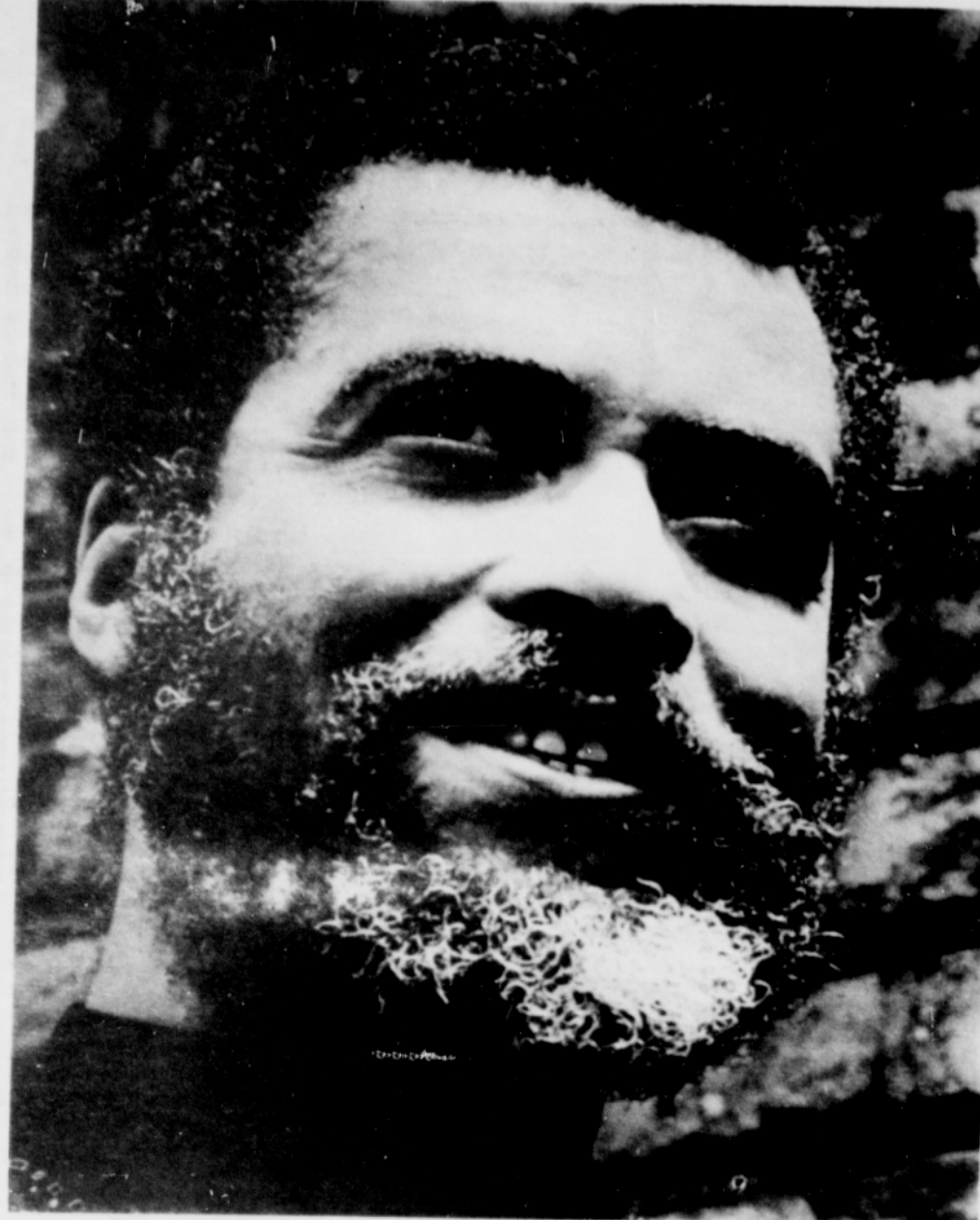




JAMES EARL JONES

Jones hosts TV series

Plans were revealed this week for a new Black-oriented television series to be hosted by James Earl Jones, the distinguished star of stage, screen and television. The show, to be titled "Black Omnibus," will go into production in the Los Angeles area in mid-December and will debut nationwide on Saturday, January 13, 1973.

Patterned after the pioneer television show "Omnibus," each program will explore the Black involvement in such multi-faceted activities as

music, comedy, the arts, history, dance, politics, literature, youth, medicine and religion.

Jones, who achieved international fame for his performance on Broadway in "The Great White Hope," was last seen as the star of "The Man," the Irving Wallace book about the first Black President. He will host each show and assist in the writing.

"Black Omnibus" is a Qualls Production presented in association with CPM Programs, Inc. "As the first ma-

jor Black-oriented series designed for nationwide commercial television, "Black Omnibus" marks not only a creative milestone in television history, but it will serve as a showcase for young and unexposed Black talent," according to Hal Graham, Executive Producer of the program.

In addition to on-camera participation by Blacks, special efforts have been made to create a predominantly Black crew for the show's production chores.

O'Jays win gold record

The return of the Philadelphia Sound as a major force in contemporary music became a reality with the acceptances of gold records by the O'Jays for selling over one million copies of the smash single, "Back Stabbers", at a recent reception in the City of Brotherly Love.

The gathering also represented the first major dividend in the distribution deal between Gamble-Huff Productions and Columbia Records, which began the first of the year. Among the Columbia executives present were Bruce Lundvall, vice-president, marketing, Columbia; Ron Alexenburg, vice-president, sales and distribution, Columbia; Jim Tyrell, director of national sales, Ipic and custom labels; and Logan Westbrooks, director of special markets.

Receiving gold records were Eddie Lavert, Walter Williams and William Powell of the O'Jays; Kenny Gamble and Leon Huff, producers; and Huff, James Whitehead and Gene McFadden, composers of "Back Stabbers". Over 300 people attended the lavish affair, hosted by Gamble and Huff. The guests were additionally treated to a special performance by the O'Jays. "Back Stabbers", the first certified gold single for Philadelphia International, precedes what looks to be a glowing future for both Columbia and Gamble Huff. The O'Jays smash album, also entitled "Back Stabbers", is approaching gold status.

Also Harold Melvin and the Blue Notes continue to climb on the music charts with the single "If You Don't Know Me By Now" and the album "I Miss You". And Billy Paul



Walter Williams, William Powell and Eddie Lavert (from left) who comprise the O'Jays, joyfully hold on to gold records presented to them in a special ceremony held recently in Philadelphia as Bruce Lundvall and Logan Westbrooks, vice president and director of special markets for Columbia Records respectively, look on. Gold discs were presented after their Philadelphia International smash single, "Back Stabbers", sold over one million copies.

looks to be one of the big new artist breakthroughs this year with the single "Me and Mrs. Jones". An album, "360 Degrees of Billy Paul", has just been released, and initial sales are more than impressive.

"We believe that this is the beginning of a new era in music for Philadelphia," stated Gamble. "Some of the best talent in the world make their home in the city, and this helps both Philadelphia International and Gamble Records attain the maximum quality in production."

"This also marks a new era in Black music," Gamble added. "We feel we have developed a sound that is unmistakably Black, but, at the time, easy to crossover into the pop market. The

groups, such as the O'Jays, have a great deal to do with it, for they perform in the studio as they do on stage -- with fierce excitement and drive. You also can't do anything but make a hit."

Gamble and Huff stand as one of the top songwriting/producing teams in the music business. They have created and developed hit songs and albums for such artists as Laura Nyro, Nancy Wilson, Dusty Springfield, Jerry Butler and Wilson Pickett.

"Having the Gamble-Huff labels as part of our family," added Logan Westbrooks, director of special markets for Columbia Records, "has been beneficial to both parties. We feel this is only the beginning of even bigger and better things to come out of Philadelphia International and Gamble Records."

Hotline Northeast is a telephone service for people in Northeast Portland to receive emergency help, information, and personal counseling. The hotline is open during hours when most city agencies are closed. We answer calls during the following hours:

Monday - Thursday	5 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Friday	5 p.m. - 1 a.m.
Saturday	9 p.m. - 1 a.m.
Sunday	4 p.m. - 11 a.m.

Call 288-9145 for help. Hotline Northeast is actively seeking community people to train and serve as volunteers for the hotline. Contact Joyce Pedersen, volunteer coordinator for further information.

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Bob 'Woody' Woodard of Inner City Development Company demonstrates the Marseillais pool shot at Geneva's Regulation Tables.

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Open: All other days 7:00 10:00
Show starts 7:30 10:15

Soul Sounds

by Joey Sasso

MUSIC MAKERS:

Singer Billy Eckstine is getting back into the groove with music audiences. Eckstine, best remembered for the gentle ballads he recorded during the late 1940's and early 50's, is regaining his popularity after a long spell all over the country. Billy told me that the deal he had with Motown Records Co. just didn't work out since he got his start with Earl (Fatha) Hines jazz combo as a vocalist-trumpet player way back in 1938. Billy was part of Motown's expansion from its soul, R&B and into the middle-of-the-road market. "Actually artists like myself and lovely Barbara McNair just got lost in the shuffle at Motown," Billy told me. "They have a great number of top 40 acts like the Supremes, Jackson Five, Temptations, Four Tops and many more. They just did not get behind us for support at all. They also tried to get into the hard rock scene with a white group, Rare Earth, and this outfit also bombed."

But since then, a lot of things have changed. Eckstine, or "Mr. B" as he has been called by his millions of music fans, is now recording for Stax Records in Memphis, and he already has seen his audiences coming back. "I don't have to prove myself any longer. I'm an established singer and I'm now calling the shots. I'm still singing the way I did in the late 40's, but it's now in the contemporary groove and it's drawing the crowds."

Part of this new found success has been the winning talent combination of Stax's biggest artist, singer-arranger-composer Isaac Hayes. Hayes, who won an Academy Award for his hit theme from "Shaft" is helping Billy with arrangements on his forthcoming Stax LPs, which includes the new one, "Senoir Soul". "It was a very warm feeling from the beginning and we got to be close buddies with my first record session with Hayes. And he isn't the kind that argues about the bread sign either." The Stax association reminds Eckstine, who has

won nine gold records, of the "close family" at his old label, Mercury some time ago. "Now there were a close family with Quincy Jones, Sarah Vaughn and myself," Eckstine told me. "We put out loads of records there and then, one by one, they left. And at the same time, the label was bought by Phillips. That's when my friends, the Four Tops, asked me to talk to Berry Gordy, Jr., president of Motown." Billy rejects any thought that his new popularity could be considered a rebirth. "Not at all; I'm still doing the same thing I did some years ago and I'll still be around just as long as my public wants me around," he says. Several of his gold records are: "I Apologize," "Prisoner of Love," "Jelly Jelly," "Kiss of Fire," "Caravan" and "Everything I Have Is Yours."

CELEBRITY SCENE:

Phil Wilson just gifted his personal manager with a case of MacArthur's Seven-Year-Old Scotch Whiskey, for an anniversary present... Jim Brown is now making the scene with Brenda Sykes... Comedian Slappy White just signed a million dollar contract with the Flamingo Hotel in Vegas... Sammy Davis, Jr. just gifted his lovely wife with Chadbourne Hosiery's new bodywear collection for the fall... Clara Ward will soon make her first European tour... James Earl Jones is featured spot in new film "Boardwalk"... Ella Fitzgerald has eye trouble again and had to cancel all engagements and take a long rest which is way overdue... Gordon Parks Jr. just presented his father with a Compuamp Panel Pak to take with him when he is on the road shooting a new film... Mike Frankovich wants Yaphet Kotto to handle a co-starring part in "Report to the Commissioner" next spring, after Yaphet returns from London location of the latest James Bond thriller, "Live and Let Die," with Roger Moore... Billy Dee Williams has just bought a mansion in the Hollywood Hills...

Brooks tells story

Broadside Press is proud to announce the publication of poet Gwendolyn Brooks' autobiography, REPORT FROM PART ONE, on December 1, 1972.

This is no long, prosy, tedious chronicle, but a poet's concentrated and evocative summary of her life and the meanings she has found in it.

Miss Brooks tells of her family background; how she began and learned to write; her marriage and children; her career as book reviewer, teacher, and lecturer; her contact with the new black poets; and her journey to Africa. There are three interviews in which she discusses arts in the community, the art of poetry, and her private life. In the "Marginalia" section she explicates her novel and some of her poems. In "College" she gives us random glimpses into her personal life through vignettes and comments filled with wit, humor, insight, and wisdom. This book is fascinating to read and is an important contribution to history, biography, and literature.

Important features of the book are prefaces by George Kent and Don L. Lee and 25 pages of photographs. The book is a selection of the Black Scholar Book Club.

Miss Brooks won the Pulitzer prize for poetry in 1950 for ANNIE ALLEN. She succeeded Carl Sandburg as poet laureate of Illinois in 1968. Her most recent books are THE WORLD OF GWENDOLYN BROOKS and ALONE-NESS. She has edited JUMP BAD: A NEW CHICAGO ANTHOLOGY and A BROADSIDE TREASURY, 1965-1970. She also edits THE BLACK POSITION, an annual.



SOMETHING OF A GIANT - In the field of soul music, Curtis Mayfield is considered one of the best and most important contributors and performers. Just turning 30, Mayfield may now be seen in "Superfly", the new Warner Brothers release, for which he also composed and arranged the music. The film, directed by Gordon Parks, Jr., is a story of life in the black ghetto. It stars Ron O'Neal, Sheila Frazier and Julius W. Harris. "Superfly" is now showing at the Alameda.

Harris featured

Roy Harris, the young Black man that has been sending Vancouver, Washington through a lot of racial changes the past year will be featured on KGW's "PEOPLE" program scheduled to be released at 8:30 a.m. December 3.

Harris, who is the director of the Clark County Community Congress will be interviewed by moderator, Harold Williams. Also included on the 30 minute community service program will be Myrna Davies, Julia Brown and Tarline Davis who are on the staff of the organization.

Topics of discussion will include Vancouver's racial climate and the Race Relations Workshops that were initiated by Harris during the first of the year.

effective solution toward easing racial tensions in the Southwest Washington community so far. The workshops, three to date, have hosted nearly 300 people to the two day sessions. Participants have come from a cross section of business and community.

Julia "Bring it on Down" Brown will provide further insight as to the contents of the workshop, on the show, while Tarline Davis and Myrna Davies offer background as to Vancouver's racial climate and the origination of the community involvement movement.

Harris, a native of Portland, also discusses, in brief detail the upcoming "BLACK EXPO - SOUL BOWL '72" that is scheduled for December 9th to be held at Geiser Hall, Clark College, in Vancouver. He will also be featured on "Third World" Channel 2 in the immediate future.

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