

"That's Dancing!" captures that old Black magic

When MGM/UA opens "That's Dancing!" on January 18th in theaters throughout the United States and Canada, the greatest dance numbers ever captured by the motion picture camera come together in one dazzling presentation. Among the 150 outstanding Hollywood musicals, the spotlight will shine prominently on the magical artistry of Black dancing legends from yesterday and today.

The movie covers virtually every form of dance — tap, jazz, modern, ballroom, soft-shoe, Charleston, Latin, disco and poppin' and rockin'. In "That's dancing!" there are scenes from new films like the trendsetting "Flashdance," Michael Jackson's electrifying short, "Beat It," and the street-jam sequence from the movie "Fame."

From the past there is an innovative footwork of Black dancers which will awe young audiences today. Among the exciting and styling dancers are Bill "Bojangles" Robinson, The Nicholas Brothers, Sammy Davis, Jr. and Paula Kelly. Each of these dancers came from humble beginnings and through their incredible talents rose to great heights in the world of entertainment.



Bill Robinson was known as the "King of Tap Dancers" throughout his long career on stage and in movies. He was born in 1878 in Richmond, Virginia and, being orphaned early, was raised by his grandmother, a former slave. By the time he was eight, he was earning his own way dancing in the street for pennies.

In 1927 he starred on Broadway in "Blackbirds" and in 1932 he had top billing in "Harlem's Heaven," the first all-Negro talking movie. Later, he scored a Hollywood success teaching his famous stair dance to Shirley Temple in "The Little Colonel." Robinson made 14 movies, including "The Little Rebel," "In Old Kentucky," "Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm," "Stormy Weather" and "One Mile From Heaven." Robinson died in 1949.

Fayard and Harold Nicholas are

featured in "That's Dancing!" They were the most explosive tap dancers on the vaudeville stage, performing acrobatic leaps and splits so astounding in their vigor that they were incredible to watch. Their speed, polish and inexhaustible energy were unmatched.

It seems that the Nicholas Brothers were an immediate success. They worked in New York at the Lafayette and later the famous Cotton Club. It wasn't long before they were per-

forming in film. Fortunately, some of their most spectacular routines have been captured on film, among them "Down Argentine Way," "Sun Valley Serenade," "Orchestra Wives," "Stormy Weather" and "The Pirate."

In "That's Dancing!" Sammy Davis, Jr. has a special appearance as the host of one of the segments and there is footage of him dancing on film. Davis, often called "the world's greatest entertainer" has remarkable

versatility as a singer, dancer, actor, mimic and musician.

Davis recorded a string of hits ("Hey there," "Mr. Wonderful," "Too Close for Comfort") during his continued climb to the top of show business. In November 1954 he lost an eye in an automobile accident, but this did not in any way interfere with his career. He scored a hit in his first Broadway show "Mr. Wonderful" in 1956, and later repeated this success in "Golden Boy."

In 1959 he played Sportin' Life in the movie version of "Porgy and Bess." Other Davis movies include "Oceans 11" and "Robin and the Seven Hoods." In 1966 his autobiography "Yes, I Can" was a best seller, and he starred in his own network television series.

Paula Kelly, one of the most sought after multi-talented performers today, is showcased in "That's Dancing!" As a dancer/singer/actress she has made her mark on stage, television

and in film.

Kelly received wide acclaim for her portrayal of Helene in the stage version of "Sweet Charity" when it was booked as the first legitimate show in Las Vegas. Kelly later reprised her role in the film version of "Sweet Charity" which starred Shirley MacLaine. "That's Dancing!" pays tribute to "Sweet Charity" with a sequence featuring Kelly, MacLaine and Chita Rivera dancing in one of the great moments in motion pictures.

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Pianist-composer Easley at PCC

The Associated Students of Portland Community College, Cascade Campus, will proudly present professional singer-pianist-composer Miss Charolette Easley, in concert on January 18, 1985. "The Oneness of Mankind" will also feature guest performer Askari and others who will be named at a later date.

Miss Easley has appeared in movies, night clubs, restaurants, hotels as well as in concerts. She has performed in New York, Chicago, Houston, Montreal, Puerto Rico, St. Thomas, the Virgin Islands and both in clubs and on military bases in Japan.

The concert will include a poem to her grandfather, a Black inventor never given credit for his work during his lifetime, and a three-part invention with words called "All the Children of the World," which accompanies a slide montage. She will also include a song she wrote recently about Portland.

The one-time concert will be held from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. on January 18, 1985, in the Cascade Hall Auditorium. Tickets will be \$2.00 for general admission, \$1.50 with a PCC student body card and \$1.00 with a valid ASPCC card.

Young women expand horizons

Expanding Your Horizons, a career conference for young women in grades 7 to 12, will take place Saturday, February 9th, at Portland State University. The conference will provide an opportunity for students to meet with women representing a variety of careers. The registration deadline is January 25th. Call the Columbia River Girl Scout Council, 224-6560 for more information.



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