

# HARLEM HEAT

## Globetrotters invade Reed Arena with basketball fun

BY SCOTT HARRIS  
The Battalion

The Harlem Globetrotters. Just the name conjures images of greatness. Visions of spectacular basketball players in their red, white and blue jerseys demolishing any and every team that stands the misfortune of having to play them.

The Harlem Globetrotters have a long standing history of winning and entertaining fans at the same time. They are bringing this history to Reed Arena Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

Formed Jan. 7, 1927, by Abe Saperstein, the Globetrotters were originally named the "Savoy Big Five," after a popular night club in Chicago called the Savoy Ballroom.

Their first game was played in Hinckley, Ill., and was the first of what was to become thousands for this traveling basketball team.

Saperstein formed the team to give black basketball players an opportunity to play. At the time, they were not allowed in professional basketball because it was believed that African-Americans did not have the coordination and skill to play such a game.

Saperstein did not believe this and he picked the best players he could find and toured with them, coaching their exhibition games.

At times he would suit up himself to play for an injured player.

He changed the name of the team in 1930 to the Harlem New York Globetrotters, mainly to drive home the point that it was an all-black basketball team.

In 1932, the Globetrotters played in Detroit, their first big city.

Two years later they had played over 1,000 games, many times defeating their opponents by over 100 points.

In 1939, the Globetrotters started what they are famous for today: hi-jinks, crazy antics and showing off.

It all started during a game when the Globetrotters were leading a team 112-5. They just started clowning around and fans fell in love with their showboating.

Afterwards Saperstein told the team they could only showboat after they had gained an insurmountable lead.

The Globetrotters continued this way for almost a decade, winning game after game and establishing themselves as a dominant bas-

ketball powerhouse.

In 1948, the Globetrotters played the World Champion Minneapolis Lakers of the National Basketball Association.

The Lakers, lead by George Mikan, were defeated 61-59 by the Harlem Globetrotters.

The victory not only proved the Globetrotters were the real deal, but it also tore down the racial walls that surrounded the professional basketball leagues.

This victory opened the NBA doors to Globetrotters Nat "Sweetwater" Clifton and Chuck Cooper, the first black players in the league.

In 1951, on their 25th-anniversary tour, the Globetrotters were named the "Ambassadors of Goodwill" by the mayor of Berlin, a title which they still bear today.

The team toured for almost 40 more years until they were recognized again for their outstanding community service when they received the Gen. Omar N. Bradley "Spirit of Independence" Award.

This award is given to those who exhibit "hard work, high morals, discipline and the courage to lead by example."

Mannie Jackson bought the team in 1993, saved them from financial collapse and became the first African-American and former basketball player to own an international sports team.

Jackson said in a press release the Globetrotters play an integral role in teaching children about the racism that once existed in the United States.

"One of the things I like about owning this company now is that wherever we play it's a reminder to African-Americans and a reminder to white citizens of that painful period of apartheid we once had," Jackson said. "And that, just for a moment, white parents have to tell their kids why there was a Harlem Globetrotters and black kids to hear from their parents what this organization means and stands for."

Jackson said in a press release that there is more to being a Harlem Globetrotter than playing basketball.

"I always tell the new players when they join the Harlem Globetrotters their basketball careers are over because the Globetrotters are more than just a basketball team," he said. "They are an integral part of a product that is linked to ideals that are integral to giving back to the community, such as education and drug prevention, and they conduct themselves according to the code at all times. That takes a special individual. Today I think we have those individuals on this team."

One of these individuals who will be play-

ing Saturday night is Eathan O'Bryant, a native of Huntsville, Texas. O'Bryant said one of the things the Globetrotters do is cater toward children in their shows.

"We have a lot of crowd participation and we like to see a lot of kids out there," O'Bryant said. "It's a little bit of sports and entertainment at the same time, it's a great show with a lot of antics. You never know what is going to happen."

Before each show, the Globetrotters choose one child between six and 12 to be a Junior Trotter.

"These kids get to sit on the bench and hang out with the team," O'Bryant said. "We give them T-shirts and arm bands."

Jackson said in a press release that the Harlem Globetrotters have been entertaining and dazzling fans for decades and the show will create a lasting impression.

"For over seven decades, the Globetrotters have been making lasting memories for fans and families," Jackson said. "We are one of the most affordable, fun and exciting experiences people can see."



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS

Above: Matt "Showbiz" Jackson

Light: Globetrotter Orlando Antigua dunks on a member of the New York Nationals basketball team.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS

## MSC Opas brings Latin musical to College Station

BY KIFFIN COLLINS  
The Battalion

"Tango Buenos Aires" is not a performance for the conservative, discreet type. Called a "revelation" by the New Yorker, it is a production filled with such energy and charisma that it is sure to have audiences dancing in their seats.

The Opera and Performing Arts Society welcomes the world-famous musical during its first United States coast-to-coast tour this weekend. Show times are scheduled at 8 p.m. Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday in Rudder Auditorium.

"Tango Buenos Aires" portrays the evolution of Argentina's most seductive dance. This musical timepiece beautifully displays the birth of tango and its evolution and adaptation to society.

William Rogers, director of publishing and advertising for OPAS and a junior biomedical engineering major, said he is very excited about hosting a show of this caliber.

"We are excited about bringing 'Tango Buenos Aires' to College Station," he said. "It is very popular in the nation currently and we are proud to deliver a show like this."

The musical consists of three main parts, each depicting a chronicle of time in the history of the tango.

Part one begins in 1905 with the introduction of tango in Buenos Aires, Ar-

gentina. Through orchestral music, "Tango" displays the beginnings of the tango era, including the addition of women to this male-oriented avocation and the growing popularity of the dance outside city walls.

Part two of the musical records the next ten years (1920-1930) through extraordinary musical performances. During this portion of the presentation, tango is accepted worldwide. The stage is swept with many dancers, all differ-

ing in forms of tango dance.

This second part of the production also honors famous figures in tango history through songs such as "Milonga Con Variacion" (Milonga with Variation) and "Volver" (Returning).

Following intermission, part three continues with 1930 to the present. It is throughout this piece that tango is most musically interpreted, providing the audience with elaborate choreography and portraying the influence of orchestral mu-

sic on the dance itself.

Oswaldo Requena, the founder of "Tango Buenos Aires," also directed this production. Requena began his career at an early age, establishing himself as an astounding conductor and pianist, having appeared in all of South America's major orchestras.

It was in 1993, however, that Maestro Requena first premiered a "tango" for the city of Granada, thus starting the craze that would bring the world to its feet.

The tango is a dance that can stand on its own in terms of technique and intricacy, including music, poetry and great historical personalities. Often referred to as the dance of sorrow, the tango originated as a distraction for immigrants coming into South America to ease the sense of ruthlessness in a new land.

Robbie Thomas, chairman of OPAS and a senior mechanical engineering student, said the tango can be linked to many Latin traditions.

"It is many different Latin American people mimicking their culture and way of life through dance," Thomas said. "It's hot, spicy and full of salsa. 'Tango' is for people who appreciate dance. Everyone who sees it will walk out of the performance strutting."

For more information on "Tango Buenos Aires" or upcoming OPAS events, call the MSC Box Office at 845-1234.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MSC OPAS

it takes two to tango

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