


Dean Jennings presents

*The full-scale
theatrical production of*
JON HENDRICKS'



EVOLUTION of the Blues

*A totally new
musical experience*

A Journey of American Music,
in poetry, song and dance

Starring, Written, Directed by
JON HENDRICKS

Assistant Director
GEORGE MARGO

Associate Director
ROBERT DWAN

Set Design
DAVID GROOT

Lighting Design
GEORGE MARGO

Choreography
SAUNDRA MCPHERSON

Costumes
JUDITH HENDRICKS

Musical Arrangements
JON HENDRICKS

Choral Director
MELVIN SEALS

Featuring

CHOIR: Verlin Sandles, Elnah Jordan, Jackie Johnson, Aria Hendricks

DANCERS: Saundra McPherson, Ed Mock, Brenda Miller, Albirda Rose, Leon Jackson

FEATURED SINGERS: Verlin Sandles, Elnah Jordan, Jackie Johnson

MUSICIANS: Vernon Alley (bass), Larry Vuckovich (piano),

Lenny McBrowne (drums), Melvin Seals (gospel organ and piano)

LAMBERT, HENDRICKS, & ROSS: Bob Maize, Judith Hendricks, Jon Hendricks

ON BROADWAY THEATRE

435 BROADWAY, S.F.

398-0800

ACT ONE

Everything Started in the House of the Lord (Hendricks)	ENTIRE CAST
We are Our Heavenly Father's Children (Trad. Arr.: Hendricks)	ELNAH JORDAN, CHOIR
Some Stopped on de Way (Hendricks)	HENDRICKS, CHOIR
Bid 'em in (Oscar Brown, Jr.)	BOB MAIZE
Brown Baby (Oscar Brown, Jr.)	JACKIE JOHNSON
All the Way From Heaven Down (Trad. Arr.: Hendricks)	ELNAH JORDAN
Steal Away (Trad. Arr.: Hendricks)	JON HENDRICKS
Swing Low, Sweet Chariot (Trad. Arr.: Hendricks)	ENTIRE CAST
Everytime I Feel the Spirit (Trad. Arr.: Hendricks)	CHOIR
Go Down, Moses (Trad. Arr.: Hendricks)	JON HENDRICKS
Lowdown, Dirty Blues (Hendricks)	JON HENDRICKS
Every Day I Have The Blues (P. Chapman, A.K.A. Memphis Slim)	JON HENDRICKS
Satchmo (Hendricks)	JON HENDRICKS
Sleepy Time Down South (Muse)	JON HENDRICKS
I Told Jesus (Trad. Arr.: Hendricks)	ELNAH JORDAN
St. Louis Blues (W.C. Handy)	JON HENDRICKS
St. Louis Blues Dream Sequence	SAUNDRA MCPHERSON

INTERMISSION

ACT TWO

Camptown Races (Stephen Foster)	JON HENDRICKS
<i>Cake Walk</i>	BOOGIE WOOGIE STOMPERS
Children, Go Where I Send Thee (Trad. Arr.: Hendricks)	JON HENDRICKS, CHOIR
C.C. Rider (Ma Rainey)	JON HENDRICKS
Work Song (Brown & Adderley)	JON HENDRICKS
I Bet You Thought I'd Never Find You (Hendricks & McCann)	JON HENDRICKS
<i>Brazilian Scene</i>	SAUNDRA MCPHERSON
New York, New York, (Hendricks)	JON HENDRICKS
<i>Flying Home</i> (Hampton)	SAUNDRA MCPHERSON, ED MOCK
Roll'em, Pete (Pete Johnson)	JON HENDRICKS
Shake It, Pretty Mama (Hendricks)	JON HENDRICKS
<i>Hotsy Totsy Club Dancers</i>	BOOGIE WOOGIE STOMPERS
Gimme That Wine (Hendricks)	JON HENDRICKS
Ain't Nobody's Business If I Do (T. Irving)	BESSIE SMITH
Yeah, Yeah (Hendricks, Grant & Patrick)	JON HENDRICKS
Won't You Come Home, Bill Bailey (Trad., H. Cannon)	JACKIE JOHNSON
<i>Flying Home Reprise</i>	BOOGIE WOOGIE STOMPERS
It's Sand, Man (Hendricks & Durham)	LAMBERT, HENDRICKS, & ROSS
Rugcutter (Ellington)	LAMBERT, HENDRICKS, & ROSS
Jumpin' At The Woodside (Hendricks, Basie)	LAMBERT, HENDRICKS, & ROSS
Fas' Livin' Blues (Hendricks)	JON HENDRICKS
Black Jesus (Trad. Arr.: Hendricks)	ELNAH JORDAN
Just a Closer Walk With Thee (T.A. Dorsey)	VERLIN SANDLES
Everything Started in the House of the Lord (Hendricks)	ENTIRE CAST

ADDITIONAL CREDITS

AFRICAN DANCE	Ed Mock
BESSIE SMITH	Elnah Jordan
LAMBERT, HENDRICKS, & ROSS	Dave Lambert, Bob Maize, Annie Ross, Judith Hendricks
BOOGIE WOOGIE STOMPERS	Ed Mock, Sandra McPherson, Leon Jackson, Brenda Miller
WAITRESS	Vaughn Reddi



In 1961 Monterey Festival host Jimmy Lyons asked me to write a special show to be presented in the afternoon, "something about the blues." That assignment (the only way I've ever written anything) caused me to do a lot of soul-searching, which I did for months. I thought of what my professor in Creative writing at the University of Toledo (Ohio), Dr. Milton Marks, had told me: "Write about what you know," which turned out to be precious little. Dr. Marks had written the textbook used nationally in the course and had a tremendous reputation. The fact that he hadn't given an "A" to anyone in seven years made him all the more awesome. You may well imagine my astonishment when he gave me not only the first "A" he'd given in seven years, but some wonderful words of advice as well.

"Remember," he said, "the two best examples of writing in the English language are the New Yorker Magazine and the King James version of the Bible." Although that's been more years ago than I care to recall, I have not, to this day, found him to be wrong. Therefore, I went right back to reading the Bible as I thought about the "something about the blues" that Jimmy Lyons wanted.

Out of all this came "Evolution of the Blues," on which I was still writing two minutes before the curtain went up at Monterey, on a distinguished cast which included Miriam Makeba, making her first appearance in America after her triumph in "Come Back Africa," a film shot in her native South Africa, Odetta, then in Hollywood shooting William Faulkner's "Sanctuary" for Twentieth-Century-Fox, blues singer Jimmy Witherspoon, Big Miller and Miss Hannah Dean, as well as the Andrews Sisters Gospel Singers from Oakland and the Gildo Mahones Trio.

"Write about what you know," because this is what we did and are still doing, writing about what we know, with respect for Truth and love for all. Now we have "Evolution" in the form of a theatrical musical. We did this during our five-year stay in London. Having been invited to perform at the prestigious Hampstead Theater Club, we felt the need to offer something a bit more theatrical than our regular performance, so, with the help of actor-turned-director, George Margo, we metamorphosed "Evolution" into its present form.

In showbusiness one is always thinking theater. It is everyone's ultimate goal. Now, thanks to the tireless efforts of Dean Jennings, we are opening in the On Broadway Theater August 28th for what we hope will be an extended run. We base our hope of this on the premise that if One Can Fly Over The Cuckoo's Nest for five years, we can evolve the blues for at least one.

Our musical chores are in excellent hands; San Francisco's own Vernon Alley leads our quartet, which includes Larry Vuckovich, piano, Vernon on bass and Lenny McBrowne, drums. Our star, Miss Sandra McPherson, has devised some swinging choreography and has recruited some wonderful dancers to interpret it. We have our own Church Choir, led by a wonderful lady who loves nothing more than to sing the Lord's music, Verlin Sandles, ably assisted by Miss Elna Jordan, a discovery if ever there was one, Miss Jackie Johnson and Mr. Melvin Seals, organist, pianist and gentleman. We're very excited. We hope to communicate some of that excitement to the people.



CAST

JON HENDRICKS (Preacher, Narrator, Singer) is perhaps best known as the creator and member of Lambert, Hendricks & Ross, the vocal trio which won a series of Downbeat and Playboy polls as the Number One Vocal Group in Jazz. As a songwriter, he has contributed many hits to the popular musical repertoire, such as "I Want You to Be My Baby," "Sermonette," "Social Call," "Yeh-Yeh," "I'll Die Happy," and "Love Makes the World Go 'Round." His recordings and motion picture scores are legion. In addition to his performing and writing talents, Mr. Hendricks is a lecturer on jazz at the University of California, Berkeley and Cal State, Sonoma, and a contributor of many jazz reviews to the San Francisco Chronicle.

VERNON ALLEY (Bass) was bassist for Count Basie. He has also played with Lionel Hampton, Ella Fitzgerald and Duke Ellington. He has performed with his own group for several years now in the Bay Area.

LARRY VUCKOVICH (Piano) has toured the U.S., Europe and Canada with Jon Hendricks. He has also played with Clark Terry, Elvin Jones, Booker Ervin and, most recently, Gerry Mulligan and Maynard Ferguson. His San Francisco appearances have included performing with Brew Moore, John Handy and Mel Torme.

LENNY MCBROWNE (Drums) was a student of Max Roach. He has played with Randy Weston, Pete Brown, Cecil Payne and Thelonious Monk. He has recorded with Billie Holliday, Randy Weston, Booker Ervin, Teddy Edwards, Sonny Criss and, most recently, four albums with Kenny Burrell. In 1970 he became a member of the Newport Festival Allstars. This production marks his reunion with Jon Hendricks, as he was drummer, for a time, for Lambert, Hendricks and Bavan.

MELVIN SEALS (Gospel Piano and Organ Player) formerly toured with the touring Polytechnic High School Choir. He has recorded with Gideon and Power and is well known in the Bay Area for his performances in many local churches.



SAUNDRA MCPHERSON (Choreographer) is a veteran of Broadway, off-Broadway, television and the concert stage. She appeared on Broadway in "Hallelujah Baby" and "Cabaret." Her TV specials include Harry Belafonte's "The Strolling Twenties," "Stage '67" starring Lauren Bacall, "George M" starring Joel Grey, "Best Years of Broadway" on the Ed Sullivan Show, and "Soul". Concert appearances include Melba Moore at Lincoln Center, Duke Ellington at the Chicago Coliseum and, at the Apollo Theater in New York, concert appearances with Flip Wilson, Mongo Santamaria, Nina Simone and Moms Mabley. She appeared in the Vintage Concert performance of *EVOLUTION OF THE BLUES* in September, 1973.

ED MOCK (Dancer) is well known in the Bay Area as both dancer and actor, in ACT's productions of "Oedipus Rex," "The Three Sisters," "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead," and "Hamlet." He also performed in Los Angeles at the Mark Taper Forum in "Dream on Monkey Mountain."

ALBIRDA ROSE (Singer and Dancer) has appeared with the Black Performing Arts Troupe, Oakland Civic Light Opera and as guest artist with "Young Americans," Gwen Lewis AfroAmerican Dance Company and "Black Expo."

BRENDA MILLER (Dancer) is known to Bay Area audiences for her performances in productions at Marine World, Africa USA, Raymond Sawyer's Dance Experience and, most recently, at the Berkeley Community Spirit in a production of "Ours in the Spirit."

ELNAH JORDAN (Singer) was discovered by producer Dean Jennings during her singing performances in The Cannery outdoor theater. *EVOLUTION OF THE BLUES* marks her stage debut.



VERLIN SANDLES (Gospel Singer), a gospel singer since the age of five, is a member of Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church Choir in San Francisco, and has appeared as guest soloist for several national Baptist Conventions. She has recorded on EGO label with "He Looked Beyond My Faults and Saw My Needs" and "It's Alright."

JACKIE JOHNSON (Singer) was a member of the Black Light Explosion Company, a repertory company in San Francisco in which she was singled out for stunning performances in "Beautiful Black Cat" and "I Ain't No Where." She has recorded two songs "I'm Gonna Leave You" and "I Done Got Over."

BOB MAIZE (Singer and Bassist) has been Jon Hendrick's bassist in concert for a number of years.

JUDITH HENDRICKS (Singer and Dancer) is the wife of Jon Hendricks and mother of five of his seven children. She has appeared as a singer and dancer on TV, in concert and night clubs in the Middle East, Europe, U.S., and Canada. She has also performed as a vocalist with her husband.

ARIA HENDRICKS (Slave Girl and Singer) age ten, has performed with her father on stage and in concert since she was seven.

DEAN JENNINGS (Producer) is the former Director of Public Relations for the American Guild of Variety Artists in NYC. During this same period he acted as a personal manager for several well-known artists. He is presently creator and producer of "Vintage Sounds," folk and jazz concerts presented at the Paul Masson Vineyards for the third year now. A well-known San Francisco public relations executive, Mr. Jennings is also special events chairman for the San Francisco Press Club.

Production Credits

Production Manager -----	Robert Dwan
Technical & Creative Director ----	David Groot
Public Relations & Advertising ----	Claire Harrison, Assoc.
Graphics -----	David Groot
Stage Manager -----	Robert Dwan
Assistant Stage Manager -----	Vaughn Reddie
Box Office Manager -----	Dewey Reid
Box Office Assistant -----	Albert Spence
Set Construction -----	John Guitierrez
Set Decorator -----	Dick Hamilton
Sound Equipment -----	Bob Cohen
Piano by Baldwin	