

Groovin' for Grover tribute
at America's Center

See Page C3

Literary
MUSIC
FILM
THEATRE
WEEKEND

St. Louis Jazz meets St. Louis
Blues at the Pageant

See Page C2

1C

ST. LOUIS AMERICAN • MARCH 18-24, 2004

Lyah LeFlore: Literati?

Debut book, 'Cosmopolitan
Girls,' screams yes!



St. Louis native TV producer Lyah Beth LeFlore, now an author, reads from her debut novel "Cosmopolitan Girls" before a large crowd of fans, friends and family last Monday night at Left Bank Books. Photo by Dr. Pam Jackson

By Bill Beene
Of the St. Louis American

It's Lyah Beth LeFlore's time to shine – again.

The 30-something year-old TV producer (whose credits include "Grown Ups" and the former hit "New York Undercover") has co-authored the book, "Cosmopolitan Girls," with writer/producer Charlotte Burley. Just off the heels of the recently ended hit HBO series "Sex in the City," the novel is an insightful and wind in your hair New York City ride. This time in the driver's seat are Lindsay Bradley and Charlie Thornton, two successful Black small-city women hitting the big city with all they have. The book is enjoying early success. Released March 1 it

has already made the new and coveted Chit Lit list," described by the New York Daily News's Elizabeth Weitzman as imprints designed with hip, fashion-conscious young women in mind." LeFlore and Burley along with one other African-American woman, Lori Bryant-Woolridge ("Hits and Mrs."), are firsts on the list. The capsule review included with the listing called "Cosmopolitan Girls" "an unusually forthright addition to the chick-lit library...Burley and

LeFlore know better than to get bogged down in melodrama; their style is engaging enough to keep you turning pages until you're shocked to find you've reached the end." Media star Tavis Smiley had this to say "I'm not really a big fiction guy, but I couldn't put this book down! The journey of Lindsay and Charlie is a fascinating and fun ride..." As the daughter of illustrious poet Shirley Bradley LeFlore and well-known musician Floyd LeFlore, should we be surprised? Lyah, answered that question and more. Amid St. Louis-style fan-fare and patronage, at the home of Earl and Billie Wilson, Left Bank Books, Legacy Books and More (she said she had to do a black bookstore!) and the new and exciting Contemporary Museum of Art, LeFlore stopped by the

St. Louis American to talk about everything from the book, women's issue and her love life to her talented mother and father and their influence, career, and where she's going from here.

Why did you write this book?

I wrote the book because (and I'll be honest) there was this writer thing (Shirley LeFlore?) that was

See COSOMO, C4

"A cosmopolitan girl can be 19 or 90. It's about being fierce, fabulous, fearless and flawed."



LeFlore legacy: Literati/poet Shirley Bradley Price LeFore and master musician Floyd LeFlore proudly look and listen to their daughter Lyah Beth LeFlore read from her book "Cosmopolitan Girls" last Monday night at Left Bank Books. The novel recently made the coveted chick-lit list.

Photo by Dr. Pam Jackson