

Producing the opportunity to showcase new talent

When Joynt Production Network puts on a show, everybody seems to benefit. The audience gets a variety show, the performers get valuable experience, and the proceeds are used for motivational training and housing placement for the homeless.

Operated by Jackie Hill and Michael Bosby, a Maywood couple, Joynt Production Network continues to seek talent for the shows presented by its nonprofit organization. Over the past year they've produced 15 benefits for nonprofit groups, including the Hines VA and two for its Express Home Program.

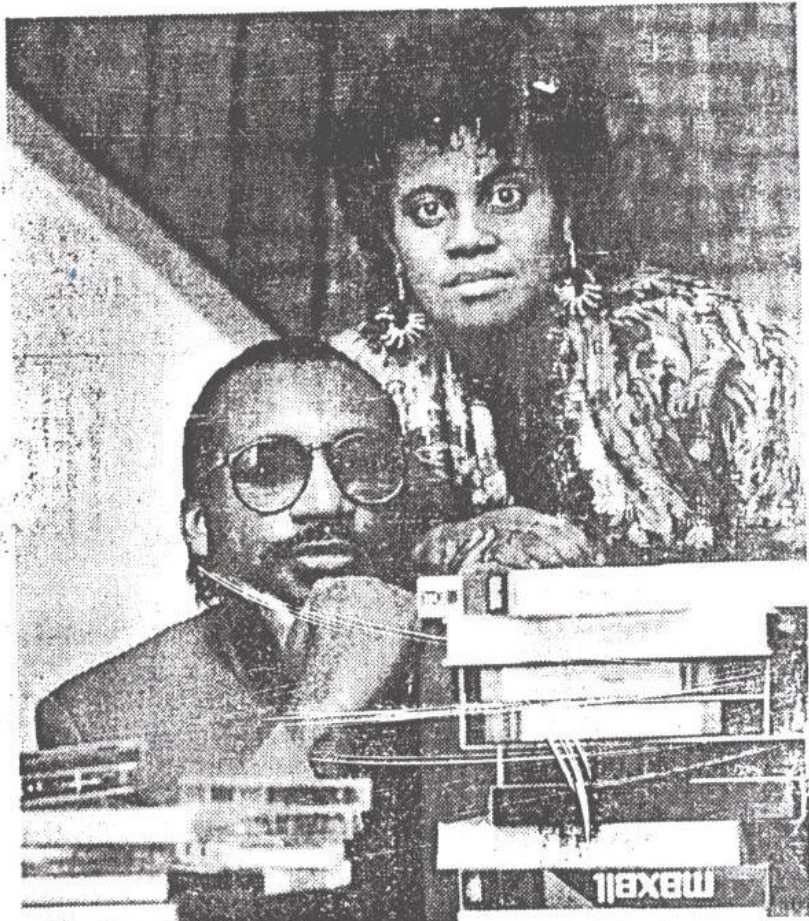
"We're getting local talent some exposure," Hill said. "We have a core of 10 to 15 dedicated performers."

"We try to do shows all over," added Bosby. "There are still some skeptics who don't believe in what we're doing because there are scam artists out there. But with every show, the word gets out."

They feel the advantage to their shows is that the nature of the variety revues lends itself to flexibility; the company can work to fit practically any budget or space restriction.

Despite a sometimes uphill battle in finding support, the couple continues their Express Home Program because, said Bosby, "Nobody else is doing it. Everybody's looking for a dollar."

Himself a singer and songwriter, Bosby is showcasing his own talent in the hopes that his success can generate assistance for Joynt Productions. In the meantime, he and Hill are willing to help out burgeoning talent throughout the Chicago area.



Christopher M. Loudon/Pioneer Press

Michael Bosby (left) and Jackie Hill of Joynt Production Network with some of the audio and video tapes they receive from aspiring performers hoping to land a gig at this year's Black Expo. The pair also produce their own variety shows.

They're always looking for new acts, especially late February through May. In addition to their own shows, Joynt Production Network is responsible for booking talent for the Black Expo, slated at McCormick Place every summer. Last year, 60 performers of all ages and talents were featured at the show. About 150 entertainers auditioned.

Bosby emphasized that performers can audition for Black Expo or the Express Home showcases — or both. "We want to give our

performers some exposure. We're looking for anybody who's dedicated to what they're doing," Hill said, adding that they're willing to hone the talents of performers without much stage experience. "We'll groom them, we'll make sure whatever workshops we have they're at."

Joynt Production Network seeks all types of talent for its own benefit showcases as well as this summer's Black Expo Chicago '93. Call Michael Bosby or Jackie Hill at 681-5775.