

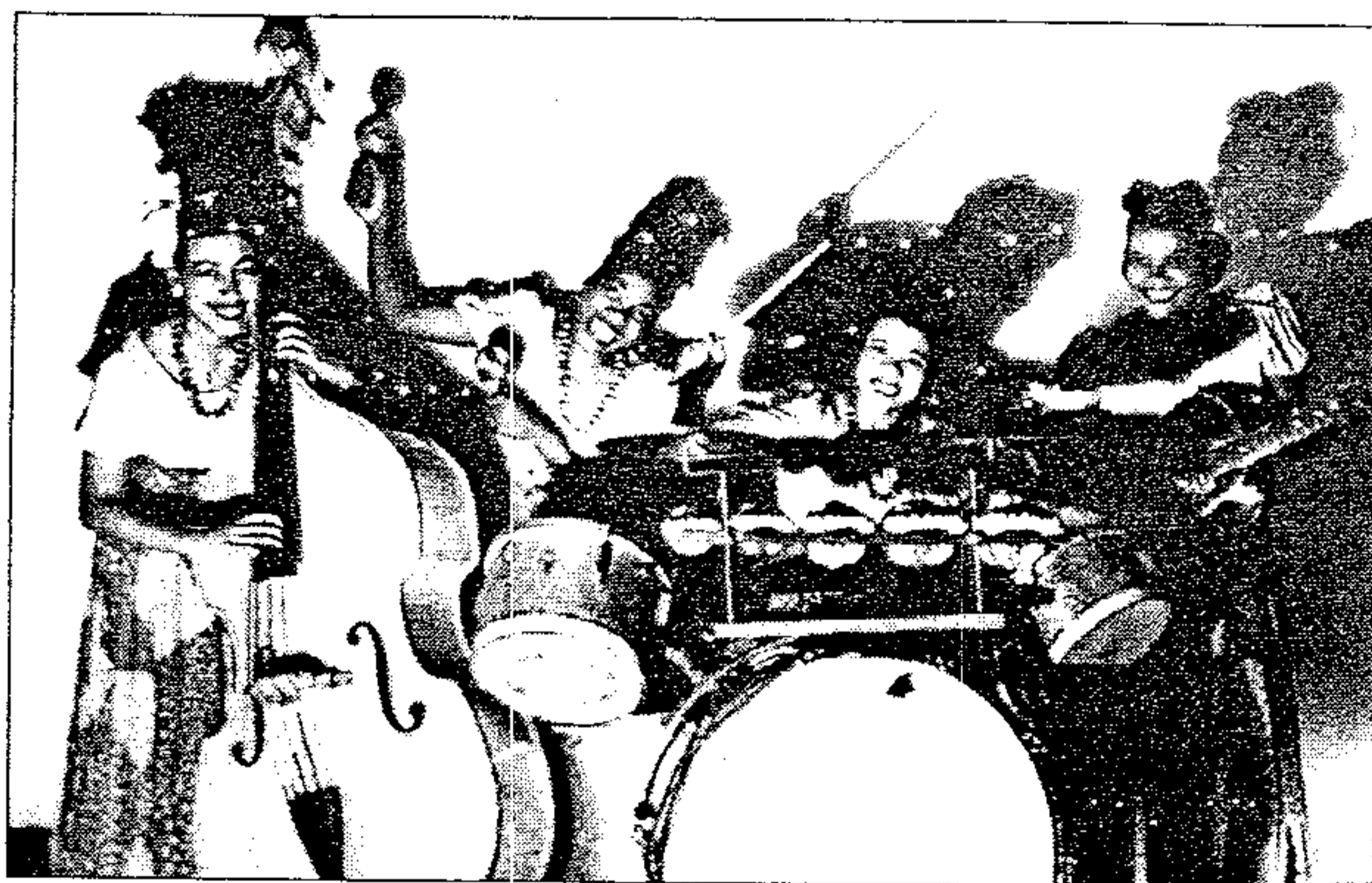
Washington Filmfest '96

Program 2

The International Sweethearts of Rhythm

Greta Schiller, Andrea Weiss

USA, 1986, 30 minutes, color and black and white



An all-female swing band, the International Sweethearts of Rhythm constantly fought both racism and sexism as the racially integrated group toured segregated areas in 1940s America. The white musicians darkened their faces and hid to avoid arrest; all lived on their bus to avoid segregated facilities. Footage and stills from the '40s, intercut with contemporary interviews, tell their fascinating story. From origins at a private school in Mississippi, the band moved to Washington, DC—occasionally playing with stars, and making a USO tour for black troops after World War II. As with so many women who moved into “men’s” jobs, they found their opportunities eliminated when the war ended.

John Hiatt

Iowa City Public Library, *Library Journal*

Production Companies: Jezebel Productions, Rosetta Records. Producers: Rosetta Reitz, Rebecca Reitz. Cinematography: Greta Schiller. Editor: Greta Schiller. Music: The International Sweethearts of Rhythm.

Shown with *Eartha Kitt: The Most Exciting Woman in the World*

A performance film of this year's Filmfest DC Tribute Honoree.

Wednesday, May 1, 5:30 pm, American Film Institute,

Code: FFA601MAYA



Sponsored by the Kennedy Center's Mary Lou Williams Women in Jazz Festival.