

## Go With The Flo

# New LaBelle line for la-bedroom

Even though Elin Woods did supposedly slip down to Hattiesburg, Mississippi, for counseling sessions with her husband, Tiger, sources say the trip doesn't mean she's ready to go back to the golf cad. While she would love to save her marriage, close friends of Elin's insist she is very carefully analyzing everything and still hasn't made up her mind on whether she will give Tiger another, very final chance.

Word is the fabulous Patti LaBelle has a new line of bedding. The sassy songstress was at Macy's in Atlanta to pro-

mote the luxurious linens last weekend. Prior to showing off her new business endeavor, Patti and four guests stopped into Atlanta's Lobster Bar in Buckhead.

Their lack of reservations didn't keep the group from getting seated immediately in the middle of the restaurant. Patti ordered lobster and ate the whole thing out of the shell. But not before enjoying a delectable slice of cheesecake.

Sony Studios has con-

firmed that Martin Lawrence and Will Smith have agreed to make another installment of the "Bad Boys" franchise, ten-



Florence Anthony

tatively titled, "Bad Boys 3." Michael Bay, who directed the first two films will be back, but there has been no word yet on who will write the film or co-star.

Meanwhile, Martin is about to begin filming "Big Momma's House 3" in Atlanta in April, and then he'll get with Jamie Foxx for the film "Skank Rob-

bers," based on the two comedic geniuses' Sheneneh and Wanda characters.

"Different Strokes" star Gary Coleman was released from Utah County Jail on January 25 after posting \$1,725 bail. Gary was arrested on January 23 at his home in Santaquin, Utah, after police answered a call about a "civil disturbance." Gary is due back in court on February 8. Coleman's attorney says the arrest was not for assault, but for failing to show up in court.

Coleman's lawyer, Randy

Kester, told People: "This is a lot less snow than it seems. He was not arrested for assault."

Olympic gold medalist and former world heavyweight champion Joe Frazier dined at Cabo Wabo Cantina in the Miracle Mile Shops at Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino on January 18. Joined by his manager, Smokin' Joe enjoyed chips and salsa and a special order of Cabo Wabo's grilled chicken and mahi-mahi, along with a side of beans and rice. Before leaving, he stopped to sign autographs and take photos with fans.

## NEA Jazz Masters, La Familia Sextet, Neil Clarke

The event was sold out; the line snaked around from the box office to the entrance as fans waited for tickets for the annual NEA Jazz Masters Awards Ceremony and Concert at Jazz at Lincoln Center.

The audience included jazz fans and the jazz elite, from jazz writers to noted musicians, publicists and radio personalities. More importantly, the audience was filled with past Jazz Masters recipients, some of which included Randy Weston, Roy Haynes, Gerald Wilson, Dr. Billy Taylor, Sandy Jackson (widow of Milt Jackson), Ramsey Lewis, Jimmy Heath, Dan Baker and Lee Konitz.

The young man seated next to me was only 14 years old, a ninth grader studying jazz violin. He said, "My parents couldn't make it, but this was something I couldn't miss."

This year's 2010 NEA Jazz Masters included pianist, arranger, conductor Muhal Richard Abrams; pianist

Kenny Barron; conductor, tenor saxophonist Bill Holman; vibraphonist Bobby Hutcherson; flutist/saxophonist Yusef Lateef; vocalist Annie Ross; pianist Cedar Walton; and producer George Avakian, who was awarded the A.B. Spelman NEA Jazz Masters Award for Jazz Advocacy.

Following their acceptance offerings (jazz musicians aren't much on words, but man, can they play), they performed with the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra. The evening was one of those unforgettable moments in jazz.

The NEA (National Endowment for the Arts) Jazz Masters Awards are similar to the Oscars or Grammy Awards. It should be a red-carpet event like the others with all the television cameras and hoopla. After all, jazz is America's original music.

However, when it comes to

the major awards mentioned, jazz musicians take a backseat, usually receiving their prestigious awards off camera. The NEA awards are so important because it's the night when our great jazz musicians are honored by their peers. Recipients were also awarded \$25,000.

Actually, jazz musicians may be too cool for a red carpet with all the cameras and having to actually tell an announcer who designed your dress or suit. Jazz musicians have their own unique style of dress that is much more outstanding than any designer. The way they put it together with the right hat, shades or shoes make such a dramatic statement.

Although just once it would be nice to see these warriors of jazz music get the total treatment!

La Familia Sextet, a hard-core Latin band with jazzy improvisations led by Willie Martinez, will return to the Nuyorican Poet's Café (236 East 3rd Street, East Village) tonight (January 28) for two sets at 9:30 and 11 p.m.

Martinez on drums and vocals will be joined by his sizzling sextet of pianist Misha Tsiganov, bassist Jennifer Vincent, on congas Renato Thoms, baritone saxophonist Maximilian Schweiger, trombonist Rick Faulkner and special guest Alexei Tsiganov on vibes.

"I'm always overjoyed when returning to the Nuyorican. It's been a stalwart champion of our music as it continues to devote itself to keeping our Latin thing alive week to week, year to year," stated Martinez.

The sextet will be celebrating the release of their latest CD, "After Winter, Spring." It should be noted the \$7 cover

charge goes directly to the musicians.

Neil Clarke, one of the most exciting percussionists on the scene, will bring his assorted gallery of percussion instruments to Brooklyn's Sistas' Place (456 Nostrand Avenue) on January 30 for two sets at 9 and 10:30 p.m.

Clarke will be joined by his dynamic cast of bassist Alex Blake, Bill Jacobs on vibes and special guests. Both Clarke and Blake are also members of Randy Weston's ensemble.

This is a pre-Black History Month celebration, "A Salute to the Drum." Clarke takes his rhythms from the motherland of Africa. His sound has a spiritual essence that spirals into great musical explorations. This trio is one of the most moving improvisational groups today; their music is for the soul. For more information, call (718) 396-1766 or visit the website [sistasplace.org](http://sistasplace.org).

## Sings

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Pinkett Smith. Second is the brilliant direction and phenomenal choreography of Bill T. Jones, who, along with Jim Lewis, is the writer of the musical's insightful and witty book.

Third is the pulsating Afrobeat music and passionate lyrics of Fela Anikulapo-Kuti. And fourth is the outstanding, out-of-this-world cast that stars Sahr Ngaujah and Kevin Mambo, alternating in the role of Fela along with Saycon Sengbloh and the Tony Award-winning Lillias White as Funmilayo (Fela's mother), as well as the fierce, hot "Fela!" ensemble

of dancers, singers and musicians. Like Fela used to say, "Everybody say yeh-yeh."

Trust me, "Fela!" is a magnificent, daring, impressive, elaborately fierce production that has reinvented the American musical. "Fela!" is glorious.

Please check out my review on the "Fela!" website at <http://felaonbroadway.com/kca.php> and get your discount on your ticket purchase. Also, please be sure to tell ALL your friends about the great savings. Let's continue to make history. Make it "Fela!" on Broadway for Black History Month! Yeh-yeh.

To contact the Africa Sings!!! group, please e-mail: [africasings@gmail.com](mailto:africasings@gmail.com).

## Corridor

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no choice but to be an activist, an advocate and transformative agent for depicting the issues of injustice that we as a nation and society should be aware of if we are concerned about promoting peace and equity," said Brenda M. Greene, Ph.D., the executive director of the Center for Black Literature at Medgar Evers College. "We as a culture and people must do more to support, nurture and protect our artists. They are our visionaries, our witnesses who ensure that we document our lives

and experiences. They have made conscious decisions to live and think outside the box. They uncover assumptions and challenge us to think about the images, words and social and political situations that we encounter on a daily basis. Our artists also forecast future directions for Black artists," she added.

For years, the Corridor Gallery has been a safe haven for emerging artists who have not yet found a home in the cutthroat world of New York's commercial art scene. As rents have increased, the opportunity for commercial galleries to take chances on young and emerging artists

has shrunk to the point where these potential art stars are leaving New York in droves for the cheaper climes of smaller and, in some cases, international cities. Artists of color, always marginalized, have been especially impacted for the past two decades. The space for art which advocates has also been affected—which makes this show so important.

"Black Artist as Activist" is on view at the Corridor Gallery, located at 334 Grand Avenue in Brooklyn, through March 28. An opening reception will be held on Sunday, January 31 from 4-6 p.m. For more information, please call (718) 230-5002.