



# ENTERTAINMENT



## BEHIND THE SCENES

Lisa Collins

L.A. is still jamming...It was the ultimate goodbye party for outgoing Laker Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. Between 2,000 - 2,400 guests jammed a converted Los Angeles Sports Club facility for the star-studded festivities. Among them were Natalie Cole and her fiancé, producer Andre Fischer, Joan Van Ark, Chevy Chase, and Bryon Allen...Later that weekend, Solar records chief Dick Griffey helped to launch the "First Annual CFA Benefit: Today's Child, Tomorrow's Hope," on BET television to benefit the children of Southern Africa. Giffey was joined by Louis Gossett, Run DMC, Sinbad, Holly Robinson, Sheena Easton, Hal Williams, James Ingram, Melba Moore, Sheryl Lee Ralph, recording artists Tony, Toni, Tony and host of others...But the most star-studded event of all was the Los Angeles premiere of the new Spike Lee film, "Do The Right Thing." Lee, himself, was on hand to greet the packed audience of industry people and celebrities that included Eddie Murphy, golden Girls' Bea Arthur, Robert Guillaume, Lynn Whitfield, Keenan Ivory Wayans, Tim & Daphne Reid, Jasmine Guy, Kadeem Hardison, Debbie Allen, MCA exec Sidney Sheinberg, Blair Underwood, and Denzel Washington, who is all set to star in Lee's next film, "Love Supreme." Co-stars Ossie Davis, Ruby Dee, Paul Benjamin, Danny Aiello, and leading lady Rosie Perez were also on hand for the premiere that was received with mixed reaction from the crowd. Spike Lee greeted the crowd and then directly addressing Eddie Murphy said, "Eddie I love you despite what people say in the papers, and I'd like to see you afterwards, if it's all right with you." The big pow-wow took place during the reception that followed.

**Do You Know This Group?** "The black audience mainly knows us by our album covers, while the pop audience doesn't really know what we look like."

Today, that's part of what Wayne Lewis says his group Atlantic Starr is trying to change with the release of their tenth LP, "We're Moving Up," a new record label, and a more aggressive public relations approach. Warner Brothers is betting that it won't be that difficult for the group who is coming off their biggest LP ever--"All in the Name of Love." Newest member 21-year old Porscha Martin believes it is the music itself that will give them the edge in forging a superstar image. "The biggest thing is that the music is not trendy. It's just good music. They write from the heart." Well, it's those heartfelt rhythms that the group, founded by the Lewis brothers--Wayne, David and Jonathan (along with Joseph Phillips), are banking on, in the hopes of getting "some recognition for the time and effort we put into the music. We hope to be at the Grammy's next year accepting best album of the year award"...Meanwhile, former Atlantic Starr lead, Sharon Bryant is laying tracks for her solo debut on Wing Records...In other recording news, CBS Records just shipped "So Happy"--the latest LP from Eddie Murphy. The album marks Eddie Murphy's singing debut, and from what is being said about the single "Put Your Mouth On Me"--it's good...And top rap group, Public Enemy has announced that they are temporarily disbanding. This move coming after the flak that came when a group member's anti-Semitic statements provoked charges of racism. In taking the action, group leader Chuck D. said that he felt the statements could reflect unfavorably on the rest of the group. Public Enemy's most recent album, "It Takes A Nation of Millions To Hold Us Back," is now nearing one million in sales. Ironically enough, their latest single "Fight The Power" is showcased in Spike Lee's new movie, "Do The Right Thing," which focuses in on race relations and bigotry. Next seek: Sinbad talks about his own, unique brand of comedy.

## ON THE MONEY

She's The Boss--"I think that for anyone to be successful, it's largely a matter of being smart and being at the right place at the right time with the right idea". For Barbara Lamont, the right time was 1989, the right place was New Orleans, and the right idea was the ownership and operation of a commercial TV station. In fact, WCCL (Channel 49) signed on the air just four months ago. But while Lamont is black, reported one local columnist, few of her competitors believe that WCCL's bottom line ever will be. However, just six weeks after her on-air debut, WCCL pulled a two point share in the market. With the other independents at 6 and 7, Lamont is pleased with the showing. Fact is, at 52, Barbara Lamont is by all accounts the only black woman to own and operate a television station in the United States. "Broadcasting has traditionally been a very discriminatory industry and we've had to build a generation of people who were able to get the training necessary. This is my 39th year of broadcasting. I've worked all over the world, The job I had in Nigeria in 1982 running the network could not have happened in this country due to race and sex discrimination. Broadcasting is still 99.9 percent white male." However, said Lamont, "I like where I am and what's happened to me," even though she admits it is a tremendous responsibility. "It's just like fourteen babies at one time. I wake up in the middle of the night, and rush to the set to see if we're still on the air."

**Windfall for Black Entertainment Television:** Bob Johnson has good reason for smiling these days having just received a significant rare increase from cable operators that will over the next five-six years should provide his BET network with over \$60 million. This development comes on the heels of the recent opening of a new state-of-the-art facility in Washington D.C., and the announcement of some big advertising pacts with sponsors like Procter & Gamble. Johnson sees all that's happening "in recognition of the fact that BET is becoming the primary source of entertainment for many black cable households throughout the country." Said Johnson, "we currently serve over 23 million homes and within the next three years or so we expect to be in excess of 30 million households across the nation. Robert Johnson, who started BET ten years ago with \$500,000, says that today, his network is conservatively worth in excess of \$100 million. Come September, Johnson, says, viewers will see a vastly improved BET. "We had to get the revenue from the operators we felt we deserved. BET had been laboring under a fee from the operators of less than 2.5c, while other networks have been getting from 15-20c. So we had to program only what we could afford to program. Now with this new rate increase you're going to see a more heavily marketed BET, a better programmed BET, and I think a BET that's going to have a bigger impact on the black consumer market."

**Black Woman Among "Chosen Six" Women Of Enterprise:** Avon Products Inc and the Small Business Administration presented their annual Women Of Enterprise Awards recently in New York City to women who've overcome personal adversity to make a way for themselves in the business world. Among the chosen six, was a black woman, 39-year old Juliet Welker of Welker Real Estate in Philadelphia. Among her biggest accomplishments to date was becoming one of the first black women to sell real estate in the city's ritzy Art Museum area. Said Welker, "it's important never to hold a negative thought. You just have to keep going in the direction you've charted."

**In Short:** An extensive report on the black consumer just released from an independent research firm reveals that blacks make up a large and loyal market that could prove to be most profitable for companies that put forth the effort to tap the estimated \$240 billion in yearly income received by blacks...Next week: find out just what it costs to maintain a "star" image.

## BROADWAY BOUND REPORT

### SELECTION JUDGE PANEL-IST FOR DRAMA ENTRIES FOR 1989 OREGON BOOK AWARDS

I recently received the following confirmation letter from the Oregon Institute of Literary Arts regarding the 1989 Oregon Book Awards:

Oregon Institute of Literary Arts

June 26, 1989

Mr. Garland Lee Thompson  
Arts and Entertainment columnist  
Portland Observer  
525 N.E. Killingsworth St.  
Portland, Oregon 97211

Dear Garland,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of Oregon Institute of Literary Arts, I would like to thank you for agreeing to act as a judge of the Drama entries for the 1989 Oregon Book Awards. Your fellow judges will be Kathleen Worley of the Reed College Drama Dept., and Michael Griggs from New Rose Theatre.

I am enclosing some general information on the Institute as well as a copy of the application guidelines and a complete list of the entries. Please double check the collection of manuscripts against the list, and let me know if, by chance, any scripts are missing.

As you know, you will be judging work in only the Drama category of the Book Awards. The sole criteria for selection, as stated in the guidelines, is literary merit. As a panel, we request that you make a determination of a "short list" of not less than three or more than five finalists. From this list of finalists, one entry will be determined by you as a winner. Winners will receive \$1,000 and a silver medallion which will be awarded at an "Academy Awards" style ceremony to be held at the Berg Swan Auditorium of the Oregon Art Institute on October 3, 1989.

I will be in contact with you through July and early August to check on your progress in reading, and hope that we can schedule a meeting to draw conclusions regarding our finalists and winners in the last half of August. In any event, the Institute will need to announce finalists in all categories, including drama, no later than September 5th. Should you have any questions regarding the process please feel to call me.

Once again, you have our heartfelt thanks for agreeing to work with us on this project. Your generosity toward the literary community of Oregon is greatly appreciated. I look forward to working with you on what I'm sure will be the most successful Oregon Book Award event to date.

Sincerely,

Karen S. Reyes  
Executive Director

(The Board of Trustees of Oregon Institute of Literary Arts is pleased to announce that four Oregon Book Awards will be awarded in 1989 for works published or performed in the following fields:

FICTION, including the novel, novella, and collected short stories.

CREATIVE NONFICTION, including biography, history and natural history, as well as collected essays and criticism.

POETRY, including chapbooks of over 20 pages in length.

DRAMA, including one-act plays, radio and television plays and one-person productions.

AWARD AMOUNT - Each of the four awards will be in the amount of \$1,000.

ELIGIBILITY - Works must be written by an author who is a resident

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of Oregon.

Works to be considered must have an original publication date between April 1, 1988, and March 31, 1989. In the case of playscripts, the script must have had its first performance, either in a full production, staged workshop or public reading, during the same period.

Self-published works are eligible providing they meet all other criteria. Anthologies and translations are not eligible.

Single titles authored by more than one individual are acceptable. In the event of the selection of a single title authored by more than one person, the award will be shared equally among the authors.

TIMELINE - All entries must be received by the Institute no later May 31, 1989. Awards will be announced at the Oregon Book Awards Ceremony to be held in Portland in October 1989.

SELECTION CRITERIA - The sole criterion for selection will be literary merit.

SELECTION PROCESS - Each eligible work will be read by a panel of three jurors. Jurors will compile a list of up to five finalists in each category from which one winner will be chosen. Jurors have the option of not making an award in any category where the submissions are judged inadequate. In all cases, the decisions of the judges are final.

NOMINATIONS - Published work in the areas of Fiction, Creative Non-fiction, Poetry and Drama may be nominated by the author, publisher or a member of the public. However, each nomination must be accompanied by an Entry form and three copies of the work, in published form. Copies submitted for consideration are not returnable.

SPECIAL AWARDS - The Institute also sponsors two special awards to recognize significant contributions to Oregon literature. The \$1,000 awards are presented annually at the Oregon Book Awards Ceremony.

Completed applications and information inquiries should be mailed to:

Oregon Institute Of Literary Arts, Inc.  
P.O. Box 10608, Portland, Oregon 97210  
Phone: (503) 223-3604

**NO BLACK AND MINORITIES WRITERS HAVE APPLIED FOR 1989 OREGON BOOK AWARDS**

I am printing this complete application form for all of you writers, who have not heard of this very important award and cash prize that is presented annually here in this state to support the literary artists, who reside in Oregon. I also wish to note that no African American writers have applied for these award categories.

We must change this during the next fiscal year (1989-90) of the Oregon Institute Of Literary Arts. We now have the formation of the African American Writers Workshop, founded at the Portland Urban League office, to assist our Black and minorities playwrights, novelists and poets in their efforts to develop their craft and publish.

We had to create a viable Black and women writers' development program in New York City in the early seventies that is now in its sixteenth year. And as the founder of the Frank Silvera Writers' Workshop in Harlem, we just won the 1989 New York Village Voice Newspaper's 34th Annual Obies Award (and cash prize of \$500.00) for contribution to the development of new emerging playwrights. We can do some of the same here in this city and state, also if we continue to develop the workshop process as we did in New York. Write on!

**COLUMBIA THEATER COMPANY CALLS FOR ORIGINAL SCRIPTS FOR 1990**

The Columbia Theater Company is seeking original scripts for its series: "Not for Tuesdays Only - A Festival of Original Plays, June 18 -

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July 28, 1990. The entry date is post-marked September 30, 1989. Send your new scripts to Columbia Theater Company, 2021 S.E. Hawthorne Blvd., Portland, Oregon 97214, (503) 232-7005 weekdays. The guidelines are: send a self addressed/stamped #10 envelope to Columbia Theater Company for copy of Festival guidelines. Entrants must reside in Oregon or Clark County, Wa. Sponsored in part by a grant from the Oregon Arts Commission.