

# ENTERTAINMENT

## BROADWAY BOUND REPORT

George C. Wolfe's "The Colored Museum," which is going into rehearsal this week at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center here in Portland, broke all previous box office records, closed June 19, 1988 and became the highest grossing show in the history of the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles, CA. "The Colored Museum," the fifth play of the Mark Taper Forum's 21st season at the Los Angeles Music Center, finished with a total of \$749,293. The previous record at the Taper, held by this season's "A Lie of the Mind," was exceeded by some \$19,000. Prior to this season, the record was held by the 1987 double bill production of "Loot" and "Entertaining Mr. Sloane." Almost 49,000 people saw the L.A. production of "The Colored Museum" which played at 99% capacity.

The Taper's production of "The Colored Museum" has now moved to the Westwood Playhouse, for a limited engagement. "The Colored Museum" is also now playing in San Francisco, according to our latest information. I saw the New York production of "The Colored Museum" at Joseph Papp's Public Theatre last year and I reviewed it recently here in BROADWAY BOUND REPORT and now we shall soon see it here in Portland at the IFCC, directed by Al Jamison, opening January 27th through February 19th, with special performances at the Winningstad Theatre in the Portland Performing Arts Center, February 21-25, 1988.

In "The Colored Museum," playwright George C. Wolfe shows his mastery of satire in this fiercely funny play which has entertained audiences across the country. Against a museum background there are eleven "exhibits" or sketches in which comedy predominates, but which also make some chilling dramatic points. Using a carefully concocted mixture of song, wit and wisdom, "The Colored Museum" is a superb exploring the myths and changes of Black America. It is wild to say the least! Wait until you see it to believe it, theatre fans, it is a trip, so fasten "your seat belts" for "the Celerity Slaveship flight through L.A. Land in America!"

The IFCC, under Executive Director Sue Busby, is about to make theatrical history with its Oregon premiere production of what she, the cast (headed by Brenda Phillips, Shirley Nanette and Gregory Donovan), and the staff promise to be a very special theatrical event. "Write on, Sue, Al, the cast and crew of C.M."

### The Could Turn Out To Be The Black Season To Remember

With the opening of Langston Hughes' "Simply Heavenly," Charles Fuller's, "Zooman and the Sign," "The Colored Museum" and Nobel Prize Winner, Wole Soyinka's, "Death and the King's Horseman," this maybe the Black season to remember in 1988-89!

## Ribbs Wins Second Consecutive Norelco Driver's Championship for 1988 Season



Willy T. Ribbs

In every aspect of his life, Willy T. Ribbs makes an impression.

Whether it's on the roof of his race car with his famous victory shuffle; with his legion of fans charmed by his charisma; or with his competitors with his talented driving, Ribbs always leaves his mark.

Ribbs has also left his mark on the record books in 1988. He powered his Toyota Celica turbo to victories at Sears Point and Del Mar and earned his second consecutive GTO Norelco Driver's Championship. A Norelco Driver's Cup is awarded each race to the driver who is voted by the media to have the best performance, regardless of finish. The driver who accumulates the most votes at the end of the year wins the Championship and receives a \$10,000 bonus.

"Winning the Norelco Championship two years in a row really means a lot to me," says Ribbs, 32, of San Jose, California. "It tells me that people are paying attention to what I'm doing on the track. And for two years running they respect what they see."

People have watched Willy T. do magic with vehicles since he first got grandfather's V-8-powered Willys Jeepster. "As soon as I could see over the steering wheel, I was racing it around, drifting it through corners up on two wheels," Ribbs remembers.

His love for racing took Willy to England at the age of 21. After winning the prestigious "Star of Tomorrow" formula car championship, he returned to America where he participated in the Formula Atlantic series. In 1983 he progressed to the Trans-Am

series and earned the honor of Sports Car Club of America Pro Rookie of the Year. From that year to 1985, Ribbs was the winningest driver in Trans-Am. He has also accumulated numerous prize purses, making him the all-time biggest money winner of the series.

Ribbs is hoping his 1989 racing efforts will be as successful. He will continue with Toyota in the jump from GTO to the highly competitive IMSA Camel GTP (prototype) series.

"The GTP series is a whole different ball game from the GTO scene. I can't think of any team I would rather be associated with than Dan Gurney and his Toyota crew at All American Racers," says Ribbs. "I've worked with them for two years and I know their dedication to getting the job done right and being the first to get the checkered flag. I'm ready to get in there and battle it out with the established guys."

With his increased visibility, other doors are opening for Willy T., as well. He has signed with Koala Springs fruit juices to represent the beverage company at race tracks across the country.

"Everything is really starting to happen. Moving up the ranks to GTP is a great opportunity for me and I am planning on making the most of it," says Ribbs.

## Miles Davis



1950s



1960s



1970s



1980s

### Years 1955-1985' 5-LP Boxed-Set Presents Thematic Concept

Columbia Records takes a giant step in the ongoing documentation of the jazz world most important living artist with the release of the thematically-arranged 35-track, 258 minutes-plus box-set, MILES DAVIS: THE COLUMBIA YEARS 1955-1985. All selections have been digitally remastered at CBS Records Studios in New York, and the results are the best-sounding Miles Davis sides ever. The specially-priced boxed-set will be available in-store on December 6th.

Cannonball Adderley, Kenny Clark, John Coltrane, Chick Corea, Bill Evans, Herbie Hancock, Keith Jarrett, Elvin Jones, John McLaughlin, Marcus Miller, John Scofield, Wayne Shorter, Tony Williams, Joe Zawinul, and the Gil Evans Orchestra headline the Who's Who of jazz musicians heard on the boxed-set, which spans the '50s, '60s, '70s and '80s. Accompanying this compilation is an exquisitely-designed 24-page booklet containing authoritative liner notes by jazz critic, novelist, and Village Voice columnist Nat Hentoff, plus many rare and unpublished photographs.

In its 5-album configuration, the set devotes one record (two full sides) apiece to Miles' recordings in the following genres: 1) Blues, 2) Standards, 3) Originals, 4) Moods, and 5) Electric. Demonstrating his

depth in a variety of contexts, and the mastery with which he approaches his music, each genre draws upon a wide range of released and unreleased material.

More than half of Miles' nearly fifty extant and out-of-print Columbia catalog LPs are represented (by no more than one track each; with nine digitally-remixed selections) along with six rare alternate takes and/or previously unreleased versions.

(The conceptual framework and contents of the 5-LP/4-cassette/4-compact disc set are detailed on the following pages.)

MILES DAVIS: THE COLUMBIA YEARS 1955-1985 now joins Miles Davis' active catalog. Thirteen of these have been issued (or reissued) on the highly successful Jazz Masterpieces series over the past two years, including the most recent Friday Night at the Blackhawk, Vol. I. Upcoming in January '89 is Saturday Night at the Blackhawk, Vol. II. In April, the Jazz Masterpieces series will reinstate Jazz Track, an album that provided three cuts for this new boxed-set.

MILES DAVIS: THE COLUMBIA YEARS 1955-1985 also joins the label's ongoing series of boxed-sets and anthologies known as The Columbia Years, featuring Bing Crosby, Sarah Vaughan, and a Grammy award-winning entry on Frank Sinatra. Upcoming in 1989 are sets on Fred Astaire and Tony Bennett.

## REMEMBERING...



Sam Cooke

## Black Network Weathermen: TV's Newest Imagemakers

TV's Black weathermen, on both the network and local levels, forge new ground in their industry, reports the October EBONY.

On the three major networks, meteorologists Mark McEwen of CBS, Spencer Christian of ABC and Al Roker of NBC-TV together reach audiences of 10 million. In the nation's top 20 television markets however, Steve Baskerville of Chicago and Steve Pool of Seattle are the only other Black weathercasters on weekday news programs. Joined by their colleagues at smaller affiliates in New York, St. Louis, Atlanta, Detroit and Los Angeles, Black weathermen maintain one of the most highly visible, yet misunderstood jobs in television.

Although weather forecasters boast an accuracy rate of only 88 percent, this doesn't lessen the sense of seriousness and professionalism they bring to their

jobs. "I don't think many people look at this as a TV glamour job," says Roker. "Everybody gives us a hard time, but look at the economic forecasters," he adds. "We look like Nostradamus compared to those guys, and they're talking about people's money. All I'm talking about are a couple of raindrops."

As their field is now attracting increased educational emphasis and interest, TV's Black meteorologists predict expanding growth opportunities in television as well as in the public sector for those who choose to follow them.



## Has Money Spoiled The Lottery Millionaires?

Though some might expect an instant millionaire to go on a spending spree, or otherwise squander his winnings, most Black lottery winners have changed their lifestyles for the better, reports the December EBONY.

Several of the lucky winners of lottery games across the country have made contributions to civic groups, and given portions of their winnings to family and friends, while others have set up trust funds for their children, sought out better neighborhoods in which to live and purchased homes for their families in those areas. Few, if any believe they have been changed or spoiled by their wealth, and virtually all continue to play the lotteries.

Deloise Singletary, a 58-year-old mother of four won \$5.5 million in the Maryland State lottery the first time she played. Having worked low-paying jobs most of her life, and never owning a house or a car, Ms. Singletary purchased a three-bedroom suburban home and a Mercedes Benz automobile with her winnings, while enjoying annual payments of \$250,000.00.

Denying rumors that extravagance has forced him into debt, celebrated lottery winner Curtis Sharpe, who won \$5 million in the New York State lottery says "People look at me and they see a chance. They say, 'If he can do it, I can do it too,'" he adds.

### CORRECTION

The *Portland Observer's* story on The Second Annual Minority Artist Talent Showcase and the National Black Talent Directory N.W. unveiling was inaccurate. For that, we apologize. Fact is, the event which was scheduled for Dec. 19th has been cancelled and will be rescheduled after the first of the year. Please read the *Observer* for a future date. For additional information, please call: Joe (Bean) Keller at (503) 288-1662.

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