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**BLANCHE
FINLAY**

BLANCHE FINLAY



Carol Levis Gold Award

Stage and Television Club Acts of
the Year Award

Top vocalist — Cabaret Act of the Year

*Tom O'Connor Show
Jimmy Kimmel Show*



Opportunity Knocks

Opportunity Knokkes — European Contest



Lunchtime harvest



ALL IS safely gathered in. Office and shop workers in Crouch End celebrated Harvest Festival during their lunch hour in response to an invitation by the Rev. John Townsend, Vicar of Christ Church, Crouch End Hill.

He is seen (left) greeting his congregation and welcoming personally Blanche Finlay-Stafford, project manager of Hornsey Action Line, the community workers' branch of the YMCA.

Readings were given by Dave Gatting, customer

liaison officer for British Telecom; Walter Gillam, deputy borough valuer and estate surveyor; Keith Miller, branch manager of the Trustee Savings Bank; and Keith Welton, borough heating and electrical engineer.

The address was given by the Vicar. Displays in the church were arranged by British Telecom and by Haringey's parks and valuers' departments.

Picture: Joe Woodward







BLANCHE FINLAY AND THE PROPHETS



going to university

WHEN coloured cabaret singer **Blanche Finlay** appears at an Ashton-under-Lyne nightspot on Saturday it will be her last gig. Oxford calls her.

She faces two years there at Ruskin College as a student, working for the university's special diploma in social studies.

It's really a three-year course. But, as Miss Finlay, a 25-year-old mother of eight, says: "When you're an adult you know you can't waste time."

She is already a busy woman—a member of Manchester Council for Community Relations and the Co-ordinating Committee for the West Indies, and ex-secretary of the city's branch of Equity and its present representative on Manchester and Salford Trades Council.

Her husband and sister will look after the children at her home in Windsor

Road, Prestwich, during the 33 weeks in the year she will be up at Oxford.

But she hopes to do her summer field work on the course from John Dalton College, Manchester, and will keep on all her committee-woman interests during the holidays.

She hopes to specialise in helping adolescents and mothers of young children. "There aren't enough coloured social workers," she says.

He was upset

SHOWBIZ snippets . . . **Eric Morecambe** on the permissive society: "I don't like it and I was upset when we got rid of the censor. I don't want my son to see sex on the screen so we don't go to the pictures any more."

Dickie Henderson on young people: "It's sad that the public don't read more about the good that youth does. The marches for Oxfam or the Spastics and all those youngsters who help old people."



Mr Manchester's DIARY

1975 Cabaret singer is honoured at varsity

COLOURED singer Blanche Finlay, who three years ago launched herself on an economics degree course at Manchester University, has reckoned her Ruskin College, Oxford, social studies diploma "wasn't sufficiently authoritative". I got through, after all.

"With honour," she tells me. And she reveals that the reason she wasn't among the new graduates at the university's degree ceremony in July was because she was awarded in cabinet in the late of May.

"I hired the cap, gown and hood and everything," she says. "I was just unable to be there to put them on."

"Now, mind the university also awarded me a BA there at the next ceremony in December, so I shall have to hire all those robes again."

Meanwhile, she's back in the Manchester cabaret scene — but still planning to take up social work. "I've decided to join the probation service," she says.

That decision will involve her in another year's study, probably at Manchester Polytechnic, working for a qualified social workers' certificate. "I understand that has brought some groups from my family who see no end to her academic ambitions."

They say it's time I became more available as Momma," says Blanche, of Birchfields Road, Fallowfield, after two years at

Singing for her supper

SHE'S not new with Oxford. It's a new place, in fact. New, she coloured singer Blanche Finlay.



BLANCHE FINLAY

Bursan College, Oxford, where she passed the university's special diploma in social studies.

She was planning to go into social work, working in helping adolescents and mothers of young children, but she's decided a diploma is not sufficiently authoritative.

I've developed my own ideas about social work, so I've decided to join the probation service," she says.

A degree in economics and social administration, she reckons, should do the trick; so she's landed herself with another three years of study, making ends meet by singing in night spots.

The main fault with the social services, she thinks, is that not enough thought is given to the wishes of the client. She says: "People have never been asked what they want or what their needs are. The authorities, too, often assume they should decide what is good for them."

Costume research could be an answer to the problem, she reckons.

Opportunity Knocks!

SAYS **HUGHIE GREEN** and introduces eight singers in a special European Song Contest edition of *Opportunity Knocks!* Your votes will select two of these singers to join the team representing Great Britain at the famous *Knoke-le-Loute Song Contest* in Belgium.

Simon Smith
Sol Raye
Allen Davies
Tony Morris
Anne Trevor
Blanche Finlay
Linda Kaye
Broada Marsh
Bob Sharples

WITH **The Opportunity**
The ABC Tele-Vision Showband

PROGRAMME ASSOCIATES:
DORIS BARRY (musical range)
VIC HALLAM (singer)
LEN MARTIN (designer)
GERARD TOMES (producer)
RODNEY ROY MAYOH



Appearances on:-

Granada T.V.
Thames T.V.
B.B.C. Music to Midnight
B.B.C. Overseas Programme
Belgian Radio
Radio Jamaica
Manx Radio
Plymouth Sound

*Periodically Radio - Night Ride.
B.B.C. Radio S. Wales.
Radio 4.*



Harlech T.V.

Major Venue appearances include:-

*Waverley Park
1.0.11
Pendine
Hendy Camp
Wales
Rose & Tracie
Festival
Cardiff
Wales Jazz
Society
86-90
Brecon Jazz
86-89*

Adelphi Theatre - London
Albert Hall - London
West End Cabaret - London
Free Trade Hall - Manchester
Palace Theatre - Manchester
Houldsworth Hall - Manchester
Winter Gardens - Blackpool
Tower Circus - Blackpool
Floral Hall - Southport
Ostende Casino - Belgium
& Knokke Casino Belgium

Most top cabaret clubs

*Equality Theatre, 1.0.11
Jazz International 1.0.11
Chamber Arts. Cardiff
4 Bars Cardiff
WELSH Jazz Festivals 80-81-85-90*

Jazz Festivals

*WELSH
Brecon.
Swansea.
Penarth
Inns & Hotel
Rose & Tracie
1.0.11
Waverley Park
Pendine Holiday
Camp*

The jazz singer

BLANCHE
IS BACK IN
TOWN TO
RESEARCH
A BOOK

By PAULINE MCLEOD

THE NAME Blanche Finlay may not be familiar to most East Lancashire folk. But to jazz fans it must sound a note of remembrance of the days when she regularly toured the clubs in this area.

Ms. Finlay, who has "sat in" with such famous musicians as Humphrey Lyttelton and Johnny Dankworth, was back in the town yesterday.

She has been down Memory Lane was purely academic. For, daughter-born Ms. Finlay was gathering material from records in her old school library and writing with a Cardiff University student.

Ms. Finlay is not just another jazz singer with a sultry voice. Apart from her varied career as an entertainer, she is deeply involved in jazz and has completed a first year special diploma course in jazz studies at Ripon College, Oxford. She has won a scholarship to study for a BA honours degree in social sciences at the University.

Ms. Finlay, now living in Warrington, was once a secretary to a trade union and branch secretary of the Women's Artisan Federation before being arraigned with a jazz band.



BLANCHE FINLAY, JAZZ SINGER AND STUDENT

Finlay, Clitheroe, Darwen, Colne and Nelson. I have played a few spots in this area since I left school. I am now a student at the University of Warrington. I have been involved in jazz work for a long time, she explained. I have been doing jazz and cabaret work with a band that with various other musicians.



BLACK WOMEN

IN LOCAL AUTHORITY

1. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND 1985-1988 AND ANNUAL REPORT 89/90

1.1 Black Women in Local Authority Group

1.1.A The Black Women in LA Group was formed in November 1985.

1.1.B Since its formation the Group has played a leading role in the areas Black Women in LA.

ck Women.

n the workplace.

d Policing

6, 1987, 1988 and 1989.

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city Council policies and

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membership. In addition there
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Unit

level three



Blanche Finlay, Sec. 1987

Unemployed People / Managing People

I have worked for the YMCA and MSC (London) to develop community centres and to manage a successful retraining skills workshop "Actionline". This project was assisted by Livewire and returned many people to paid work or further education. I recruited, selected and delegated skilled professionals to deliver an excellent service.

Research : Community Care

I have researched job segregation and the professions we employ and in 1992 produced a major research document ("The Effective Management of Informal Carers") on the 1990 NHS and Community Care Act. My recommendations are now being implemented as part of Manchester City Council policy.

Policy - Harassment

As chair of NALGO Black Members, manager of the Black Women in Local Authority and Women's Officer, we researched the extent of harassment/discrimination. This was reinforced by a MORI poll in 1993. As a result, Manchester City Council now has a harassment policy.

Women's Preventative Health Care - MACHEM

As the officer responsible for women and workplace health and the health of black people, I have played a lead role in ensuring improved welfare facilities, cancer screening in paid work time and policies to develop black health needs (MACHEM).

1994

Black members win NEC role

* by Kay Holmes

BLACK members' quest for direct representation on UNISON's NEC is to be backed by NALGO following the success of a motion on retaining a decade of experience of black members' self-organisation.

The motion instructed the NEC to draw up rule changes that provide for direct representation on the UNISON NEC.

Blanche Finlay-Stafford of the national black members committee said that NALGO was a member-led union and that it was clear that on this issue members disagreed with the NEC.

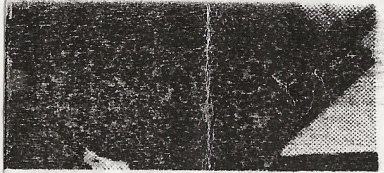
"The NEC has tried to block the progress of black members and we are asking you to set up appropriate structures so that black members can be empowered."

"We don't want you to tell us what is needed. We are

equal members of NALGO but we are continually marginalised and if to put that right we have to change the rules of the union, then let's change them."

Rita Donaghy said that the NEC was fully in support of the bulk of the motion.

"The final report and the UNISON rule book provide for self-organisation and the work of the black members group will continue in UNISON."



with The Daintees at University College, Swansea, on Sunday, October 12.

The gig is part of a nationwide concert tour coinciding with the release of Pilkington's two Aista singles. In the Town of Forgotten Talent and Listening Land.

known on the concert circuit for his unpredictability.

As for the violin, don't expect any catgut torture as he is a very accomplished musician and uses the instrument to great effect in his stage act.

Pilkington's act has been described as 'a combination of

ical though, Pilkington's a performer with very clear views on society today.

"My last single, Listening Land, was all about what people see and hear and the reason why people do things like argue," he said.

"They argue because they

In his la the g age - const home entire peop A an er is M well a tick Sti. Glee guita visit Thur Brito

Quiz up of Broth Mark vocal Guy vocal vocal Willie Co album a 12 Maid their Park. The quest Tina Fir hat ve single Ser postc Mode Even Swan

Now a city date for festival success Blanche



the Finlay — appearing at the Swansea Jazz Society session in the Liberal Club on Tuesday night.

IN August of this year Blanche Finlay made a surprise guest vocalist appearance with the Speakeasy Jazz Band at the Brecon Jazz Festival and was an instant captivating success in front of thousands of jazz enthusiasts with a voice and enthusiasm that knocked everyone out.

This coming Tuesday night, she has been booked by the Swansea Jazz Society for their regular weekly session in the Liberal Club and the indications are that it should be quite some evening.

Blanche, who comes from a musical family, started singing jazz in a big band in 1956 and at a concert in Preston was invited by the Jackson Bradshaw traditional jazz band to join them, which she did. Through them she was introduced to the music of Bessie Smith and others, and they went on to win many musical trophies.

After eight successful years with them, she decided on a solo cabaret career, which led



her to the West End and broadcasting work. this was to be followed by a more steady job in local government, but in 1973 she was leading her own group The Prophets.

In 1978 while doing a summer season at Pendine, she met up with the Memphis Seven and went on with them to make appearances at the Welsh Jazz Festival.

Bill Nicholes will be guesting with the Speakeasy Jazz Band on piano in their accompanying role on Tuesday.

Women

On the same evening, Jen Wilson will be giving a video/lecture on the history of women in jazz entitled Blues Women at the Coach House, Wind Street (in the cellar) starting early at 7.30 p.m. There is no admission charge and anyone interested in

learning more about women's influence on the jazz scene should try to attend it.

That marvellous modern tenor saxophonist, Dick Morrissey, brings along his new quartet to Munday's Cellar Bar this coming Monday night.

His previous fruitful partnership with Jim Mullen has now ceased and currently he is leading John Burch (piano), Tony Archer (bass) and Jim Hall (drums), who are all experienced London-based musicians.

This group is playing what Dick describes as his first love, the standard mainstream repertoire.

Finally, look out for the new jazz newspaper Jazz in Wales, which is available free at local outlets, including the Swansea Information Centre. The What's On Diary section is essential reading for anyone wishing to keep tabs on the South Wales live jazz scene.



stilted.

Considering Shakespeare wrote great chunks of dialogue, intended to be spouted from the stage at no-one in particular, I suppose there is little you can do with half a dozen dozy-looking Thanes when the King is rattling off a speech.

For me, John David was

with the armour, chain mail and plebian rags.

And, finally, bear in mind that whenever you have large groups of schoolchildren press ganged into attendance, who regard Shakespeare as a chore, you're going to have to get used to fits of fidgeting and untimely giggling.

Sassy, classy Blanche

By David Griffiths

THE Swansea Jazz Society was really jumping last night when Blanche Finlay came, sang and definitely conquered her audience. If sheer effervescent enthusiasm were the order of the evening, then Blanche, accompanied by the Speakeasy Jazz Band, would win quite easily, but this extremely fine vocalist also has another side to her talents — a touch of class.

This was demonstrated admirably during her restrained poignant performances of The Nearness of You and Misty when she was accompanied most sympathetically by pianist Bill Nicholes, who had been invited to join the band for this occasion.

For the rest of the evening, the tight, not over-elaborate sound of the band, with Gwyn Lewis playing his usual fiery "hot" cornet and Mark Tattersall's ever tasteful trombone work, did a very good job in accompanying her. The most popular number



DYNAMIC Blanche Finlay at the Swansea Jazz Society last night.

Picture: John Corbett

had to be the real lively Bill Bailey who, if he had been around, would have been back home immediately. Both Georgia on My Mind and St. James's Infirmary were equally spell-binding in their quality.

Altogether it was an outstanding musical night at the SJS headquarters in the Liberal Club and hopefully, future sessions there this winter will be as swinging as this one was.



BEST OF DUBOIS

THE SOULS OF BLACK FOLK

AND Strivings of the Negro People

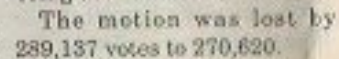
W.E.B. DUBOIS



BLACK HISTORY COLLECTION

W.E.B. DuBois





ALL WOMEN WELCOME. |||||



The West Indian Organisations'
Co-ordinating Committees
(Manchester)

Windrush in Manchester

Civic Gala Presentation Souvenir Brochure
Manchester Town Hall 6th November 1998

NALGO BLACK action

June 1993

Issue No. 5

The Asylum Bill based on myths

Over the last five years much has been made of asylum seekers coming to Britain and Europe. The number of people entering attempting to enter and applying for asylum after entry has been used by the media and politicians to whip up fear of Britain's refugee invasion. But the figures tell a different story. According to the Home Office, the number of asylum seekers applications rose from 4,000 a year in 1988 to 11,600 in 1991 to 44,800 in 1991.

However in Europe as a whole there were 37,000 applications for asylum. Over 80% of these were applications made in Germany and France with only 7% being made in the UK.

These numbers were spread over a time of submission. In 1991 Africa accounted for 61% and Asia for 23% of applications.

The figures for the rest of the world show a rise in the in all areas. In 1988 there were 1,564 applications from Africa and which increased to 27,500 by 1991. From Asia there were 1,825 applications in 1988 increasing to 13,035 by 1991. And from Europe there were 479 applications in 1988 rising to 3,615.

DELAYS IN DECISION MAKING
Considerable delays in reaching decisions have added to the uncertainty faced by refugees and their families. In 1990 the Home Office processed 4,000 cases and 700 in 1991. A drop of about 1,500 compared to 1989.

The Home Office says the drop was due to handling a large increase in applications. However what it does not mention is that there has been no corresponding increase in resources.

In 1988 the Home Office granted 628 people full refugee status, 1,578 people exceptional leave and refused 990 people.

By 1990, provisional figures indicate that 4,900 people were given full refugee status, 2,400 people exceptional leave and 710 people were refused.

However in 1991 the situation reversed dramatically. Of the 4,037 decisions taken only 420 were granted asylum, 1,800 granted exceptional leave and 2,416 were refused.

The Government said the change was due to the detection of 'bogus applicants' and 'economic migrants'. Refugee groups, lawyers and refugees themselves attribute the change to political interference aimed at creating a climate of fear that Britain was being swamped by 'bogus refugees' whose only intention was to scrounge off the state for the purpose of the forthcoming General Election.

In addition, it is alleged that members of the immigration service leaked, fed and covered up cases for the media to use to strengthen the Government's hand.

Even prior to the Secretary of State's statement on the Asylum Bill, the Government had introduced measures. Continued on page 4

COMMENT

End of an Era

1991 is an historic year for NALGO and black members. The passing of NALGO and the emergence of UNISON provides an opportunity for black members to look back as well as forward.

The organized black struggle within NALGO over the last eleven years will be remembered because it firmly established the principles of black self-organization as a trade union.

The many gains achieved by black action at all levels of the union have strengthened NALGO, and undoubtedly will be felt in UNISON. Black workers in UNISON, NALGO and NYPE have ensured that self-organization is written into the rules and constitution of UNISON and will continue to develop in the new union. Black members can feel proud of their achievements. But there are many challenges ahead. The main challenge is to ensure a higher profile for black members at all levels of UNISON. Black workers in UNISON need to be united and need to think and act strategically, to secure their representation at all levels of UNISON. Continued on page 2

NALGO MANCHESTER BRANCH BLACK MEMBERS GROUP

MEETINGS

are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month

VENUE

Committee Room 4 Town Hall Manchester
(ring contact persons to confirm venue)

TIME

2 - 4pm

MEMBERSHIP

All black members of Nalگو

CONTACTS

CHAIR:- Blanche Finlay-Stafford Tel: 061-234 3212

SECRETARY: Shamin Lindsay Tel: 061-234 4413

OTHER CONTACT

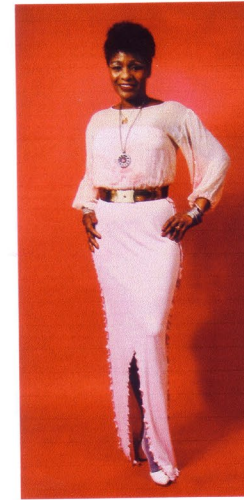
Chair of N.B.M.C.C. - Kursad Kahramanoglu
Tel: 061-234 3226 or 061-834 6564





VAF. Anniversary Celebration
 Variety Artists Federation
 Celebration of 90 yrs as a
 Trade Union, in London. 18.2.96 (at Equity Office)

^{NB}
 Photo of Br. Secs + TU delegates of VAF
 During 90 yrs of representing ENTERTAINERS



Blanche Finlay's
Stage Gowns





