

Ruby Dee: Monday Performance Is 'Pleasurable'



Actress Ruby Dee

by **Tori Richardson**

Ms. Dee's one woman performance, "An Evening with Ruby Dee," was surely a treat for all those in attendance at Lee Chapel Monday. Her dramatic and satirical interpretations of poems and plays written by such well-known black writers as Langston Hughes, Nikki Giovanni, and Gwendolyn Brooks made the evening a most pleasurable experience. With her abundant feminine charm, Ms. Dee also enthralled the audience with several original works.

A guest speaker presented by the Student Association For Black Unity, Ms. Dee's works centered around the Black man's experience in America, and how this is reflected in his writings and unique cultural background. A native of Harlem, New York, Ms. Dee divulged to the audience some experiences she encountered as a young black woman struggling to survive in a theatrical world not readily open to Blacks. Only through her self-awareness as a black was she capable of accomplishing so

much during a very tense racial period.

The wife of well-known actor and playwright Ossie Davis and the mother of three, Ms. Dee told the audience of her years in Harlem's American Negro Theater, under the direction of Paul Mann, Lloyd Richards and Morris Carnousky. She has performed in such dramas as *Purlie Victorious*, *Buemand* and *Lena*, which won her an Obie, *A Raisin In the Sun*, and *Wedding Band*, for which she won the Drama Desk Award.

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Ruby Dee Performs

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By and large, Ms. Dee's one-woman show with the applause and standing ovation, there is no doubt the audience held Ms. Dee's performance in high esteem. Her concert readings of poems, stories and excerpts from plays written by Black writers will stand as one of the Highlights of Black Emphasis month.