

WOMEN OF VISION

Joyce Huston - Lady 'J'

Once in a while there are those people you happen to meet who make a lasting impression. I had the opportunity to meet such a person over this past holiday season. My girlfriend and I were invited to a Christmas Eve party at the home of our friends, Reva and Angela. I am sure that many of you reading this column were also in attendance at this party, as the turnout was wonderful, not to mention the delicious food, beverages and entertainment that were provided by our most gracious hostesses. Each person in attendance also received a gift...how is that for welcome hospitality?!

The best gift of the evening however, came when Ms. Joyce Huston, better known to her adoring public as "Lady J," took to the floor to do her thing. Singing Christmas tunes and playing her beloved trumpet she wowed and entertained guests, inviting accompaniment from anyone in attendance. Now, "Lady J" is no amateur, she is an artist with several credits to her name including singer/songwriter/motivational speaker and musician with a work history that could make even seasoned pros envious!

"Lady J" began her career in her hometown of St. Louis, Missouri before graduating high school. Her first big opportunity to make her talents shine was while performing in the musical "Music Man" which starred Tony Randall. She also had the opportunity to have her star shine singing in Johnny Johnson's (Chuck Berry's piano player) band on the St. Louis river front.

Fully realizing her talent enabled her to attend the University of Kansas and Howard University on academic scholarships, studying music composition/theory. While attending Howard University in D.C. and as a member of the universities Jazz Ensemble, she recorded an album and performed with such greats as Lionel Hampton, Alberta Hunter and musicians of Duke Ellington's and Ella Fitzgerald's bands. she also opened for rappers Run DMC, performed with Donald Byrd on Capitol Hill, and was a guest performer on shows with Dizzy Gillespie and Freddy Hubbard.

"Lady J's" career aspirations eventually took her to the West coast shores of California where she joined the "Albert 'Blues Boy' King Band". This particular career move enabled her to tour the United States as both trumpeter and vocalist (her greatest musical joys) and work with such Blues greats as B.B. King, Millie Jackson, John Lee Hooker, Muddy Waters, Albert Collins, Bobby Blue Band and Rufus Thomas, just to name a few!

While still with Albert King, she appeared on several television shows such as, "Maintenance Shop Blues," a special hosted by Dick Clark, and a nationally televised show taped in L.A. at the Forum Coliseum which included Eddie "Clean Head" Vinson, Bob Mayal, Etta James, Bo Didley and others.

"Lady J" is now a resident Las Vegas still working her musical magic yet, she is also involved in community awareness concerning Fibromyalgia Syndrome (FMS). She is currently hosting public speaking forums to bring awareness about FMS' origin and a possible cure while maintaining volunteer status on the FMS/CFS board of directors and assisting as its webmaster. For those seeking more information visit their website at: <http://communitiylink.koz.com/lvrj/lvfcfs>. Would you believe she is also an avid family historian and has a self-published book on her genealogical research?!

Her musical career in Vegas continues to thrive with local acts on and off the strip. She has performed with Bill Pinkney and The Original Drifters and was a soloist in the "Gospel Brunch" show at the Country Star. Her most recent performance was a feature finale act for "Shower of Stars", written and directed by Las Vegas' own 'Z'.

"Lady J" is currently working on several 'gigs' throughout Las Vegas performing her one woman act at Fitzgerald's Hotel & Casino while working on promoting her newly released CD, "Soul Stir Fry" And let me tell you

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this CD is an investment to cherish. This woman possesses a voice that is so sweet and cool and she can really wail on the brass. She loves her trumpet and it shows in every breath! She is a crowd pleasing entertainer and maintains a great presence on the stage from start to finish.

With all of this said, I am sure you may be wondering how this woman even found the time to perform for a Christmas party with such a full schedule. I am sure you have realized that "Lady J" is quite the eclectic, diverse and multi-talented woman and you might be asking yourself where you might be able to catch this star at one of her local performances and or public speaking appearances. Well, you are in luck!, because throughout the month of February, African-American History Month, "Lady J" will be appearing on several dates. "Lady J's" busy schedule is as follows:

January 20th (Sat.) - Martin Luther King, Jr. Statue dedication and the Grand Opening of Phase II of the Clark County Community Resources Center. Unveiling at noon, Opening act entertainment at 2PM. Location: 2424 Martin Luther King Blvd. (FREE)

January 27th (Sat.) - Les Kincaid Radio Show. Tune into 720AM KDWM
12PM- 1:30PM

January 28th (Sun.) - Henderson religious Science Church. Service at 10AM. Location: Warren-Walker School, 2150 Windmill Pkwy, Henderson (FREE)

February 10 (Sat.) - "Remembering the Freedoms" sponsored by the Clark County library District and Women of Diversity Productions. Presentation on "The Black O'Kelleys - An American Story" and Performance. 3:00PM - 3:30 PM Location: West Charleston library, 6301 W. Charleston, on campus of Community College. (FREE)

February 17th (Sat.) - Borders Books & Music, Green Valley. 2:00PM - 3:00PM. Location: 1445 W. Sunset Rd., Henderson, 433-6222 (FREE)

February 23rd (Fri.) - "Celebration of Culture" sponsored by the Clark County Library Theater. 11:30 am to 12:30 pm. Location: 1401 E. Flamingo Rd., 733-7810. (FREE)

There you go! It won't cost you a dime for the chance to see quality entertainment. Very little these days come for FREE. So, mark these dates on your calendar and make every effort to support one of the most dynamic women of our community, Ms. "Lady J"! (Note: Ms. Huston's CD "Soul Stir Fry" will be available at all of her events with an autograph session to follow. Please know that portions of the proceeds benefit the Las Vegas Fibromyalgia/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Support Group.) Special thanks to 'Z' for her support and hard work.