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- Working knowledge of English and French

Brochures and application forms can be obtained from:

THE SECRETARY OF THE INSTITUTE



Développement International International Development et de Cooperation and Co-operation Université d'Ottawa (50 ruelle Collège) Ottawa, K1N 6N5 Ontario, Canada Tel: (613) 231-4910

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# Cortez explores and conquers

Clifton Joseph

Since her public debut in 1963, black activist poet, Jayne Cortez, has gathered an impressive place in the pages of Black litereature and culture in America.

Cortez's work is available in four books, Pissstained Stairs And The Monkey Man's Wares (1969), Festivals And Funerals (1971), Scarifications (1973), Mouth On Paper (1977), and on three recordings, the latest being Unsubmissive Blues. Presently she's teaching advanced creative writing, Black music and Black literature, at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey.

## Politics and art

In Toronto recently as part of Wholly Communion, a program of avante garde poetry. Cortez wove a totally captivating marriage between politics and art. She was backed by Ornette Coleman's band, Prime Time at The Cactus Restaurant on February 21, which includes Denardo Coleman on drums, Bern Nix on guitar, and bass

guitarist Jamaaladeen Tacuma the committed artist delivered her call for social change to an enthusiastic audience.

Explaining her committment. Cortez said that "Black People, Third World people and radical people are all into trying to talk about the contradictions in the world and trying to make people aware of them. People should be thinking about, and exploring, their relationships to all of these things.'

Such committment is in evidence in her album Unsubmissive Blues. In the song For The Brave Young Students In Soweto, Cortez explores the reasons behind the radical upsurge in Soweto, South Africa in 1976, when many students lost their lives through violence of the apartheid regime's military force.

When I wrote that piece on Soweto," Cortez elaborates, "I saw a lot of connections between the struggle of black people in the Southern USA in the Sixties

and Seventies, and what was happening in South Africa. It was the same kind of struggle, against oppressive laws, and exploitation. It was about freedom and self-determination, and it still is about those thngs."

## People who inspire

Cortez's musical influences are reflected in her work. The names of John Coltrane. Charlier Prker, Aretha Franklin and Cuban Chano Pozo, among other, are scattered throughout her poetry because "they are people who inspire you, people that you want to write about." It is no wonder she is at ease with her musical accompaniment.

"It is traditional that a person would recite with musical backing,"she says. "It happens in Africa with the groits who tell the history of communities. They always recite the history with music, so what I'm doing is really nothing new."

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## **FACULTY OF EDUCATION APPLICATIONS**

The Faculty of Education is now receiving applications for the 1982/83 academic session. Students currently registered in undergraduate faculties can obtain applications or information from

> Office of Student Programmes **Faculty of Education** Ross Building, N801

> > **Education Office** Glendon College 228 York Hall

## INFORMATION MEETINGS

Students wishing to learn more about the Bachelor of Education programme at York University are invited to attend special information meetings to be held: -

Monday, February 1, 4:00 p.m. Senate Chamber (9th Floor, Ross)

Wednesday, February 3, 3:00 p.m. Senate Chamber (9th Floor, Ross)

Thursday, February 4, 4:00 p.m. Senior Common Room, York Hall, Glendon College