

ENTERTAINMENT



Lisa Collins

BEHIND THE SCENES

Tim Reid Rides Again: Actor/producer Tim Reid and actress-wife Daphne Maxwell-Reid have once again come up winners with their new CBA series-- "Snoops" to premiere on Friday nights this fall. "Snoops" is a mystery drama starring the two as an offbeat professional couple often caught up in crime and intrigue. He plays a renowned criminology professor whose advice is often sought by the police, and she is head of protocol for the State Department, but with an insatiable curiosity with regards to crime and intrigue. Of course, Tim Reid will double as executive producer. **Other new shows featuring blacks** include "New Attitude" which stars Brewster's Place co-star Phyllis Strickney and Denitra Vance; "homeroom", which revolves around the life of a teacher in an inner city school; and "Family Matters", starring Reginald VelJohnson (who had a co-starring role in "Die Hard") and **Telma Hopkins**, is a spin-off of Perfect Strangers. Hopkins, who teamed this summer with former pals Tony Orlando and Joyce Vincent Wilson for a reunion tour of Tony Orlando & Dawn, will work her concert bookings around the show. Fact is, she says the reunion tour, which came up out of the blue, "was much bigger than we thought it would be. It's amazing to me that all these years later, people are still coming to see us." The tour, in fact, is booked up through the end of the year. Despite all that, Hopkins is excited about the series in which she portrays a sister with an infant, who moves in with her sister. "I always play the sophisticated uptown kind of character. I've never been seen as the woman next door-- the moms or the wife." Hopkins, who loves children and reared her real-life son alone, says he is thrilled about the opportunity to nurture a child on screen... **Among the shows not returning next season** are "A Man Called Hawk" and "The Robert Guillaume Show." Other shows you won't see include the proposed "Coming To America" pilot, as well as Jackee Harry's spin-off based on Sandra from "227". The latter comes as a real surprise to Harry as the show received high marks in the ratings.

What's next for Miami Vice's Phillip Michael Thomas: Actor Phillip Michael Thomas' first acting project after Miami Vice will be in a TV movie called "False Witness." Cosby star Phyllicia Rashad will star in the movie about a New Orleans assistant DA who solves, with her detective boyfriend, the attempted murder of a TV talk-show host.

Hanging Out: A beaming Lionel and Brenda Richie and Quincy Jones were among those invited to share in the 63rd birthday celebration of jazz legend, Miles Davis, at Mr. Chow's Restaurant in Beverly Hills. A Crew from "60 Minutes" filmed the occasion for an upcoming profile that is set to coincide with the release of Davis' autobiography this September...The stars came out for the annual BRE Convention in Los Angeles. On hand for the annually held convention of the nation's black disc jockeys were Al B. Sire, Kool Moe Dee, jazzy Jeff & The Fresh Prince, Quincy Jones, Miles Jaye, Stephanie Mills, actress Lynn Whitfield, Atlantic Starr, Take Six Vesta Williams, and the Jacksons...Even Michael Jackson showed to pick up top honors at the annual BRE Music Awards Show...Speaking of the Jacksons, so where's Janet?

While A&M insists that the album is due to be released soon, there is still no definite release date.

Short Takes: Sad to report the passing of noted jazz pianist Phineas Newborn, Jr....And it's nobody's business but... while Whitney Houston and Eddie Murphy have been seen around LA together lately, close sources say that the two are no more than friends...Next week: Find out what Apollonia really thinks of Vanity.

ON THE MONEY

Just Look At What Money Can Buy: The Los Angeles Inner City Cultural Theater has just purchased a 327-seat Movie theater in LA, and executive director C. Bernard Jackson has offered to name the theater after any benefactor who contributes \$2 million. Of course, that's one million for repairs and the other million for an endowment. He's hoping the offer will peak the interest of those like Eddie Murphy, Bill Cosby or Oprah Winfrey. So far, no one's taken the bait. The center bought the theater in order to capitalize on shows with long-running potential whose runs are currently cut short due to a demand for space.

Paving The Way: "There's no such thing as fear. I have no fear. You know it has to be done and you do it. You win because you do, and there's no such thing as not winning." It is just that philosophy that has gotten Dorothy Brunson where she is. Today at 51, Brunson is one of the most powerful black women in radio broadcasting. Her company, Brunson Communications, based in Baltimore, Maryland, owns three AM stations, a cable-TV franchise, and posts annual earnings of more than \$5 million. Said Brunson, "through the process of emerging you recognize it takes money to be in business, it takes money to make money and that whatever the price is, you've got to pay it if you want to be in business and win. Right now, we're going to be in about \$10-12 million dollars worth of debt, and I mean it's just debt you've got to pay. Ninety-five percent of this in terms of the public is fun. Behind the scenes, it's a real business and it's not a lot of fun if you can't keep your advertisers happy any deliver the kinds of ratings that are necessary. You'd be surprised at how many people don't know what that game is all about." Growing up poor, she yearned to be rich. Today, she wants even more. "I'm a long-range planner. My dream is to be ABC or NBC. I want to own theme parks, publishing houses, satellites in the sky, video distributions...buy up a few record companies--who knows?"...Meanwhile, Rev. Jesse Jackson's Rainbow Coalition plans to hold hearings across the USA to investigate ways to incorporate minorities into cable TV. He also urged cable operators to expand the 23-million home subscriber base of Black Entertainment Television, "because it offers an alternative view."

Foreclosure At Nation's Only Black-owned Theater To Run First-Run Movies: Economic Resources Corp of Lynwood (ERC), the largest creditor of the Baldwin Theater in Los Angeles, --the only black-owned theater in the country to run first-run movies like (Indiana Jones & The Last Crusade) was recently forced to foreclose on the facility, which has been beset by a series of financial problems. Offers of financial support from nearby community residents and purchase bids apparently were not enough. However, under the ERC, the theater will continue to be black-owned.

In-Short: Actress Robin Givens has recently purchased a home above the Sunset Strip for \$1.95 million. Due to close escrow with in the next week or so, the house features three bedrooms and four baths in 4,344 square feet, with large interior spaces and a pool...**Rhythm & Business**, a monthly entertainment trade magazine that was trying its way into the mainstream of general market magazines has gone out of business...Black bankers called for more minority executives at an annual meeting of the National Association of Urban Bankers recently held in Los Angeles. It appears that increased competition from foreign banks, the growth in information technology, and the effects of bank deregulation have combined to make the industry more competitive but with slower job growth. Just 4-5% of all management positions are held by blacks...Next week: Marla Gibbs expands into \$5 million arts and entertainment center.

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