

Lifestyle



Brent Leggs, Executive Director of the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund, looks at Anicka Yi's "The Mother Tongue" (left) and Adam Pendleton's "Untitled (Days for Nina)" (right) displayed as part of the Nina Simone Childhood Home Auction Exhibition.



People look at paintings as part of the Nina Simone Childhood Home Auction Exhibition.



People look at Julie Mehretu's "New Dawn, Sing (for Nina)" displayed as part of the Nina Simone Childhood Home Auction Exhibition.

US ARTISTS LEAD EFFORT TO RESTORE NINA SIMONE'S CHILDHOOD HOME

A group of US artists have spearheaded efforts to preserve musical great and civil rights activist Nina Simone's childhood home as a cultural site, auctioning artworks and organizing a gala on Saturday in New York to raise funds.



A file photo taken on October 22, 1991, shows US jazz and blues singer Nina Simone in concert at the Olympia music hall in Paris.—AFP photos



Brent Leggs, Executive Director of the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund, poses next to Rashid Johnson's Bruise Painting "Nina's Blues" displayed as part of the Nina Simone Childhood Home Auction Exhibition.

Organizers hope the funding drive, also supported by tennis champion Venus Williams, will raise some \$2 million to restore the property where the genre-defying musician first started playing piano. The modest wooden house is perched on a grassy hill in the small town of Tryon in rural North Carolina, in the southeastern United States. It had fallen into disrepair when, in 2017, four African American artists, Julie Mehretu, Ellen Gallagher, Rashid Johnson and Adam Pendleton, purchased it and launched a crowdfunding campaign to turn the property into a cultural site suitable for visitors.

But the 660-square-foot (60-square-meter) house still needs work to become a permanent site open for visitors and cultural events. According to Leggs, the house could be open to the public as early as 2024. To make that happen, the team is auctioning off 11 items, including works donated by British painter Cecily Brown and American artist Sarah Sze. The auction, administered by Pace and Sotheby's, has been taking place online since May 12 and will run through Monday. Williams hopes the Saturday gala will help raise the re-

maining necessary funds. "Nina Simone's legacy is what has put people like me on the map today," said Williams, the first Black tennis player to become the world's number one.

Black Lives Matter

Simone, whose songs were popular during Black Lives Matter protests, had a complex, often difficult relationship with the United States, where she was born in 1933, during the era of racial segregation. Born Eunice Waymon, she spent the first years of her life in the three-room house in Tryon with her parents and siblings and began playing the piano at age three. But her dream of becoming a classical concert performer was shattered when she was rejected by Philadelphia's prestigious Curtis Institute of Music, an ordeal she attributed to racism. In the 1960s, Simone was active in the civil rights movement, at times through rousing speeches, sometimes through song. Her "Mississippi Goddam," was a response to a 1963 fire in an Alabama church started by members of the Ku Klux Klan. Three days after the assassination of Martin Luther King in 1968, she performed "Why? (The king of love is dead)."

Simone eventually left the United States and lived her last years in the south of France, where she died in 2003. "Our country is beginning to understand the need to preserve all of our history, and recognize and celebrate the diversity of our country," said Leggs. "This is an exciting time in historic preservation."—AFP



A work by artist Sarah Sze entitled "Spell" (left) is displayed next to a work by Anicka Yi entitled "The Mother Tongue" (right) as part of the Nina Simone Childhood Home Auction Exhibition.



Ellen Gallagher's "Abu Simbel, 2005" is displayed as part of the Nina Simone Childhood Home Auction Exhibition.

Mick Jagger's daughter fined after Ibiza police incident

Jade Jagger, daughter of Rolling Stones legend Mick Jagger, was ordered to pay a 1,400-euro (\$1,500) fine after her arrest for allegedly assaulting a Spanish policewoman, court documents and police said. The incident occurred on Wednesday evening when police were called to investigate an incident at a restaurant in Ibiza Town, the island's capital, a statement from the Balearic Islands branch of the SUP police union said.

Following a confrontation, police arrested Jagger, 51, and her male companion, the union said. At a hearing on Friday, the judge ordered Jagger to pay "a four-month daily fine of 10 euros per day for resisting arrest, and a 20-day fine of 10 euros for causing minor injury," a court statement said. It also said she must "pay the victim 800 euros" in compensation. The court handed her companion "four months of prison for assaulting a figure of authority". According to the union, restaurant staff had called the police to report a male customer "insulting and threatening customers and staff" who appeared to be either "drunk or under the influence of drugs".—AFP



File photo shows Jade Jagger poses during the "Don't take it personally" party at Studio 57 on July 6, 2017 in Paris, a showcase of her works of art and photographs in benefit of Project Zero, a global movement working on restoring and protect the ocean.—AFP



A combo picture shows (left) French film star Alain Delon and (right) Ari Boulogne.

French man who claimed to be son of Alain Delon found dead

A man who long claimed to be the son of French film star Alain Delon through his relationship with the iconic German singer Nico was found dead in Paris on Saturday, prosecutors said. The body of Ari Boulogne, a 60-year-old photographer, was discovered at his home in the capital, authorities said, and an investigation into the cause of death is underway.

Another person is in police custody on charges of failing to assist a person in danger, the prosecutor said, confirming earlier reports in a local newspaper.

The Parisien newspaper reported that the person in police custody is Boulogne's companion. French authorities also said that Boulogne was hemiplegic, a condition that can leave a person partly paralysed.

Boulogne, also known as Christian Boulogne, insisted he was the son of Delon and Nico, who notably gained fame as a singer with the avant-garde American rock group The Velvet Underground.

Delon, who had a brief affair with the German singer in the sixties, denied he was the father, though Ari was raised by Delon's mother Edith Boulogne, who officially adopted him together with her husband.

Boulogne described his chaotic life in a 2001 book, "Love Never Forgets". He joined his mother Nico on music tours and made appearances in several films as a teenager, plunging into a world of drug use and what he called an "artistic wonderland" that took him around the world.—AFP

Ukrainian actors tell tales of war onstage

Devastated villages, separated families and hardened soldiers -- stories of Russia's invasion of Ukraine are being taken to the stage in a play performed by actors who have fled their homeland. "Special Operation", named after Russian President Vladimir Putin's so-called "special military operation" in Ukraine, opened in Denmark's second-largest city Aarhus on Saturday evening. The hour-long performance was written by Anatoli Zinovenko, a well-known actor back in his homeland. He and his wife Tetyana -- who also stars in the play -- were forced to flee Ukraine ten days into Russia's invasion, after seeing "rockets and helicopters swirling" above their Kyiv home.

"It was impossible to understand, no one believed that there would be a war, but it happened," said 62-year-old Zinovenko, who has starred in several Ukrainian films, series and performances. The actor had not written a play before, but when he and his family found safety in Denmark, he said that "everything that was in my heart, it all came out on paper". "Everything I heard, saw and understood. I wanted to put it all on paper," he said. The play tells the story of two Ukrainian women who become the sole survivors of a Russian attack on their village. A Russian soldier, injured and abandoned by his platoon, breaks into their home, forcing the women to decide whether to offer him help or exact revenge. Zinovenko, who plays the Russian soldier, calls it



(From right to left) Ukrainian Actress Tetyana Zinovenko, Ukrainian Actress Oksana Achiam and Ukrainian Actor Anatoli Zinovenko perform during a rehearsal of the play 'Special Operation' at Katapult Theatre in Aarhus, Denmark.—AFP photos

a tale of "heroism, humanity and spirituality". "The women, who have switched places with this occupier, have the opportunity to kill him, but they do not kill him. Why? Because they are not capable of it," he said.

'Cultural bridge'

Organisers described the play as building a "cultural bridge" between Ukraine and Denmark, which has welcomed some 30,000 Ukrainian refugees since the war began in February 2022. The Aarhus show marks the sixteenth performance of "Special Operation" in

Denmark. Profits will be donated to humanitarian organisations working in Ukraine.

"We in Denmark only know about this war from the media, from high electricity prices or high food prices," said the head of the Katapult Theatre, Torben Dahl. "What we can do is make people in Denmark aware of this situation on a more human level." According to the UN cultural agency UNESCO, over 250 cultural sites have been damaged in the war including the Mariupol Theatre, destroyed by an airstrike while sheltering civilians.—AFP



Ukrainian Actress Tetyana Zinovenko (left) and Ukrainian Actor and playwright Anatoli Zinovenko perform during a rehearsal of the play 'Special Operation' at Katapult Theatre.



Ukrainian Actor and playwright Anatoli Zinovenko poses during a rehearsal of his play 'Special Operation' at Katapult Theatre.