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CANADIAN  
ARTISTS'  
NETWORK

BLACK  
ARTISTS  
IN ACTION

**CELAFI 1997**  
**Entering the Millennium**  
**9 - 13 July, 1997**

## ***Soulful Monday — A Slamming Time!*** ***by Raquel Hamilton***

**Soulful Monday** has arrived, and with an attitude that takes no prisoners. Put on as a six-week fundraiser by CAN: BAIA for the upcoming CELAFI 1997 International Conference and Festival, **Soulful Monday** debuted on 11 March, 1996, as an unqualified success. With a showcase of live performances, as well as a short film presentation, all featuring the creative talents of Black artists, the room fairly hummed with energy and a tremendous feeling of pride.

Looking around the room, I saw an appreciative crowd busily engaged in having a slamming time. And why not, at seven dollars as the cost of admission, you couldn't complain about value for money.

The night featured something for virtually every taste and preference. Literature buffs were treated to a reading of Lawrence Hill's brand, spanking new novel entitled *Any Known Blood*. Film buffs screened Christene Browne's film **BROTHERS IN MUSIC**, featuring jazz men John T. Davis and Jim Heineman, two uniquely different men brought together by their common love of music. The night also featured a dance performance from the Canboulay Dance Theatre, as well as the visual art of David Zapparoli who curated "Our Views of Struggle" for CELAFI 1992. And of course there were the jamming sounds of D.J. Deadly Headly. If that wasn't enough for you, when **BLAXAM** hit the stage that night, all bets were off! That band is *hard!* They have crazy skills. Now, I'm no music expert, but they rocked the house and they rocked the house right. I can't be wrong because no one was hugging their chairs when **BLAXAM** got on. That crowd got to its feet real fast and got loose, throwing down some smooth moves on the dance floor.

So, if you didn't know, now you know. And now that you know, you can tell somebody, bring a friend. One young woman, as she was leaving at the end of the night, seemed to capture the sentiment of the crowd when she said, "Finally, something worthwhile."

So, there you have it. One of those rare win/win situations. **Soulful Monday**, at the Berlin Club in Toronto, as a showcase for established and emerging artists, is definitely the place to be on a Monday night. All your bases are covered. You get great entertainment as well as the opportunity to support our own Canadian artists. And CAN: BAIA members only have to pay a "toonie!"

*Raquel Hamilton is a freelance writer, and a York University student.*



CAN: BAIA member Dionne Brand launches her debut novel *In Another Place, Not Here*. See article on page 4.

**INSIDE**

**CELAFI 1997 CALLS FOR SUBMISSION FOR  
VARIOUS ARTS DISCIPLINES**

**MAKE SURE TO SUBMIT YOUR ENTRY!**