

# ENTERTAINMENT

## BEHIND THE SCENES



by Lisa Collins

Star-studded Premiere For "I'm Going To Get You Sucka":

Keenan Ivory Wayans was beaming the other night at the star-studded Los Angeles premiere of his first film, "I'm Gonna Get You Sucka". Among those on hand were fellow "black pack" member and superstar Eddie Murphy with his band of mightymen bodyguards, Jim Brown, Bernie Casey, Nia Peeples, Anne Marie Johnson, Byron Allen, Janet DuBois (escorted by her handsome son), Kadeem Hardison, Dawnn Lewis, and castmate Charnelle Brown. After the showing of the film, the guests made their way to "Hollywood Live", an LA nitery, for a festive after party, where perhaps most eyes were focused on the actions of Eddie Murphy, who held court in a corner, surrounded by his bodyguards, until his swift departure some forty-or so minutes later.

Hardison Makes Film Bow: One of the funniest roles in the "Sucka" spoof was that of Kadeem Hardison, who bowed in as one of the film's bad guys. Hardison, who wants to do more film, is pleased with the role, which is a far cry from his Dwayne Wayne character—"A Different World's" would-be ladies man). But fact is, Hardison, a self-professed homebody, who likes alot of time to himself, finds all the female attention he gets as part of the fall-out from the success of a hit TV series, amusing. "I didn't even see myself as good-looking until I was 16," said the 23-year old actor. "It's kind of funny. All of a sudden, you get respect, but hey, i'll take it" ...Teamed up with Kadeem Hardison as a bad guy was 28-year old, Damon Wayans, who says it was "a thrill of the lifetime", to work with his older brother, Keenan, (the film's writer, director and star). Wayans, whose role in the film is impressive, said "i'm only in show business to work with my brother. It's funny, the characters we did in this movie, were characters that we used to do way back when we were growing up in New York."

Bonet Will Sit Out The Season: Actress Lisa Bonet has decided that for the time

being she's better suited for the role of mother and wife, and probably won't be returning to work for a while. At least that's the word from Cosby Show/Different World co-executive producer Marcy Carsey, who said that Bonet "wants to spend time with her child and husband". Carsey did, however, express hope that Bonet could be back on one of the shows this fall. But, according to insiders, Bonet is hardly missed on either show.

Eddie Gives Arsenio A Boost: It seems when Eddie Murphy guests on the Arsenio Hall show, ratings go right through the roof. At least, that's what happened last week when Eddie's visit on the show resulted in Arsenio's highest ratings yet. In fact, in most of the markets surveyed, his ratings were double that of CBS' Pat Sajak Show and NBC's Late Night with David Letterman.

Looking Back: 78-year old Butterfly McQueen, the first black to be nominated for an academy award (in the category of supporting actress for her role in "Gone With The Wind"), said she wasn't too thrilled about the role. "Prissy was stupid and backward and lazy". McQueen, on hand for the 50th anniversary celebration of the film at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, received a standing ovation as she was introduced. (Just 10 members of the original cast are still alive). Incidentally, McQueen will make her return to the silver screen sometime this year in a film which will co-star Phyllis Diller and Gladys Knight.

Short Takes: Actor Tim Reid not moping about the cancellation of "Frank's Place". Instead, he's busy developing two other projects for CBS and he's nabbed some guest stints on "Wiseguy"...A meeting between "Different World" director Debbie Allen and the Rev. Jesse Jackson could mean an upcoming guest appearance for Jackson on the series...Al B. Sure departs the "Heartbreak" tour this week to begin work in his first acting role in a film titled "Go Beverly".

Next week: find out what went on backstage at this year's Grammy Awards.

### On The Money

Diana Ross Moves Back To Motown-- Lock, Stock & Equity Owner:

Motown Records has announced that Diana Ross is returning to the label both as an artist and equity owner. Ross, 44, who originally left Motown in 1980, was signed to MCA when it joined forces with Boston Ventures to purchase the label from Berry Gordy last June for \$61 million. As part of this new agreement, Ross has invested an undisclosed amount into the label. In return, Ross will receive part of the 20% minority ownership stake that Gordy made a condition of the sale. In her partnership role, Ross will sit in on Motown's Advisory committee, and will also play a part in bringing new talent aboard. According to Motown president Jheri Busby, "she's already come up with some great ideas and concepts." In a prepared statement, Ross proclaimed delight with her new association with Motown, adding that she was "looking forward to assuming a partnership position as well as an artistic role in Motown." Ross will release an album for the label in May. A 1989 world tour will follow...Meanwhile, talks with Solar Records chief, Dick Griffey, have been suspended. Motown has slated a press conference, presumably to address both the dissolution of Motown/Solar talks, as well as the Diana Ross announcement. (We'll have the details in next week's column edition).

Will Emerge ever truly emerge: Well, according to its the magazine's New York staff, the answer. The publication is now slated to hit the stands sometime this fall, with the original investors still in tow. If you'll recall, it was just three weeks before it's first scheduled launch, last September, Time Inc. backed out when Syndicated Communications, the magazine's primary investor failed to come up with all of their share. Time Inc., however, has kept their word to go ahead with the project once the additional backing was found. Ames, however, is still working to close deals with potential

investors that will seal a more solid financial outlook for the magazine, which is targeting upscale, professional blacks as it's core reading audience.

Poitier Showcases 21st Century House With \$3 Million Price-tag: Sidney Poitier will co-host a party (with actor Robert Wagner) this weekend to showcase to the design/art/business community "the first house of the 21st Century". The house, dubbed "the Charleston Estate", because of its blend of 21st-Century technology with a "20's like feeling of a stately manor", is expected to sell for between \$3 and 4.5 million, for such features as voice-controlled computers that operate fiber-optic and laser lights, along with its collectors-item, sculptures and murals.

Motown Productions Scores Big: The eight-hour, \$20 million production of "Lonesome Dove" took center stage in over 23.6 million American households, and marked the debut of Motown Productions as a viable, new star in the Hollywood business community. The adaptation of the best-selling novel, which could prove to be the season's most watched mini-series, was the brainchild of Motown's other wonder--Suzanne Depasse. There was at first major concern that "Dove" couldn't deliver the ratings, Berry Gordy had his own doubts. But according to CBS, the numbers for "Dove" make it the 14th highest-rated miniseries in TV history. ("Roots" remains number one). Motown, guaranteed a tidy \$1 million profit, is now set to split distribution revenues to come.

Looks Can Be Deceiving: While it appears that blacks are gaining acceptance in advertising, a recent Screen Actor's Guild report indicates that just 11.93 of all TV advertising roles in 1987 were filled by minority actors. What's more, it was revealed that Proctor & Gamble, the nation's biggest advertiser, spent only \$2.5 million on advertising in black media annually, compared to \$20 million in Latino advertising.



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"A society is what we teach our children. We must teach them that they can learn, succeed, achieve... no matter the homes, neighborhoods, or schools they come from"  
Marva Collins

"The mind is a wonderful thing. If you want to achieve something, and you're willing to work hard at it, you can move in the right direction"  
Reginald F. Lewis

"Service is what life is all about. It never occurred to me not to be involved in the community"  
Marion Wright Edelman

## Black History Is Alive

History is more than something that happened years ago—it is measured through excellence in commitment, service, achievement, and communication. History is created every day by saying, "I care and I can."

When Marva Collins founded Chicago's Westside Preparatory School in 1975, she also revolutionized education. She embraces the "unteachable" and the forgotten by fighting labels and giving her students goals, discipline and confidence. "Can't" is just another four-letter word, and her students excel. She has won awards and recognition from presidents, universities, and citizens—but none equal her satisfaction in giving children the tools and the desire to learn, grow, and contribute to society.

When Reginald F. Lewis bought the giant,

\$2.5 billion Beatrice International Foods Corp. in 1987, he also took a giant step on a lifelong path of achievement. The 1968 Harvard Law School graduate "fell in love at first sight" with economics and finance as an undergrad. He is known as "a problem solver who shows others what is possible if they spend a little more energy". And, as head of the nation's largest Black-owned corporation, Reginald F. Lewis has shown millions of business people—minority and non-minority alike—exactly what is possible if you work for it.

Marion Wright Edelman never gives up on our future. Called "one of our most powerful lobbyists", she founded the Children's Defense Fund in 1973 to speak for a neglected majority—the nation's children. CDF lobbies

tirelessly on issues like Head Start, education for the handicapped, foster care, and health and nutrition programs. Edelman's goal is to provide "positive life options for our young and our poor". She is a master strategist and team builder, a woman who believes a solution exists for every problem.

US WEST is proud to salute these modern-day history makers. Not only do they achieve success, but they communicate it to others—and communication is something US WEST knows all about. They are living proof that Black History is alive and well and happening right now.

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