

Casselberry-Dupree Concert a HIT

By: Anita

Contois Auditorium was filled to capacity and the crowd got what they came for. They came to hear Casselberry-Dupree put on a traditional African, gospel, country, folk, reggae concert. From the opening African blessing, a chant they did a capella, to the close of the second encore, the two singers from "the African country of Brooklyn" had the crowd swaying.

This concert was the main event of International Women's Week and it seemed that all were pleased with the response. The week was kicked off Wednesday with a poetry reading and would continue with workshops on Saturday and a film festival on Sunday, but this Friday was for dancing.

The bare-footed pair boomed out eight songs including the opening chant, "Johnny Too Bad," a reggae selection "The Klan," a folk song and songs by Randy Newman and Michael MacDonald.

After a short break the duo picked up where they had left off, shaking the house with "Stir It Up". They followed that immediately with the type of music that "falls in the gap between spiritual and gospel: country" and we heard their rendition of the Eagles hit "Take It to the Limit". Another eight songs filled the second half as the crowd began dancing in

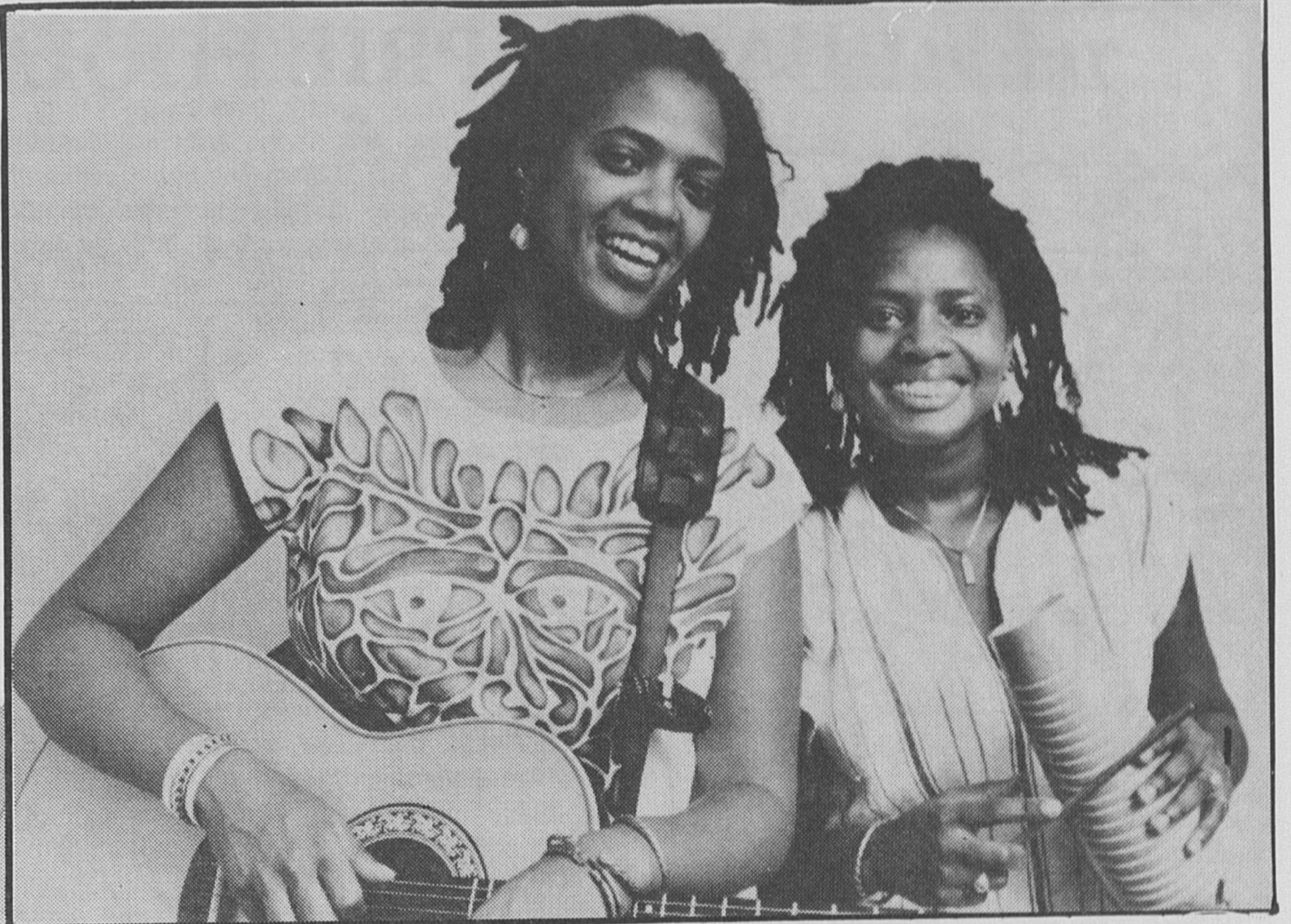


Photo Credit: Leigh H. Mosley

any open spaces they could find. Included in these eight were some from their new album "City Down". The title song got everyone moving to their trademark reggae sound.

The crowd wasn't going to let this singing pair off after just sixteen songs, though. Standing on its feet, the full house

cheered until Casselberry-Dupree returned and sang "Did Jesus Have a Baby Sister?" and "Coming In From the Cold". It was an evening of song, dancing, a little preaching, and a lot of fun. But Jacquee Dupree and J. Casselberry didn't seem the least bit tired as they stood in the lobby and autographed albums. This pair is hot!



Letters Home

Dear Jody, Chuck, and little Ada,

Anita and I are driving away from your house right now and I am filled with nagging doubts.

I sensed some stiffness and awkwardness as we parted. I will never know whether it was real or imagined unless I tell you something I have never told anyone. I am gay.

Two years ago Mary told me that you and Chuck were angry with me for not attending her wedding to John. No one at the time understood why I was so upset and angry. All of our mutual friends had been censuring me for my unreasonable jealousy and interference. What no one knew was that Mary and I had been in an intimate relationship for five years and I was in the midst of a divorce.

I am not telling you this to slander Mary or to excuse my jealous rage. I simply want to explain why I was incapable of sitting in that church watching Mary and John get married. I would suspect that Mary would not want you to know this about her so please respect that privacy.

I met Anita after Mary and John had been engaged for a year and I was in a personal crisis. Meeting Anita brought me out of my depression. We became friends instantly and only later became intimate.

Our desire to be together was overpowering, no obstacle too great. Anita has continued to be a supportive and growing influence on my life.

I told you this because it was a secret that made me lose touch with you for two years. I don't want to lie or gloss over the truth anymore. There is a song about telling your friends that says "some cry and some never speak again." Whatever your reaction is, positive or negative, I want it to be honest and something you are comfortable with. If you would rather not be in touch with me, I'd rather that be out in the open. Whatever you decide, I'm glad I had the chance to see you both again and I'm glad the truth has been told.

Love, Dot

Dear Dot,

We really enjoyed your surprise visit. It's so nice to be dropped in on once in a while--keeps life interesting. I'm sorry we couldn't spend more time together but I had a mid-term on Monday. Both of us were glad that we finally got to meet Anita. She is really a super nice gal, and I can tell, also a very special person.

I was glad that you felt comfortable enough, after two years, to come and see us and tell us about your relationship with Anita. Neither of us were surprised, In fact, I think we knew how you felt about men and women before you did. Sometimes

Letters Home

"Letters Home" is for more than just letters to parents or children. We welcome your coming out stories in whatever form you've recorded them. We don't want to limit the column to just exchanges with family or just letters. Please share with us your experiences with co-workers, friends and acquaintances. Recollections of those conversations are fine.

In short, we want "Letters Home" to be a forum for sharing all our coming out experiences. Some of our readers have told us that it is their favorite OITM feature! Help us continue the tradition by sharing your stories.

"outsiders" can see things more clearly than we can ourselves. We aren't crying and we're certainly not going to stop speaking!

I think, more than anything else what I felt when I read your letter was relief. All of the cards are on the table, so to speak, and we can now go on with our lives. I hope we can stay in touch a little better now that we've said hello again!

Must go now -- Miss Ada wants dinner!! NOW!! and so it must be delivered. Bye for now -- write soon. Thanks for dropping in and we were really glad to meet you Anita!

Love,
Jo