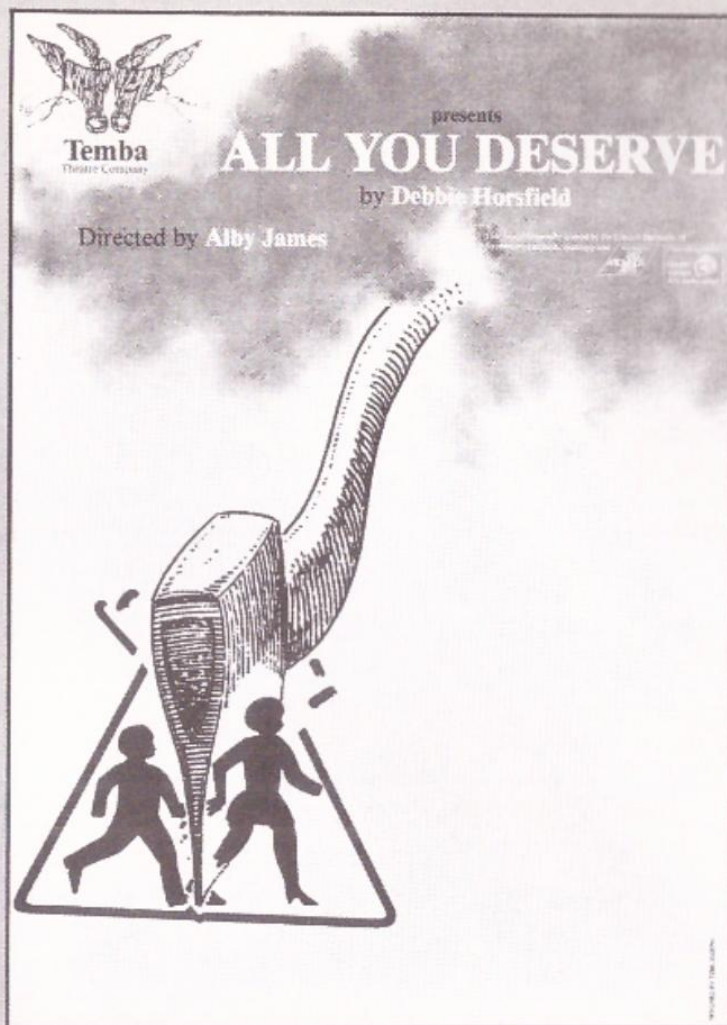
Temba Theatre Company has been touring Britain since 1972. It was founded to give artistic expression to black culture, to provide theatre of interest to ethnic minorities and to illuminate the traditions of the Afro-Caribbean community in Britain for a wider audience.

Temba is at an exciting stage of development. It is in the first year of implementing a development strategy which provides for a substantial increase in the activities of the Company and effectiveness in meeting its aims and objectives.

Temba's programme of plays and workshops on this tour form the Company's Education & Community Outreach Programme. It is designed not only to reach a wider and younger audience but also to involve people actively, and in this way awaken or sustain their interest in theatre.

Temba also hopes this programme will encourage more representation of black people's culture within education as well as in the community in order to establish good understanding and relationships between people of different races and cultures.

Temba, at the invitation of David Aukin, will shortly be establishing a base at the Leicester Haymarket Theatre. **Temba** will mount regular co-productions with the Haymarket and other regional theatres as well as fulfil a major community role in Leicester.



ALL YOU DESERVE

Seconds out in the latest round of education cuts and the kids are getting hammered. Is this the end to a promising career? Will the next blow land them on the scrap heap?

Written with great wit, Debbie Horsfield portrays four students at a college of further education moving from an attitude of helplessness and apathy in the light of the threatened closure of the domestic science annexe of the college, to one of resolve when confronted by Miss Brady, one of the college lecturers. *All You Deserve* was commissioned by the Royal Shakespeare Company for their One Year On Barbican Festival in 1983 as a special education project. Alby James was the director of that production and he now revives it under the aegis of **Temba** Theatre Company's Education & Community Outreach Programme.

What the Press have said about **Temba's** recent productions:

Pantomime:

"the acting is spruce and expert" (*Sunday Times*)

"expert direction of Alby James" (*West Africa*)

"two cracking performances" (*The Guardian*)

Scrape off the Black:

"Without any doubt whatsoever. . . . the finest play I have seen in Manchester for over a year" (*Manchester City Life*)

"eloquent and moving. . . . a very fine start to the Black Theatre Season" (*The Observer*)

"beautifully acted, tautly directed" (*Financial Times*)

Chameleon:

"a vivacious little comedy" (*Caribbean Times*)

"hilarious, contrastful, challenging" (*West Indian World*)

"non-stop verbal fireworks" (*Time Out*)

This tour is financially assisted by the London Boroughs of Southwark, Lambeth and Haringey and



Mailing List

If you would like to receive regular information on **Temba** Theatre Company, join the **Temba** Mailing List.

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