

Richard Pryor Returns in 'Live on the Sunset Strip'

COMEDIAN RICHARD PRYOR, visibly recovered from his near-fatal brush with death in late 1980, was outrageous as ever as he returned to show business, doing two concerts of stand-up routines at the Hollywood Palladium, December 9-10, the results of which will be seen in the forthcoming Rastar film, *Richard Pryor, Live on the Sunset Strip*. Due for March, 1982 release, *Live* will consist of all-new material written entirely by Pryor, who is also producing, and will be directed by Joe Layton, a three-time Tony winner. Haskell Wexler, winner of Academy Awards for *Coming Home*, *Bound for Glory*, and *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, is the cinematographer. The film will be Pryor's 14th. His latest, *Stir Crazy*, in which he co-starred with Gene Wilder, was Columbia Pictures' top box office grosser for 1981. The two will be reunited this year in Columbia's *Deep Trouble*.

Dressed in a red-orange suit, a black shirt buttoned to the neck (to conceal burn scars) and gold lamé shoes, Pryor admitted he was nervous on opening night, even though he had spent three months preparing material and had done a couple of test runs at the nearby Comedy Store.

The main topic of his monologue, replete with his usual colorful language, was his burn accident, a horrifying experience he often made sound hilarious. To answer the questions in everyone's mind, "What Happened?" he said, "Everyone who knows me knows that I have cookies and milk before I go to bed. Well one night I mixed low fat milk with pasteurized and when I dipped the cookie in, the s—blew up." Then, in a serious tone, he said, "I smoked free base [the mixture obtained when ether and cocaine are combined] every day for a year. It's the devil's smoke. I should have known better because the first time I smoked it, I burnt up the bed. I was smoking so much the dealers said, 'Richard, we can't sell you no dope.' When I found out I was a junkie, it scared the s—out of me." Then returning to a humorous vein, Pryor added, "They ought to use dope in the Olympics. When I was on fire, I ran the 100 yard dash in 4.8. When you run down the street on fire, people don't give you no trouble, they move right out of the way. Except for one old drunk who said, 'Hey buddy, got a light?'" Pryor also recounted his convalescence, brilliantly describing his first, very painful, sponge bath.

With a wonderful array of accents and dialects, the comedian also covered a trip to Africa ("They call it the Motherland but nobody knew me there. I looked in the phone book and I didn't see any Pryors"), a former ice-pick wielding employer, sex and the varied groups one finds in penitentiaries ("All the Chicano groups have names you can't pronounce, but the double Muslims, those are the ones you don't f— with because they can't wait to get to Allah.").

Pryor is truly a visual personage; we can't wait to see the film.

Science Fiction

RAY BRADBURY'S long-awaited sequel to his 1951 science fiction classic, *The Day the Earth Stood Still*, will have to be awaited even longer. Although it is still in development, there is no script or screenwriter (Bradbury just did the treatment). However, Bradbury's horror novel, *Something Wicked This Way Comes*, is nearly finished shooting at Disney. Starring Jason Robards as the father, Diane Ladd as Mrs. Nightshade and English actor Jonathon Pryce as Mr. Dark, this film is part of Disney's move toward more "mature" features. And more expensive, too: "We built a \$2.5 million set around town square," marveled a Disney publicist.

Disney has two other science fiction projects in the works as well. *Total Recall*, based on Philip K. Dick's *I Can Get It for You Wholesale*, has been written by Ronald Shusett and Dan O'Bannon, who collaborated on *Alien*. It concerns a Walter Mitty-like character whose dream of a life of adventure leads him to purchase the memory of a former intergalactic espionage agent who, it turns out, is (was?) himself. Also, Steve Lisberger has written and will direct *Tron*, which will feature the most expensive use of computer animation in a full-length film to date. The stars are Bruce Boxleitner, David Warner and Jeff Bridges.

No Respect for a Legend

IKE TURNER, who coached his wife Tina into the kind of performer Mick Jagger would be happy to steal moves from, who led the Ike and Tina Turner Revue through a multi-hit career on the Soul Circuit, was robbed at gunpoint recently in the high-priced Marina del Rey section of Los Angeles. No arrests have yet been reported.

So You Wanna Be a Horror Film Star?

WELL, LISTEN NOW TO WHAT WE SAY. E.L. Casting is accepting resumes for an as-yet-untitled horror movie. Males and females 18 and over with "athletic ability" are being sought. Said ability is parenthetically defined as "(... able to fall down on floor)." No mention of needing ability to bleed and/or shriek when gouged, clawed and/or chainsawed. Got the talent? This could be your chance to fall, er, break into the big time.

Will Their Reds Be Redder Than Our Reds?

RUSSIA IS MAKING its own version of the life of American journalist John Reed (currently appearing on a few big screens in this country as Warren Beatty's *Reds*): theirs, a Soviet-Mexican-Italian production, stars Franco Nero.

Also from Russia: *A Woman for All Times*, the story of famous ballerina Anna Pavlova, with Galina Beliaeva as Pavlova, Robert De Niro as impresario Sol Hurok, and director Martin Scorsese in a small role.

Big, Big Screens

IMAX, THE LATEST effort to lure people away from television into theaters, projects film onto giant screens — 70 feet high. So far, like old Cinerama, this concept has been used to show off the medium. Now there'll be a feature film to fill it — *My Strange Uncle* is a so-called wacky farce, wherein a weird will inspires two heirs, a niece and a

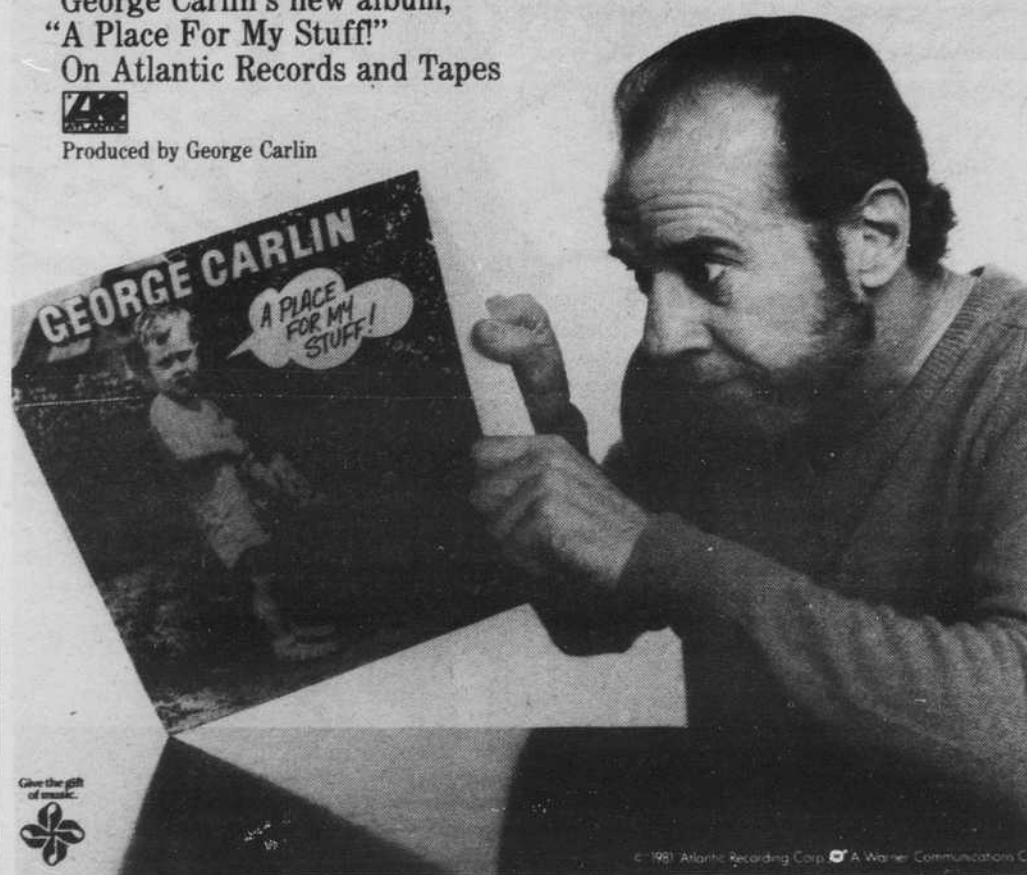
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GEORGE CARLIN HAS FINALLY FOUND A PLACE FOR HIS STUFF.. IN YOUR EAR!

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