

# ENTERTAINMENT



## BEHIND THE SCENES

Lisa Collins

**Pryor Puffs Up Film Profile:** Richard Pryor seems to have had a change of heart toward the press. In fact, not only was he on hand for interviews to promote his latest movie, "See No Evil, Hear No Evil," but he appeared to open up. Of course, no one was surprised. With his recent string of box office failures, Pryor is looking for exposure and doing everything with his power to insure that his most recent film release, teaming him once again with Gene Wilder, is a success. Said Pryor: "I have to do good work". However, industry sources say that the upcoming "Harlem Nights" and teaming Pryor with comedian-superstar Eddie Murphy is more likely to be the vehicle to turn things around for Pryor. Pryor, in fact, scratched plans for a concert tour, to begin work on the movie which is due to be released sometime around Thanksgiving.

**It's Nobody's Business But...:** Reports are that the latest run-in between heavyweight champion Mike Tyson and exwife Robin Givens at the Beverly Hills party of a top entertainment lawyer, was for a change, without fanfare. In fact, word is Givens abruptly left the party when she walked in the room to find two lovelies on the lap of her ex-hubby.

**Lisa Bonet Heads Home:** Don't be surprised to see Lisa Bonet back at home on "The Cosby Show" full time, next season. And while, NBC officially has nothing to say on the matter, sources close to the show, indicate it's a sure bet. Meanwhile, Bonet's musician-husband, 24-year old Lenny Kravitz, expects a mid-summer release for his debut LP, "Let Love Rule"...**Speaking of the Cosby Show,** believe it or not, it served as inspiration to the creators of the Fox-TV Network's most popular and highly controversial show, "Married With Children." Said co-creator, Mike Moye, who is black, "I'd look at the show and everybody was always so happy. You say to yourself, 'where are these people? I've never been in a house like this. Doesn't anyone speak for the man who doesn't have this?'" It was then that he co-creator Ron Levin decided to show the other side. "Now, with our show-- you watch the Bundy's, you look at the horrors of their life and then you look at your wife and kids and say--" we don't have it so bad."

**Abdul & Watley Go Head To Head For Top Spot:** Heavy rotation in radio airplay has propelled "Forever Your Girl" by Paula Abdul to No. 1 on the nation's pop charts, surpassing Jody Watley's "Real Love". And while, Watley tends to have the lead in sales, Abdul is emerging as a major new artist of 1989, with back-to-back smash singles for her third and fourth releases from the "Forever Your Girl" album. Ironically enough, the album's first two singles failed to reach the top 40.

**Short Takes:** Run D.M.C. has added a new twist to Ray Parker's famed "Ghostbuster's" theme which is being released in conjunction with the opening of "Ghostbusters II", which is set for June 16...Glady's Knight has been tapped to do the theme song to the new James bond thriller--"License To Kill"...Aetha Franklin is opening an art gallery in Detroit...Sugar Ray Leonard is joining the nation's jet set with his purchase of a home in the posh skiing resort of Aspen, Colorado.

**Is Al Green Returning To Secular Music?** No, was the word from Green backstage at this year's Grammy Awards, but some industry sources are reporting that a restless Green, who defected from secular music in favor of a career in gospel music, misses the spotlight. His latest LP, "I Get Joy," features a cut ("As Long As We're Together") that was remixed and produced by none other than Al B. Sure! In fact, A & M is playing down the spiritual while beefing up its marketing efforts on this LP. **Next week: Find out where Al Green is coming from.**

## ON THE MONEY

**Toyota Takes The Lead In Efforts To Soothe Tensions With The Minority Business Community:** The issue of the recent tensions between blacks and Japan was raised at the 20th Japan-American Conference of Mayors recently held in Los Angeles. Said Yukiyasu Togo, president and chief executive of Toyota Motor Sales USA Inc., "as we all know, there has unfortunately been tension between the United States and Japan on minority issues. Considering this, Toyota has taken the lead among Japanese companies in an effort to improve the situation." With that Togo said that Toyota is providing scholarships to the United Negro College Fund as well as beefing up its efforts to do more business with minority suppliers. Summed Togo, "we recognize our responsibility to minorities as an important part of American society."

**Llewellyn Links Up With Coors Beer:** Top black businessman J. Bruce Llewellyn is making business news again with his most recent appointment to the board of directors of Adolph Coors Co. Llewellyn, who was just in the news for his part in the \$420 million purchase of the New York Times Cable TV Network, owns the Philadelphia Coca-Cola Bottling Company (the nation's third-largest black-owned firm). Many saw the appointment as a political one on the part of Coors, which has had its share of problems with the minority community, dating back to 1984 when a boycott was called after Chairman William Coors made some statements the NAACP deemed racist. Despite this, a spokesman for the company contends that while they are receptive to the concerns of the minority community, Llewellyn was chosen strictly for his credentials.

**Marshall--Poorest High Court Justice:** Financial disclosure forms released by the Supreme Court reveal that black Justice Thurgood Marshall had the least amount of assets of the high court justices. In fact, Marshall listed his 1988 personal assets between \$50,000 to \$100,000. Of course, this is aside from his annual salary of more than \$110,000. The reports reveal not only their 1988 assets, but any outside income, as well as gifts. According to the report, Marshall was advanced \$100,000 to write his autobiography, but returned the money upon his decision not to write the book. Also noted on the report was a gift--a \$2,500 Steuben glass piece to Marshall from the Judicial Friends of New York City.

**America's fastest-rising black entrepreneurs:** Black Enterprise's latest annual listing of the top 100 black-owned industrial and service companies reveals that blacks are experiencing a notable success in non-traditional business venues. In fact, a majority of those companies appearing on the list for the first time are those branching out into high-technology fields. Though Stanley Scott of Crescent Distributing Company based in New Orleans took the highest position of any company appearing on the list for the first time, bowing in at number 12, with annual sales topping \$45 million, many of the black-owned companies recognized are competing in non-traditional markets.

**"Blueprint For Success":** The Minority Business Development Agency is sponsoring its Annual National MBE Procurement Conference--Marketplace '89 in Las Vegas, from May 29 - June 1. This year's agenda centers on primary areas of procurement opportunities and clinical remedies to support the continuation of minority small business programs. Speakers include Joshua Smith, founder and CEO of Maxima, the nation's 9th largest black-owned firm, and C. Michael Gooden whose Integrated Systems Analysts, Inc. ranks in at number 14.

**In Short:** If you're interested or looking into investing in mutual funds, the Investment Company Institute has just released an updated version of its "Guide To Mutual Funds". The 180-page directory of mutual funds also provides some practical information on how they operate. For a copy, write to The Investment Company Institute, PO Box 66140, Washington, D.C. 20035-6140...**Next week: Don't throw anything away until you read our report on the value of black memorabilia.**

## BROADWAY BOUND REPORT

### BROADWAY BOUND REPORT:

by Garland Lee Thompson

#### (FIRST YEAR ANNI-VERSARY MONTH)

#### NEW YORK DELTA ALUMNAE CHAPTER PRESENTS "HARLEM FESTIVAL OF BLACK WRITERS"

I flew into New York City and slipped into the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, New York Alumnae Chapter's day-long, presentation of "May Week (Saturday, May 20th, 1989, 1-6 PM), Harlem Festival of Black," at the Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. State Office Building, West 125 Street (at Seventh Avenue). Abiola Sinclair, writer and critic for the New York Amsterdam Newspaper and I, had arrived to witness and hear the welcoming by Joyce Chapman, president of the New York Alumnae Chapter, the literary readings by writers, Ronald Beau, Layding Kaliba and Grace Edwards Yearwood (I intend to review her new first novel, "In The Shadow Of The Peacock, published by Ballantine Books, that she is sending to me soon).

#### A MAJOR ADDRESS BY LEADING NEW YORK BLACK TV JOURNALIST, GIL NOBEL

Everyone was waiting for the main address by Gil Nobel, one of the leading Black TV journalists for years on New York City's long-running, Black community affairs TV. His theme was: "images of Black in Media: Prototypes and Stereotypes."

With him, was an impressive panel of known writers, producers and New York journalists: Joseph Bragg (a including presidential campaigns, a member of Black Citizens for Fair Media and is News Director at WRKS - KISS/FM radio station of New York), Vivian Grice is a television producer for USA Network, produces, "CALLOPE," a film program for children, ages 5 - 12 years, she acquires films from world-wide distributors and is a Media/Community Service Librarian in New York), and Joyce Hansen (a noted children/young adult writer, a creative writing instructor in the New York City Public School System, and one of her most noted works is "Which Way Freedom, 1986).

Also joining the panel, was Utrice Leid, the Managing Editor of The City Sun, the Brooklyn-based Black newspaper of metropolitan New York), Elizabeth Nunez-Harrell (Chairperson of the Humanities Division at Medgar Evers college of the City University of New York, a published scholar and who wrote her first novel, "Rock Dance" - 1986) and my old friend, Richard Wesley (who is a co-founding playwright with me of the Frank Silvera Writers Workshop of New York. He is a noted screenwriter of such films as: "Uptown Saturday Night," "Let's do It Again," and "Native Son," and his new play, "The Talented Tenth," that will re-open for the rest in the fall '89 at the Manhattan Theatre Club of New York).

I first stage managed one of Richard Wesley's plays, "Getting It To-

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gether," starring Morgan Freeman and Beverly Todd at Joseph Papp's Public Theatre in New York in 1971.

So Richard and I do go back a long time while, "Getting It Together," in the theatre in New York, as I presented the first full New York production of one of his others powerful Black street play, "The Mighty Gents," under a former title, "The last Street Play," produced by the Frank Silvera Writers' Workshop at the Urban Arts Corps Theatre in 1978.

The Wesley play was picked up by the Manhattan Theatre Club and went on to Broadway, receiving Tony nominations for my other good friends, actors, Morgan Freeman and Starletta DuPois.

I love it when friends "get over!" Morgan Freeman is "hot" now after a recent Academy Award nomination for the film, "Street Smarts" and starred in "Lean On Me," the Joe Clark story. And Starletta DuPois appeared brilliantly, recently in the new TV film remake of "A Raisin In The Sun."

**SPRING TIME IN HARLEM**  
It's spring time in Harlem and Saturday afternoon, May 20th, 1989. It was warm on West 125th Street, along the blocks, passing the famed Apollo Theatre, the 125th Street Mart, with scores of street vendors and teeming with people of color. It looks and resembles an independent and vibrant Third World country. Yes, to me it truly feels like the middle of downtown Kingston, the capital of Jamaica, with "wall to wall" Black people of every size, shape and shade of complexion.

If you've never seen and experienced such a power and the might of so many people of African descent in one place, one should do one's self a favor and do what thousands of European and Japanese tourists do yearly, and travel to New York City's Harlem, the unofficial capital of Black America. Write on, Vivian Robinson and the Harlem, Tourist Association!

I love to stand in front of or inside the Liberation Bookstore, now celebrating its 22nd anniversary on Lenox Avenue at 131st Street (according to manager, Una Mulzac), full of the people that the late great poet/playwright, Langston Hughes, volume I and II, by Arnold Rampersad.

At the Writers' Festival, I spoke to New York Delta Alumnae Chapter president, Joyce Chapman, who co-wrote the successful proposal for the Festival, presented by the sorority's ARTS & LETTERS Committee. We discussed with another friend of my, New arts patron and teacher, Alma J. Goss, the merits of the "Harlem Festival of Black Filmmaker Foundation, Epsilon Tau Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Harlem Writers Guild, Inc., New Renaissance Writers and New York Black Librarians Caucus, Inc.

When I mentioned that my family was a Delta family of long-standing, through one of my sisters, Addie Jean Haynes, she responded warmly to me immediately, who was there wearing a couple of "hats" (a reporter from the Portland Observer & founder of the Frank Silvera Writers Workshop). Write on, Delta sister.

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