

ENTERTAINMENT



WOODLAWN SCHOOL COMMUNITY AND

FAMILY

OUTREACH PROGRAM

7200 NE 11th Avenue., Portland, Oregon 97211

MAY SCHEDULE, 1989
7:00-8:00 PM

ROLE MODELING

featuring:

MARTIN LUTHER KING
SCHOOL TUMBLERS

Dr. Billy Flowers Tuesday, May 2, 1989

FAMILY LEADERSHIP

featuring:

MARANATHA CHURCH CHOIR
and WOODLAWN CHILDREN

Rev. Dr. James Martin Thursday, May 11, 1989

COMMUNITY, SCHOOL & PARENT INVOLVEMENT

featuring:

WOODLAWN DRILL TEAM

Mr. Maceo Pettis Tuesday, May 16, 1989

MALE LEADERSHIP

featuring:

WOODLAWN BOYS CLUB

Mr. Ken Berry Tuesday, May 23, 1989

ALL SESSIONS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

for more information, contact Ada Reed, Woodlawn School
Community Agent (503) 280-6282



BEHIND THE SCENES

by Lisa Collins

Spike Lee Sparks Controversy With His Latest Film: Spike Lee doesn't like dealing with "safe" subjects, nor is he stranger to controversy, so then it should come as no great surprise that his upcoming movie, "Do The Right Thing" may strike a controversial chord. There are mixed reactions from those who've seen the film, which is based on "a day in the life of a black in the Bedford Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn, New York". Correlations to New York's famed Howard Beach incident have been made, though a spokesperson for the production company denies the implication, stating only that the film "reflects the tensions of the day". "Do The Right Thing" is scheduled for a late summer release. Meanwhile, Lee is at work completing the soundtrack, which is due out on the Motown label.

New Role For Sheryl Lee Ralph? Actress Sheryl Lee Ralph, whose living for the past few years has been as a regular on "It's A Living", will portray the owner of neighborhood beauty shop in an upcoming ABC pilot tentatively titled "Beauty Parlor". R&B singer Morris Day, formerly of The Time, will co-star, also portraying a hairdresser. The role is near perfect casting for Ralph, who is somewhat the health and beauty expert offscreen. In fact, over two years ago the actress-singer released "Sheryl Lee Ralph's Beauty Basics", a guide to makeup and skin-care for black women.

Lover's Lane: Actress Troy Beyer, who once co-starred on "Dynasty" as Diahann Carroll's daughter, and who is presently starring in "Roofops", has announced that she is engaged to be married. The LA-based actress met surgeon Frank Lacqua (with whom she'll tie the knot in June) in a New York emergency room where Beyer was taken for a painful in grown toenail. By Beyer's account, it was love at first sight. Meeting Lacqua has changed the priorities of the 24-year old actress, who said: "I've seen a lot of actresses with wonderful careers and no children and no husbands." Obviously, Beyer who is gearing up to move to New York, doesn't want to be just another one of them...Seen about town in New York were Michael Tyson and Holly Robinson, of "21 Jump Street". There is no love lost between Robinson and Robin Givens, once schoolmates. In fact, Robinson reportedly hauled off and hit Givens, after she'd made a nasty comment about Robinson's mother.

Homework Pays Off For Karen White: "I thought I would probably be at number four for about a year--being it Bobby Brown, Anita Baker and Luther, but it feels really great to see the success that I'm having", said Karen White, about her chart-topping smash hit, "The Way you Love Me". Today, her LP simply titled "Karyn White", is a top seller, and a second single "Superwoman" is winding its way up the R&B charts. The 23-year old LA-native began her career as a background sessions artist with Jeff Lorber. It was through session work that she got a deal of her own with Warner Bros. Staying on top, however, is a horse of another color. Said White, "I'm always studying the charts to see what's happening--what the kids are liking and what they're not. I think it's really important for an artist to know what's going on."

Joe Clark to Guest On "227": Controversial Eastside High School principal Joe Clark, who served as inspiration for the screen hit, "Lean On Me" and was recently suspended from service by the Patterson, New Jersey school board, will make his TV bow on an upcoming segment of Marla Gibbs' "227". In the show, which could be seen as early as April 18th, Clark will play himself. Short Takes: Jonathan "Chico" DeBarge, 22, received a sentence of five years and eight months for his part in the conspiracy to transport 2.2 pounds of cocaine from California to Michigan. His brother Bobby, who was also indicted, is presently serving time in a correctional camp...Lonette Mc Kee is set to portray Billie Holiday in a film version of an off-Broadway hit detailing the life of the famed singer...Next week: Find out all the latest on Whoopi Goldberg's new sitcom--"Bagdad Cafe".

ON THE MONEY

The Legacy of Madame C.J. Walker: One of the earliest and greatest fortunes made by a black and a woman was that of Madame C.J. Walker, who became the nation's first woman millionaire in the manufacture of the "straightening comb" and (her own formula) black hair preparations. Walker, who founded the Mme. C.J. Walker Manufacturing Co. Inc., at one point employed hundreds in the door-to-door marketing of her cosmetics, and later developed the "Walker System of Beauty", teaching black women health and beauty tips. Her own regal lifestyle was just as impressive, as she split her time between a palatial mansion on the Hudson River and stylish Harlem townhouse, boasting a fully-equipped beauty parlor. Walker died at the age of 52 in 1919. Today, Ray Randolph, 50, and Kevin Gross, 30 are trying to turn things around for the company that has floundered and been kept in trust since her death. It was in 1987 that Randolph was successful in breaking the trust in prorate court to purchase Walker Manufacturing Company for an undisclosed fee. With a staff of 12, he is working to restore the legacy of Walker within today's burgeoning cosmetics industry. The company expected 1988 revenues of about \$250,000, mostly from the sales of Walker's original formula hair preparation favorites--Glossine and Temple Salve, which have served to keep the firm's annual revenues in six-figures. At present, the company hopes to regain entry into the market with the launching of a curl line called "Criteria", and a relaxer line--"Precedent", that it hopes will set a precedent going into 1990. According to executive vice president, Kevin Gross, Madame C.J. Walker Manufacturing Company is cash-strong, and in a position to make a strong hit and maintain itself among today's industry leaders. Said Gross, "after all, there's always room in the market for a superior product". Currently, the products are available via professional outlets, and experiencing its stronger sales in Indianapolis, Ohio, Canada, and the western parts of Michigan. Meanwhile, the legacy of Madame C.J. Walker is being housed in the Madame Walker Urban Life Center in Indianapolis, near the site of her original factory.

Johnson Keeps Good Company: John H. Johnson was the first black as well as one of the first five to be inducted into the new National Sales Hall of Fame, which by designated by the Sales & Marketing Executives of Greater New York, to honor the country's sales and marketing leaders. Others named among its first five inductees include Mary Kay Ash, Malcolm Forbes, and J.W. Marriott.

Hot Tickets: Last month's Oscar Awards translated into big bucks for LA ticket brokers. And while the Academy frowns upon ticket selling for the invitation-only affair (and bans those caught selling their tickets from future shows), seats scattered throughout LA's Shrine Auditorium could be had for as little as \$1,000 a pair,--in the balcony, to \$4,000 for two seats in the orchestra section amidst the nominees.

Money Briefs: Word has it that a joint venture deal between Solar Records chief Dick Griffey and CBS Records is in the closing stages...

BROADWAY BOUND REPORT



by Garland Lee Thompson

"THE FORBIDDEN CITY"

I just returned from "The Forbidden City," (New York City) after seeing Emmy Award-winning African American playwright, Bill Gunn's new play, "The Forbidden City," in its world premiere at Joseph Papp's Public/LuEsther Theatre. Producer Joseph Papp directs Gloria Foster (Drama Desk Award-winning Black actress), Frankie R. Faison (nominated for a Tony for Broadway show hit - "Fences") and a great cast of actors, headed by a new young actor, Akili Prince.

Besides seeing old friends on stage, some of whom are members of the Frank Silvera Writers' Workshop, Mansoor Najecullah, Cortez Nance, Jr., I see walking onstage, Guy Davis (son of actors, Ruby Dee and Ossie Davis). The young Davis is playing a cameo role in this powerful piece, set in West Philadelphia in 1936, and deals with a young black man's struggle (played by Akili Prince) to survive the grip of his "striving" Black Bourgeois parents.

One of the deeply penetrating lines in the show says: "I'd rather live in the movies than die in Philadelphia!" My friends in Philly may not be impressed or care what this playwright feels about their town, but the entire statement from someone who come from the scene is very powerful. Whereas, Lorraine Hansberry ("A Raisin in the Sun") took us, to the Black family as we prepared for "upward mobility," to where we are today (some of us).

Bill Gunn's play (a press opening on April 6, 1989) on the night I say it brought out "the Black Brass" of the Amsterdams News. The leading Black weekly in New York, is seen in the force of William Tate, publisher, giving hand signals and speaking across friendly rows to Abiola Sinclair, Black critic for the Amsterdam. She and Mr. Tate were standing before the house lights dimmed, to face the audience prior to the show starting and to be acknowledged slightly by John Simon (LaGree), or as the New York Times calls: "a prince of prescriptivism," and to others, as the anti-actors, theatre critic of the "right of Attila, the Hun," New York magazine.

LEADING NEW YORK PRODUCER DIRECTS

Enter Joseph Papp with his wife and associate, Gail Merrified. The Papps held a little press and photo session on stage for us to meet the cast after the show. The last time, I worked for Joseph Papp at the New York Shakespeare Festival, several years ago. I stage managed Gloria Foster in a one-character, play by Sonia Sanchez, "Sister Sonji," as a part of a series of new Black plays that Mr. Papp produced, that year, 1971, at the Public Theatre (a series of theatres housed in the former old Public Library of New York).

THE DEATH OF A PLAYWRIGHT

NEW UPDATE: Black playwright, Bill Gunn, who new play, "The Forbidden City," that I saw recently in New York and wrote about in this column above, passed away in New York on Thursday, April 6, 1989, the day of the official press opening at the Public Theatre. Bill Gunn's earlier play, "Black Picture Show," that was co-directed by Joseph Papp and he, at the Vivian Beaumont Theatre, won the 1975 AUDELCO Award (New York, Black Theatre Recognition Awards) for Best Play by a Black writer.

A screenwriter, novelist, director and actor, Mr. Gunn received an Emmy Award for his teleplay, "Johnas," which was also produced onstage at New York's Chelsea Theatre, and his film, "Ganja & Hess" was the only American film

The nearly soldout production of "The Forbidden City," is a part of the NBS "New Voices" Program, which encourages a number of theatre organizations like the Public Theatre, throughout the United States to commission and produce new work for the American Stage. NBC "New Voices" projects include new plays, the work of new directors, and the performance of new actors.

Now that, theatre fans, is what was happening downtown in Lafayette Square at the Public Theatre, still the "hottest of the hot" in New York City, but then to swing back "uptown Saturday night," to Harlem on West 125th Street...

THE SILVERA STAGED READING SERIES SHOWS "THE STUDY" OF A PROBLEM

Uptown in Harlem, the Frank Silvera Writers' Workshop is currently celebrating its 16th anniversary in 1989. Under new executive director, Bryon C. Saunders, the Workshop presented a Staged Reading of a new black woman playwright, Debbie Patrick's play, "The Study," during the April 1st weekend, Friday & Saturday evening. So, I was uptown for board, staff meetings at the Workshop and this key event in new writer development of emerging playwrights.

Ms. Patrick's new play, "The Study," was first read in the Workshop's Monday Reading Series in 1984 and is based on the Tuskegee Institute Study of untreated Syphilis in Black men from 1932-72. A play and work of this magnitude, dealing as it does with a real live record of a factual series of events and people, requires thorough research, development and numerous re-writers to get it right.

WRITE ON! DOBBIE AND THE PSWW! PASSINART THEATRE OPENS NEW PLAY AT IFCC

Right here "in river city," we have a new play, "Escape by Land," opening at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center, by Michael Grant, produced by Passinart Theatre Company of Portland. At the mid-point of one of the biggest Black and white theatre seasons in the City's history ("Simply Heavenly," "Zooman and the Sign," "The Colored Museum," the new Portland Center Stage at the Alliance) we are beginning to see something new happening in theatre from coast to coast, the Northeast (New York, New Jersey, Mass., PA., etc) and the Pacific Northwest. What does this mean for the local theatre people and the community? Stay tuned, Arts lovers and performers for the late, breaking events as they happen in "Our town." Write on.

"African American Playwrights, their Aircraft and Legacy," a new 10 week class (Weds., 6:40 to 9:20PM) at PSU continues to register. Call Black Studies Dept., 464-3472.

screened during Critic's Week at the 1973 Cannes Film Festival. His other screenplays include, "The Alberta Hunter Story," which was produced by Southern Pictures/BBC, and "Angel Levine" (written with Ronald Ribman, produced by United Artists. His novels include, "Black Picture Show," "All The Rest Have Died," and "Rhinstone Sharecropping."

Joseph Papp told us the night I saw the new play, "The Forbidden City," that he has optioned another play of Bill Gunn, to be presented in the near future at the Public. Write on, Joe. We'll miss you, Bill, and shall work to keep your work alive. "Keep the faith" and support Black Theatre!

Evander Holyfield rented an armored truck, filled it with sacks of money and drove through Central Park to dramatize his bid to fight heavyweight champion Mike Tyson...A leading California economist has predicted a mild recession in April as consumers cut back on luxury purchases (cars, etc). However, interest rates should begin to fall around September as the Federal Reserve Board eases its restrictions on the money supply, thus pushing the economy up by October. Next week: Find out why a black woman is suing the California Lottery Commission for \$3 million.

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