



FORT WORTH BLACK NEWS

Major Attaway makes Triumphant Return to Fort Worth as King Arthur in Spamalot

by Kenneth S.B. Spears, esq.
FWBN Contributing Writer

Fort Worth, Texas is in for a treat, as the city's own Major Attaway returns in his latest nationwide tour, *Monty Python's Spamalot*. The talented Major Attaway, a notable actor, singer, and voice over artist is set to perform as King Arthur in *Spamalot's* local debut at Bass Performance Hall from April 28 - May 3, 2026.

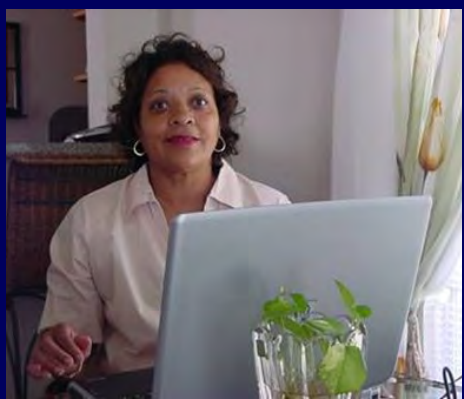
Spamalot is the musical version of the classic film *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*. While keeping the quirks and absurdities of the original film that generations of audiences have come to love, the show has adapted and updated the story for the Broadway stage and modern audiences. *Spamalot* is a lively, entertaining show for all audiences. The production recognizes its role as a musical that makes fun of musicals, which allows the generational comedy of the original movie to come to life blending with enough modern elements and dad jokes that everyone will love. The show aims to connect those who grew up watching the original movie and those who were intro-

duced to it via their parents or grandparents and even welcome new audiences that are just musical theater fans. The musical preserves the legacy of the film but has enough of its own quirks that fans of the original will still experience this show as something new.

Major Attaway plays King Arthur, who is essentially the catalyst for the whole show. Attaway describes his role as King Arthur as the type of work he was made for. In this role Attaway is responsible for keep-

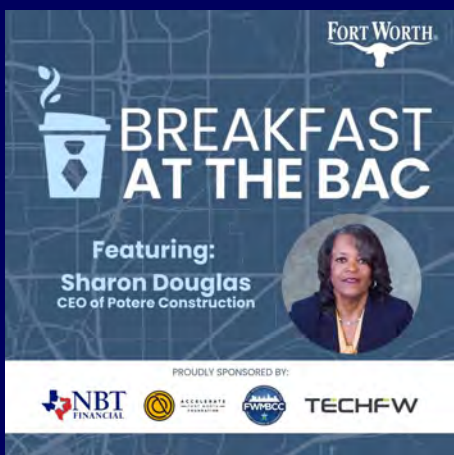
ing the pace of the show and assisting the rest of the cast. He describes the feeling as being very similar to LeBron James or Magic Johnson on the stage. He explained how this role has allowed him to tap into all of the skills that he has developed over his 25-plus year career. For example, in one of the more notable scenes within *Spamalot*, "The Knights Who Say 'Ni'," Attaway shared that it requires so much of his focus and improvisa-

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History Maker Wraps Up
A Lifetime of Firsts

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Breakfast at the BAC
features Sharon Douglas
on April 28

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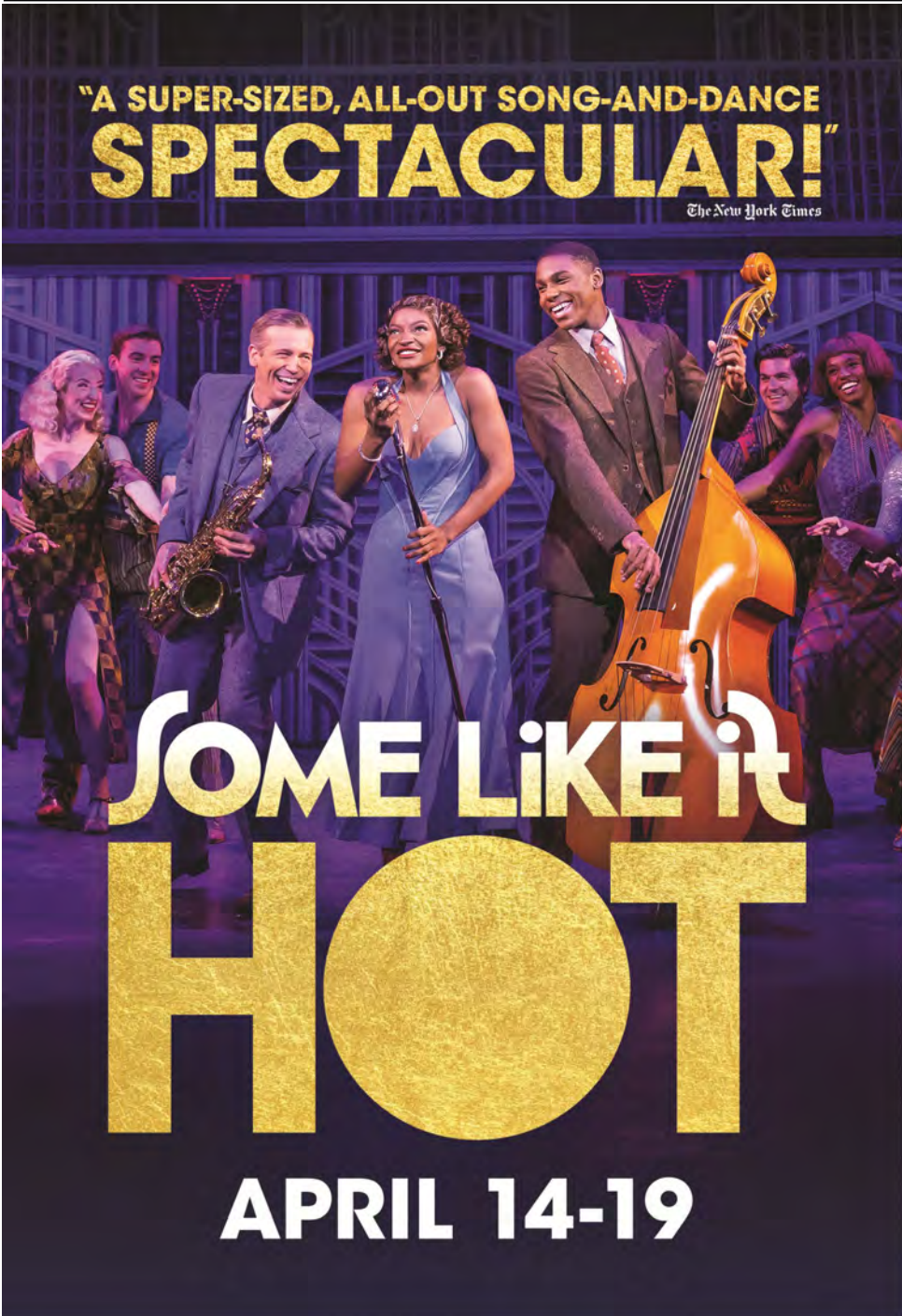


Scenes from LIT-ART
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Photos by Matthew Murphy and Evan Zimmerman.

Leadership Training Academy Recognizes Men's Focus Group with Graduation Ceremony



Training 4 Reigning Academy celebrated the graduation of participants from its transformative Men's Focus Group Program in March. The ceremony recognized men who have successfully completed the Academy's six-week development program called, "Transformational Conversations: Moving From Wounds to Wisdom."

The program was designed to provide a safe and supportive environment for men to explore personal growth, healing, and leadership development. Through guided discussions and practical tools, participants engaged in meaningful conversations that addressed emotional health, accountability, life choices, and pathways toward positive transformation.

Under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Johnie McDowell Dollarhide, President of Training 4 Reigning Academy, the program equips men

with principles that empower them to rebuild their lives, strengthen relationships, and pursue purposeful futures.

"This program is about helping men move beyond past wounds and discover the wisdom needed to lead healthier and more productive lives," said Rev. Dr. Dollarhide. "We are proud of each participant who committed to the process of growth and transformation."

The graduation ceremony honored participants who completed the program and included words of encouragement from the program trainers, Rev. Tammy Dozier, Certified Grief Educator and Rev. Dr. Suzette Law, Trauma Consultant and Pastor of Transforming Lives Church.

To learn more about the program, visit RetrainYourThinking.com

'Women in Power Empowering' Celebrates 10 Years of Collective Giving and Impact in Tarrant County



Women in Power Empowering (WIPE), a Tarrant County Black giving circle of women dedicated to uplifting women through financial awards and community support, is celebrating its 10th anniversary in 2026. Since its founding in 2016, the organization has brought together women committed to collective giving, community leadership, and the belief that when women are empowered, families and communities thrive.

Women in Power Empowering was created to address a critical gap faced by many working women -

those who work hard but still struggle to make ends meet and often do not qualify for traditional public assistance due to income restrictions. Through financial awards and community awareness, the organization supports women who are navigating financial hardship while striving to build stable and thriving lives.

The organization's visionary founder, Nichole Masters-Henry, wanted to create a safety net for women experiencing temporary financial

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Major Attaway Coming to Bass Hall in Spamalot

[CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE]

tional skills, but it is his favorite moment in the show.

In the FWBN's interview with Major Attaway, he described this musical as the type of improv comedy he grew up performing in Fort Worth. So much of the skillset he uses to perform as King Arthur, Attaway said, was developed right here in town. Whether it was the years singing as a soloist with the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra, performing at Black History performances at Bass Performance Hall, or performing at Casa Manana, each of those moments have made him who he is today.

His mother, Terri Attaway, said she was not aware her child had musical talent until his teacher told the family he could sing when he was just five years old. With that knowledge, she made sure he took advantage of training and opportunities leading through Arlington Heights High School in Fort Worth, where he graduated. Major has



PHOTO: Young Major Attaway singing at local event, photo by Terri Attaway

been recognized as a Fort Worth Independent School District Hall of Fame Alumni since making strides in the industry.

Though he travels often for performances, Fort Worth, especially Bass Performance Hall, holds a special place in his heart.

Women's Giving Group Celebrates Year 10 Years

[CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3]

hardships that could cause a ripple effect in their finances. She shared her vision with eight like-minded women and WIPE was born.

"I started Women in Power Empowering to close a gap. I kept seeing women in our community facing real financial challenges but falling outside the lines of traditional support. We created a circle of Black women committed to consistent collective giving so we could step in when it matters most, and help move another forward with dignity," Nichole Masters Henry.

What began as a small group of committed women has grown into a grassroots network focused on empowering women, strengthening families, and transforming communities. Over the past decade, the organization has provided financial awards to women facing unexpected hardships, supported women entrepreneurs, and invested in grassroots organizations serving women and girls in crisis.

By the end of 2026, Women in Power Empowering will have awarded more than \$50,000 in financial support to Tarrant County women, women-owned small businesses, and nonprofits serving wom-

en and girls in crisis. The organization granted its first awards in 2017, distributing \$1,000 to women in need. Since then, the giving circle has steadily expanded its impact, increasing its annual giving capacity to up to \$10,000 per year over the past three years.

As Women in Power Empowering marks this milestone year, the organization plans to celebrate a decade of impact while expanding its commitment to removing barriers and creating pathways for women to thrive. Throughout 2026, the giving circle will highlight its legacy of service, community leadership, and the power of women coming together to support one another.

The group invites community members, partners, and supporters to join in celebrating ten years of impact at its annual fundraiser, "Rooted in Giving: A Black Dandyism Affair", on Friday, August 28, 2026. Details and updates will be shared on their website and social media pages.

More information available at: www.empoweringwomendfw.org Facebook and Instagram: @womeninpowerempowering

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Local History Maker Retires, Leaving A Trail of Firsts

by Jill Darden, FWBN Publisher & Founder

As Brenda Sanders-Wise retires from the long-held position of Executive Director, she leaves a legacy of historical moments. Recently wrapping up 17 years of service with the Tarrant County Black Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc. (TCBHGS), her life is a reflection of breaking barriers and blazing a trail of many first-time accomplishments.

Brenda was born in Fort Worth and attended Riverside Elementary as well as I.M. Terrell Junior-Senior High School through 10th grade. She later graduated from Haltom High School in 1967, making her the first African-American to earn a diploma there. Over 50 years later, she was elected as a Board Trustee for Birdville Independent School District Place 3, the first African-American to serve in this capacity in 156 years.

Understanding the tenacity required to chart new territory, her journey included working in the brokerage industry for 25 years at Merrill Lynch as Operations and District Administrative Manager. The local trailblazer even has experience in media, working as a Senior Producer at Tricom Pictures in



Pompano Beach, Florida from 2000 - 2003 where she wrote and produced educational television programs.

Her most cherished achievements include succeeding in receiving recognition for the community as “The Carson Street Garden of Eden Historic & Cultural Landmark District,” the first African-American historic and cultural landmark district in Tarrant County. The area received the Neighborhood of the Year award in 2004 from the



PHOTOS: (Left) Brenda Sanders-Wise with sister at event (Above) Sanders-Wise speaking on program

[CONTINUED OF PAGE 9]



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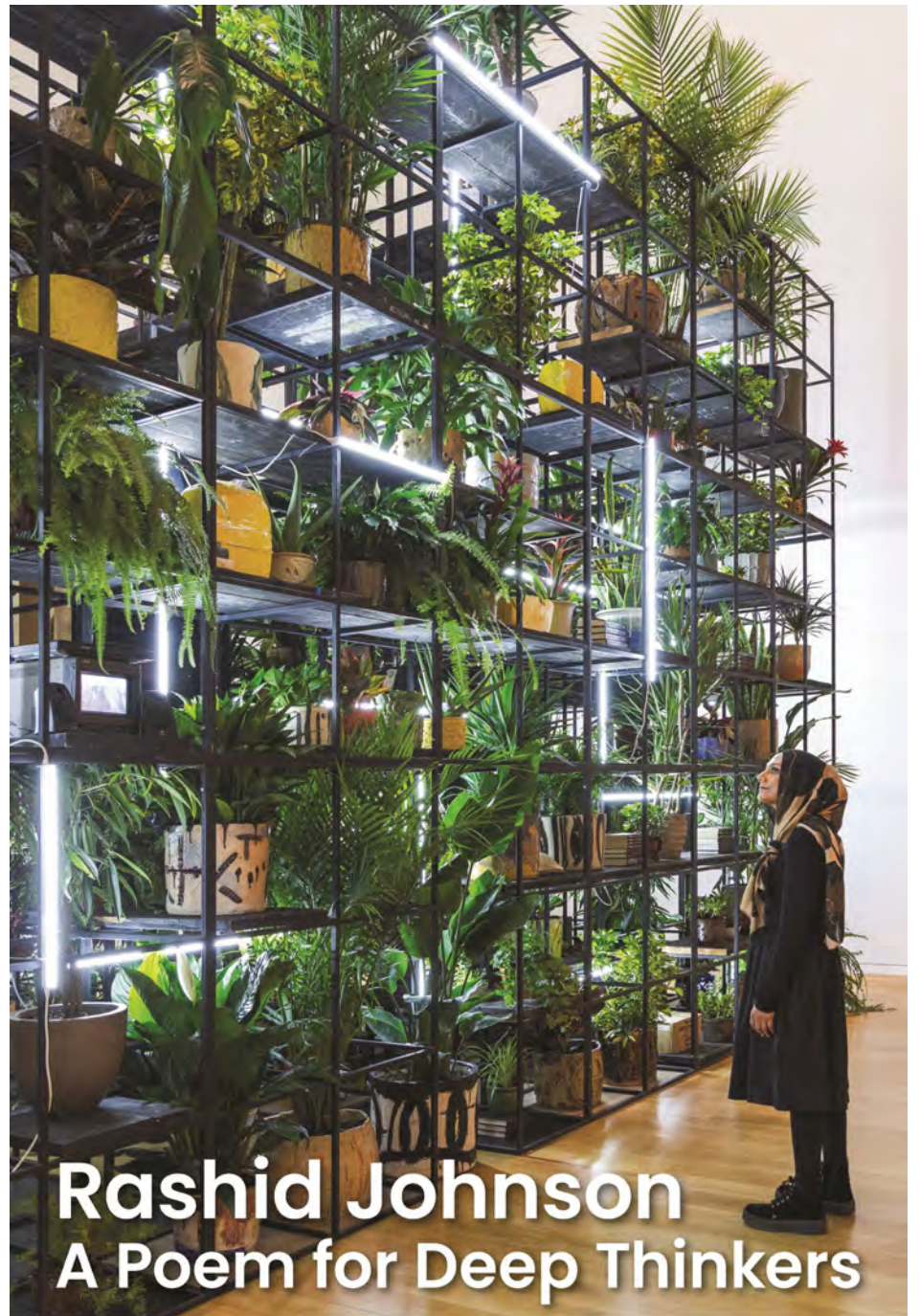
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LIT-ART Event at The Modern Hosted by Deltas

The Modern Art Museum came alive with music, dance, acting and literary performance last month. Hosted by the Fort Worth Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., the LIT-ART event brought people together to enjoy local talent and tour the new exhibition, *Rashid Johnson: A Poem for Deep Thinkers*.

Held on Sunday afternoon, March 8, the atrium became a place where audience members could view a stage, placed in front of the auditorium. People listened from arranged seating or while taking in the beautiful surroundings of the museum. Vendors including authors and the Dock Bookshop lined the walls for guests to visit. Performers ranged from students at I.M. Terrell Academy for STEM and VPA to established soloists and poets. Acting with Mrs. Davis theater students showcased scenes from a play.



Rashid Johnson A Poem for Deep Thinkers

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Pictured: Rashid Johnson, *Antoine's Organ*, 2016/2026. Steel, grow lights, ceramic, plants, wood, shea butter, books, monitors, Persian rugs, and piano. 189 × 338 × 126 1/4 inches. Collection of the Artist. © Rashid Johnson. Installation view, Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth



The AMEN Corner:
Faith & Inspiration

“That I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving, & tell all thy wondrous works.”

- Psalms 26:7



Wait Till You See
What's Next

By Arnita Ware

“To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.”
- Ecclesiastes 3:1

but the truth is that something extraordinary is on the horizon. What you see today is not the end; God’s plans are far *bigger than you can imagine*. Stay patient, keep trusting, and be ready, because the next chapter could be your breakthrough.

If you don’t believe me, just watch. The old gospel song by Albertina Walker is still relevant today....“Please be patient with me God is not through with me, yet!”

As I heard a few lyrics of the song ‘NEXT’ (Deon Kipping) say...If you are my enemy, prepare to be sick of me...I promise this is not a flex, but just wait till you see what’s next.

God’s timing is perfect. Your best days are not behind you—they are ahead. Simply trust Him, prepare, and keep moving forward, because you just need to wait till you see what’s next—you won’t be disappointed.

Arnita Ware is a published author & speaker. Book Entitled: Look Through the Window. She is also an educator, life coach, a Lifetime member of Strathmore’s Who’s Who Worldwide, & the founder of Just Write:

www.justwrite4insight.com
justwrite4insight@gmail.com

At times, life can have it’s own way of keeping you on the edge - perhaps feeling uncertain, waiting, wondering what’s around the corner. Now, if you’ve never experienced that, then just keep living. But even in those moments, there is purpose. Every season, every challenge, every setback is shaping something greater for your future. The promise is that God is always at work behind the scenes, orchestrating steps *you might not yet understand*. Remember, our steps are ordered by God. No matter which way we go, it is important to allow him to lead and guide us.

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “ plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” - **Jeremiah 29:11**

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Black Photojournalism is organized by Carnegie Museum of Art. The Carter's presentation of this exhibition is supported in part by The David H. Gibson Foundation, the Leo Potishman Foundation, and the Alice L. Walton Foundation Temporary Exhibitions Endowment. In-kind support provided by the *Fort Worth Report*. Image: Kwame Brathwaite (1938-2023), *Changing Times*, ca. 1973, inkjet print, The Kwame Brathwaite Archive, © Kwame Brathwaite



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History Maker Wraps Up Lifetime of Service



City of Fort Worth and in 2006 became the National Neighborhood of the Year.

Brenda was able to combine all of this experience into her role at TCBHGS, which included serving as the director and curator of the Lenora Rolla Heritage Center Museum. Both the organization and center preserve Black history in Tarrant County with archives, pictures and oral recordings. Her responsibilities ranged from educational programming, overseeing daily operations, strengthening community relationships to fundraising, financial management, leadership and strategic vision.

“I believe preserving Black history is important because it provides a deeper understanding of the experiences, struggles and accomplishments of the people who were a part of this past. It helps others, especially the youth, understand the root of some of the social issues that occurred and are still being witnessed by Blacks today” Sanders-Wise said. “Preserving Black history provides examples of those who overcame enormous difficulties to create change, recognizes and honors those who helped to shape our history, making sure their stories will not be forgotten.”

One of the organization's most recent methods of preserving oral histories is through a podcast collaboration with Texas Christian University. The Center for Texas Studies at TCU helped acquire on-campus recording space and recruited students with production expertise to assist with the project. The podcast is called, “One History, Many Voices - The Tarrant Chronicles.” It premiered June 19, 2025, featuring an interview with Juneteenth activist, Opal Lee.

During her tenure, Brenda forged partnerships with other area museums to share in various exhibitions. Among the list of collaborations were Fort Worth Museum of Science and History, Amon

Carter Museum of American Art, the Kimbell, and the Modern. Her efforts resulted in displays of African-American history, juried art shows, docent exchange program, as well as summer outreach programs for children in underserved communities.

In addition to working at the museum, Brenda served as a Commissioner for the Historic and Cultural Landmarks Commission for 12 years, where she assisted other members in discovering and preserving the history of Fort Worth's architectural and cultural resources. One of the goals was to help ensure the public's understanding of historic preservation. She continues to serve on various committees and focus groups for the City of Fort Worth.

The history maker has earned an extensive list of awards and accomplishments, but has a passion for preserving properties and resides on the same land that her great great-grandfather settled on in the early 1800's. This love for historical preservation collided with a request from Sarah Walker and Dr. Paul Geisel to become Executive Director at the TCBHGS. Though she served in a volunteer capacity for most of her tenure, she remained in the position because of her passion for community service and safeguarding the past.

This year marks the 49th anniversary of the organization's existence. Brenda wishes the leaders continued success and shares advice for future generations dedicated to keeping historical preservation going.

“Never be afraid to establish new relationships, continue to offer meaningful workshops and other programs for the community, continue to accept valuable collections and share the history with everyone.”

PHOTO: Billboard honoring Brenda Sanders-Wise at the 45 year mark.

Love♥Relationships♥Marriage

with Dr. Sheron C. Patterson

MARRIAGE & DEMENTIA



Dear Dr. Patterson,

My wife and I have been married 60 years. We were high school sweethearts and stayed strong since then. Now at 80 years old I am alone and hurting. She has dementia and I can't take care of her like I used to. I feel like a failure if she goes to a nursing home.

- Hurting Husband

Dear Hurting Husband,

Sixty years. High school sweethearts. Sir, that's not just a marriage - that's a testimony. That's altar-walking, hand-holding, storm-weathering covenant love. You and your bride have lived out “for better or worse” in a way this generation can only admire.

Now you're 80 years young, and your heart is hurting because the woman you've carried through life now needs to be carried — and your body just won't cooperate like it used to. Let me say this gently and clearly:

You are not failing her. You are grieving her.

Dementia is a cruel thief. The folks at the Alzheimer's Association often call it “the long goodbye.” It slowly changes the one you love, and it changes you too. What you're feeling — that ache, that guilt, that heavy weight — that's love mixed with sorrow.

But hear me, sir: God never asked you to be her nurse, her lifting machine, her 24-hour medical staff. He asked you to love her. And you have done that faithfully for six decades.

Sometimes the most loving thing a husband can do is make sure his wife has the kind of care he physically cannot provide anymore.

That's not sending her away. That's making sure she is safe. If you hurt your back or fall trying to lift her, then what? Two broken bodies instead of one?

A nursing home is not abandonment. It can be provision.

You can still sit by her bedside. You can still stroke her hair. You can still whisper those high school sweetheart stories. You can still pray over her like you always have. Love does not live in a house — it lives in the heart.

Sir, you have not broken your vows. You have kept them. And sometimes keeping them means humbly accepting help.

You are not a failure. You are a faithful man in a hard season.

And even strong Southern men are allowed to lean on somebody sometimes.

- Dr. Sheron Patterson

Got questions? I have answers?

Send to patterson52@icloud.com

You will remain anonymous and we'll share the answer right here in this section of *Fort Worth Black News!*

Dr. Sheron C. Patterson is available to enhance your relationships as a life coach. She is also available for speaking and preaching engagements.

For speaking, counseling or coaching inquiries, please reach her at patterson52@icloud.com

Follow her on Instagram @drsheron, tiktok@lifelover

“Some Like It Hot” Performers Share Inspiration & Advice

AWARD-WINNING BROADWAY MUSICAL COMES TO BASS PERFORMANCE HALL APRIL 14 - 19, 2026

Some Like It Hot is coming the stage at Bass Hall, featuring a diverse cast in the Tony Award-winning and Grammy Award-winning musical. Set in the Prohibition era, the fast-paced comedy follows two down-on-their-luck musicians who, after witnessing a mob hit, go on the run to escape the gangsters hot on their trail.

Their cross-country journey brings them face to face with a dazzling singer with dreams of stardom, who captures one of their hearts, while the other catches the eye of a wealthy suitor set on finding true love. Still under disguise, they must find a way to untangle their messes and stay alive!

Two African-American females in lead roles shared what inspires them to perform and gave advice to up and coming artists:



brings every night - it keeps me fully present, forces me to truly play, and even allows me to be surprised in the moment.”

We have several performing arts high schools in Fort Worth. What advice would you give to those students interested in pursuing a career in the industry?

“My advice to any aspiring artist is, first and foremost, to take your craft seriously. Never rely solely on your God-given talent. Talent is essential - it’s a gift - but it’s your work ethic that will truly carry you in such a competitive industry.

Secondly, remember that it’s called *show business* for a reason. While it’s crucial to grow and refine your artistry, it’s equally important

to understand the business side of the industry. And the truth is, that part isn’t always taught in school or training programs. Much of it you’ll learn in real time - on the job and through the relationships you build along the way.

Third, do everything you can to take care of your instrument. Performers are athletes, and your entire body is your instrument - from head to toe. That includes your voice, which relies on small, delicate muscles that need consistent care and conditioning. Prioritize rest, learn the warm-up and recovery routines that work best for you - physically, vocally, and mentally - and stay hydrated and nourished.

And finally, never fall into the trap of comparison. Compete only with yourself. Focus on growing beyond your last performance - whether that’s acting, singing, or dancing. What others are doing, whether they’re succeeding or struggling, isn’t your concern. Staying rooted in your own journey not only sharpens your focus and self-worth, but also allows you to genuinely celebrate others when they shine.”

***Some Like It Hot* runs April 14-19, 2026. For more information, visit BassHall.com**

Leandra Ellis-Gaston, plays the role “Sugar”:

When did you first discover your talent for performing, and how did you develop it over the years?

“I discovered my love for performing when I was 10 years old. My elementary school did a production of *Annie*, and I played Miss Hannigan. I immediately caught the bug. It always felt natural to me, and over time, I’ve developed it through training, experience, and being on stage consistently - from Broadway to now leading this national tour.”

How would you describe your favorite part of the show, and why do you feel that people should come out to see it?

“My favorite part is “Take It Up a Step.” It’s pure joy being on stage with the entire cast during that number! People should come out to see *Some Like It Hot* because the show is glamorous, meaningful, and such a high-energy, feel-good experience.”

DeQuina Moore, Houston, Texas native, plays the role of “Sweet Sue”:

What do you enjoy most about being on stage in front of a live audience?

“What I enjoy most about being on stage in front of an audience is the simple fact that I get to do what I’ve loved - and dreamed of doing - since I was a child: storytelling. Telling stories through acting, music, and movement is the ultimate dream for me, and getting to live that out eight shows a week truly feels like a gift.

I also really love the immediacy of the audience. Especially with a show like this - a period piece that has everything from action to romance to comedy - you experience the full spectrum of human emotion. With such a beautifully written libretto and a masterfully composed score, the audience’s reactions - the laughter, the tears, the energy - become essential. In many ways, it feels like the audience is another character in the show. Since the story centers on entertainers just trying to survive in different ways, the audience becomes part of that world. I love the challenge that



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