

Valaida

Candace Allen (author)

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Candace Allen (born 1950) is an American novelist, political activist, cultural critic and screenwriter, who is based in London. She was the first African-American woman to be a member of the Directors Guild of America. She is the niece of actress and drama coach Billie Allen, and the former wife of British conductor Sir Simon Rattle. As a writer, Allen has published work including the novel Valaida and the non-fiction book Soul Music: The Pulse of Race and Music, and she is a contributor to The Guardian and other newspapers.

== Biography ==

Born in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1950, Candace Allen moved with her family to Stamford, Connecticut, when she was six years old. She received her BA from Harvard University, where in the late 1960s-early '70s she was instrumental in the establishment of the African and African-American Studies Department (now headed by Henry Louis Gates Jr.), before attending the New York University School of Film and Television. She became the first African-American female member of the Directors Guild of America.

In the 1970s, she moved to Los Angeles, California, where for twenty years she worked as an assistant director on feature and television films, and...

Valaida Snow

Valaida Snow (June 2, 1904 – May 30, 1956) was an American jazz musician and entertainer who performed internationally. She was also known as "Little

Valaida Snow (June 2, 1904 – May 30, 1956) was an American jazz musician and entertainer who performed

internationally. She was also known as "Little Louis" and "Queen of the Trumpet," a nickname given to her by W. C. Handy.

== Early life ==

Snow was born in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Her mother, Etta, was a Howard University-educated music teacher and her father, John, was a minister who was the leader of the Pickaninny Troubadours, a group mainly consisting of child performers. Raised on the road in a show-business family, where starting from the age of five, she began performing with her father's group. By the time she was 15, she learned to play cello, bass, banjo, violin, mandolin, harp, accordion, clarinet, trumpet, and saxophone. She also sang and danced.

Berry Brothers

investigated Valaida. He discovered she had been previously married to Knappy Brown, and they hadn't divorced. This caused a scandal in the press until Valaida provided

The Berry Brothers were an American "exotic, acrobatic soft shoe dance" trio, active in the entertainment business for over 30 years. The trio was composed of Ananias (Nyas, "King of the Strut"), James and Warren Berry.

== History ==

Ananias John Willington "Nyas" Berry Jr. (August 18, 1913 – October 5, 1951) and James Gerald Berry (July 9, 1915 – January 28, 1969) were born to Ananias John Willington Berry Sr. and Redna Ross Berry in New Orleans. As early as 1919 the two brothers already performed in Chicago and then in Denver where the family settled and the younger Warren Joseph Berry (December 25, 1922 – August 10, 1996) was born.

In 1924 the family moved to Los Angeles, where as child actors Nyas, James and then Warren appeared in several films.

In 1929 Nyas and James formed the dance duo "The Berry Brothers." They appeared with Duke Ellington in "Rhythmania" at the Cotton Club. That same year they traveled to London and were featured performers in the critically acclaimed all-African-American revue Blackbirds of 1928. They were the first African American

act at the Copacabana in 1929. They appeared in the musical "Rhapsody In Black" in 1931.

The act supported the entire family...

Caravan (Juan Tizol and Duke Ellington song)

versions have been recorded. Duke Ellington – New York, May 14, 1937 Valaida Snow – Valaida Snow (vocal and trumpet) and her Orchestra, 1939, Sonora Art Tatum

"Caravan" is an American jazz standard by Juan Tizol and Duke Ellington, first performed by Ellington in 1936. Irving Mills wrote lyrics, but they are rarely sung.

== Original recording ==

The first version of the song was recorded in Hollywood in 1936 and performed as an instrumental by Barney Bigard and His Jazzopators. Two takes were recorded for Variety label, of which the first was issued as a 78 record (Variety VA-515-1) in 1937. The band members were:

Sweet Understanding Love

Anthology: 50th Anniversary (2004). The song was written by R. Benson, Valaida Benson and I. Hunter. It marked the end of a 10-year run of American Top

"Sweet Understanding Love" is a 1973 hit song recorded by the Four Tops for the ABC Records label. The song was the second of three single releases from their sixteenth studio album, Main Street People. The title track of the LP is on the B-side of the 45. "Sweet Understanding Love" was placed on their 1991 compilation album Ain't No Woman (Like the One I've Got). It was also included on their album Anthology: 50th Anniversary (2004).

== Background ==

The song was written by R. Benson, Valaida Benson and I. Hunter. It marked the end of a 10-year run of American Top 40 hits by the group. They would return eight years later when they scored a major comeback

hit, "When She Was My Girl".

List of female entertainers of the Harlem Renaissance

*Viola McCoy Florence Mills Ma Rainey Bessie Smith Mamie Smith Trixie Smith Valaida Snow Victoria Spivey
Florence Cole Talbert Eva Taylor Big Mama Thornton*

This is a list of female entertainers of the Harlem Renaissance, a cultural, social, and artistic explosion that took place in Harlem, New York, in the 1920s.

== Dancers, choreographers, and orchestra leaders ==

Buddy Featherstonhaugh

called The Cosmopolitans, which included Fletcher Allen. He recorded with Valaida Snow in 1935 and Benny Carter in 1937. During World War II, he led a Royal

Rupert Edward Lee "Buddy" Featherstonhaugh (feather-ston-hore; 4 October 1909 – 12 July 1976) was an English jazz saxophonist and clarinetist.

== Musical career ==

Born in Paris in 1909, the son of an English marine architect and his Scottish wife. His grandfather, George William Featherstonhaugh, a geologist and geographer, had already emigrated to America. After moving to England, he studied in Sussex, and had his first professional gig with Pat O'Malley in 1927. He was with Spike Hughes from 1930 to 1932, and toured England in Billy Mason's band behind Louis Armstrong that same year and in 1933 he recorded with a group called The Cosmopolitans, which included Fletcher Allen. He recorded with Valaida Snow in 1935 and Benny Carter in 1937.

During World War II, he led a Royal Air Force band which had among its members Vic Lewis, Don McAffer, and Jack Parnell. They went on to record as The BBC Radio Rhythm Club Sextet during 1943–45. After the war he toured Iceland in 1946, and then left the jazz scene, taking up work as a car salesman. In 1956 he returned to play (and recorded) in a quintet with trumpeter Leon Calvert, Roy Sidewell, Kenny Wheeler, and Bobby

Wellins. He also appeared...

Take It from Me (1937 film)

Stephenson as Lewis Charlotte Parry as Mrs. Murphy Joan Miller as secretary Valaida Snow as self Victor Rietti as sailor Kine Weekly wrote: "Sure-fire comedy

Take It from Me (also known as Transatlantic Trouble) is a lost 1937 British comedy film directed by William Beaudine and starring Max Miller, Betty Lynne and Buddy Baer. It was written by John Meehan Jr., J.O.C. Orton and Reginald Purdell.

Ahead of the film's opening in Australia, First National were sued there by a Lady Fairhaven who complained that a character in the film with the same name could be confused for her. The case was settled out of court. First National issued a statement saying: "When Lady Fairhaven's solicitors pointed out that in fact her name was being used in the film, directions were at once given for the making of the necessary alterations in the film."

== Preservation status ==

The British Film Institute has classed Take It from Me as a lost film. Its National Archive holds a collection of ephemera and stills but no film or video materials.

Johnny Claes

piano. In the 1930s, he moved to the Netherlands, where he worked with Valaida Snow and Coleman Hawkins. He also worked with Jack Kluger's band in Belgium

Octave John Claes (; 11 August 1916 – 3 February 1956) was a British-born racing driver who competed for Belgium. Before his fame as a racing driver, Claes was also a jazz trumpeter and successful bandleader in Britain.

== Early life and jazz career ==

Claes was born in London to a Scottish mother and Belgian father. He was educated in England at Lord Williams's School. In England, he began playing trumpet in a jazz band that included Max Jones on reeds, and another with Billy Mason on piano. In the 1930s, he moved to the Netherlands, where he worked with Valaida Snow and Coleman Hawkins. He also worked with Jack Kluger's band in Belgium. Returning to England, he led his own group, the Claepigeons, making a recording in 1942. In the late 1940s, he abandoned his jazz career and settled in Belgium as a professional racing driver.

Louis Douglas

in New York in 1927 featured, at times, Sidney Bechet, Tommy Ladnier, Valaida Snow, and Juice Wilson. He toured Europe several times. Belgrade (Yugoslavia)

Louis Winston Douglas, sometimes spelled Douglass (May 14, 1889, Philadelphia - May 19, 1939, New York City) was an American dancer, choreographer, and music businessman.

Douglas toured Ireland with a children's revue in 1903 and then went on tour in Europe with Belle Davis from 1903 to 1908, and appears with her in the 1906 film *Die schöne Davis mit ihren drei Negern*. He branched into solo dancing from 1910, doing shows throughout the major European capitals, and toured South America in 1923. He and Miss Marion Cook starred in the revue "Tout Nue" at the Concert Mayol in Paris from March through September 1924. He was the star of the 1925 show *La Revue nègre*, which featured music by Claude Hopkins and his Charleston Jazz Band. In 1926 he organized and starred in *Black People*, with music by some of Sam Wooding's sidemen; the show toured Europe and North Africa. His shows in Berlin in 1926 and in New York in 1927 featured, at times, Sidney Bechet, Tommy Ladnier, Valaida Snow, and Juice Wilson. He toured Europe several times. Belgrade (Yugoslavia), Istanbul (Turkey), Athens (Greece), Alexandria and Cairo (Egypt) and Germany between February and May of 1927. He returned and toured Egypt...

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