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Wingate to Host Free African Dance Event to Celebrate Juneteenth on Thursday

Union County Public Schools students will be among those performing traditional African dance on Thursday, June 17, at Wingate University's McGee Theatre in advance of the Juneteenth holiday.

Also known as Freedom Day, Jubilee Day and Liberation Day, the June 19 holiday commemorates the date in 1865 when the last of the nation's enslaved people were set free. Although President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation in



1863, it would be more than two years before Confederate general Robert E. Lee surrendered at Appomattox, Virginia, and news of the end of the Civil War reached Texas.

The upcoming dance and drumming event, presented by Charlotte-based Mufuka Works Dance Company, is called "Tribe," and is sponsored by Wingate's Unity House Multicultural Center. Admission is free, but tickets are required.

"In celebration of Juneteenth, we will take a closer look at the power of 'Tribe, said Dr. Antonio Jefferson, Wingate's director of Lyceum. "The performances will be highlighted by Afro Russe dances - Zimbabwean dance fusion that includes ballet and contemporary dance - featuring both professional and youth dancers and drummers."

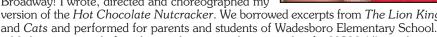
Reserve your free tickets for the 6:30 p.m. event via Eventbrite. Visit Eventbrite.com and search for Juneteenth Celebration, Wingate. McGee Theatre is located inside the Batte Center at 403 North Camden Road in Wingate.

For details email Dr. Jefferson at a.jefferson@wingate.edu or call 704-233-8129.

Ansonia Theatre Spotlight is on Vera Holsey

Biography by Vera Holsey: I was born in Charlotte, NC, but moved to New York at an early age. There I joined Danceworks under the direction of Molly Franzblau. We were a contemporary dance team, however, our training included ballet, flexibility and choreography disciplines. We were fortunate to have a very eclectic group, with intensive training in Alvin Ailey methods, Peter Tucci, and Polobus. We performed throughout the northeast, including New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. It was a dream of a lifetime to be in the presence of and to train with the Alvin Ailey company. Before retiring, I had the awesome experience of

introducing some of my students to the magic of Broadway! I wrote, directed and choreographed my version of the Hot Chocolate Nutcracker. We borrowed excerpts from The Lion King



My latest venture before the pandemic was choreographer for HOLLA!'s production of the Lion King Jr. I enjoy what I do. I thank God for allowing me to do this and I will continue to do so!

This is a release from the Anson County Arts Council: We are thrilled to introduce Vera Holsey as our choreographer for the upcoming August play, Once on This Island. We look forward to working with her and all that she brings to our Ansonia family. Welcome, Vera!! The spotlight is on YOU!

\$4 Million Summer Cash and College Tuition **Drawings to Encourage COVID-19 Vaccinations**

4 North Carolinians 18 and Older to Win \$1 Million 4 North Carolinians 12 to 17 to Win \$125,000 for Post-Secondary Education

As part of North Carolina's effort to encourage more North Carolinians to receive COVID-19 vaccines, Governor Roy Cooper announced \$4 Million Summer Cash and College Tuition drawings to motivate those who have not yet been vaccinated — and thank those who have. Four vaccinated North Carolinians 18 and older will win \$1 million each and four North Carolinians ages 12 to 17 will win tuition for post-secondary education. Executive Order 219, which has concurrence from the North Carolina Council of State, authorizes the drawings.

North Carolinians 18 and over who have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine will be automatically entered into four drawings for a chance to win a \$1 million cash prize. Youth between the ages of 12 and 17 who have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine will be automatically entered into four drawings to win \$125,000 towards post-secondary education. The \$125,000 can be used at any postsecondary institution and is awarded in the form of a NC 529 account.

'This is your shot at a million. Regardless of who wins, there's no way to lose," said Governor Cooper. "A chance at a million dollars is pretty good motivation. But even if

your name isn't drawn, the worst you'll do is get strong protection from a deadly virus." The \$4 Million Summer Cash and Summer Cash 4 College Drawings will run from June 23 through Aug. 4. All North Carolina residents 12 and older who have been vaccinated with at least one dose are eliqible, some restrictions may apply. Those vaccinated on or after today's announcement, Jun 10, will be entered twice for each drawing increasing the chance of winning for the newly vaccinated. Drawings will take place every other week on Wednesdays with the first drawing on June 23. New entries will close at midnight on the

Sunday prior to the Wednesday drawing. Winners will be verified and then announced. "Everyone who gets a COVID-19 vaccination is a winner," said Dr. Mandy K. Cohen, Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. "They protect themselves, their loved ones and others from severe illness, hospitalization and death. Millions of people have already taken the vaccines. These summer cash drawings

add another reward to the many that come with getting a COVID-19 vaccination.' The drawings are part of the state's Bringing Summer Back get-out-the-vaccine campaign to increase awareness of the availability and safety of COVID-19 vaccines and encourage North Carolinians to get a COVID-19 vaccination as soon as they can. The vaccines have

been thoroughly tested and found to be safe and effective for anyone 12 and older. North Carolina joins other states that announced million-dollar drawings to promote vaccinations. Ohio, the first state to launch such a program, reported a 28 percent increase in vaccinations among those 16 and older in the first two weeks following the announcement.

The \$4 Million Summer Cash and Summer Cash 4 College drawings will use federal Coronavirus Relief Funds to fund the program. The drawings will be supported by the North Carolina State Lottery Director. The scholarship funds will be managed by the North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority.

Learn more about the \$4 Million Summer Cash and Summer Cash 4 College Drawings at SummerVaxCash.com. For more information about COVID-19 vaccines and the state's Bringing Summer Back initiative, visit YourSpotYourShot.nc.gov or dial 1-888-675-4567.



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We will be closed from June 28 through July 9. Reopening with normal hours on July 13.