

ENTERTAINMENT

BROADWAY BOUND REPORT

THE BITE

KOIN-TV is proud to again sponsor THE BITE, A TASTE OF PORTLAND, when it returns to Tom McCall Waterfront Park for the sixth year on August 11th, 12th & 13th. The open-air festival features samplings of the finest food, wine and music in the Northwest.

Festival-goers have chance to taste a variety of gourmet delicacies from 30 of Portland's most popular restaurants. A highlight of THE BITE is the Oregon Wine pavilion which offers award-winning wines from 20 Oregon wineries.



BEHIND THE SCENES

Lisa Collins

Anita Baker & Nancy Wilson Team Up For Tune: When Anita Baker heard her childhood idol Nancy Wilson was preparing material for her upcoming album, she penned an original tune and sent it to her. Wilson was so impressed by the gesture and the song (entitled "Fairytale"), that she insisted Baker record it with her. And so the two recently got together in a New York recording studio. By all accounts the result of their vocal collaborations is awesome. The tune will be featured on Wilson's upcoming album on CBS records (due out sometime this fall)...After the session, Baker headed back to Detroit where she was slated to record a duet with Howard Hewitt. All work aside, friends maintain that the first priority for the super songstress, who suffered a miscarriage earlier this year, is getting pregnant.

Disney Produces Black Musical For TV: Production is underway for "Polly", a remake of Disney's 1960 classic, "Pollyanna". Ten year old Cosby star Keshia Knight Pulliam will star in the film about a little girl whose love overcomes great odds to make a difference in a small, Alabama town. The musical which is being directed by actress/choreographer Debbie, will also star Allen's sister, Phyllicia Rashad, veteran actor Brock Peters, and Gone With The Wind's Butterfly McQueen, who is 86. The two-hour musical, which will include seven original numbers blending R&B with gospel will most likely air on NBC's fall lineup.

Smokey Robinson Makes Acting Debut: All-time R&B melody man, Smokey Robinson is all set for his dramatic acting debut on NBC's new daytime serial, "Generations". Robinson will portray a Chicago commodities trader who while sharing a jail cell with framed Generation's co-star, Kristoff St. John (who plays Adam), tells how cocaine ruined his life. Robinson is featured in two episodes of the show set to air August 7-8. According to the show's producer, Sally Sussman, there could be future appearances for the Motown singing star.

On The Home Front: Members of New Edition and Guy will have plenty of time to think about the actions that led to their being kicked off the Superfest tour, and left one man dead. Both groups were sent home for the summer, as sources close to the groups say that they have been told to keep a low profile...Actress Rae Dawn Chong (daughter of comedian Tommy Chong) and actor C. Thomas Howell tied the knot. This coming on the heels of reports that Chong dumped star baseball pitcher Ron Darling in order to reconcile with Howell (her former boyfriend).

On The Town...Robert Townsend, Shari Belafonte (with steady Sam Behrens--formerly of General Hospital fame), and O.J. Simpson joined Bruce Willis and Billy Crystal and a host of other celebrities for the gala premiere of "When Harry Met Sally"... And Lou Gossett and his wife Cyndi James Gossett were among those who recently turned up at a reception for California congressman Ron Dellums. Others in attendance were Beverly Todd, Sheryl Lee Ralph, and Denise Nicolas.

Short Takes: Word has it that Eddie Murphy will reteam with Nick Nolte for "48 Hours II", which will begin production next January (1990) in Las Vegas. Meanwhile, Murphy has wrapped production on his latest, "Harlem Nights", which is due out sometime around Thanksgiving. Singer Barry White is due out with a new album sometime next month...Actress Mary Alice won't be returning as dorm director at Hillman College this fall on NBC's hit series, "A Different World". Coach Walter Oakes (Sinbad) will take over those duties as the dormitory goes coed...Next week: a behind-the-scenes look at the making of "Ghost Dad".

by Garland Lee Thompson

"DO THE RIGHT THING," AND SEE SPIKE LEE'S HOT NEW FILM!

Alright, movie fans, do yourself a favor, as actor, Ossie Davis (he plays "de mayor" in the film), says, "Do The Right Thing" and get off your "couch-potato-behind-the-times-self," and go see Spike Lee's "cookin' & write on," new flick, "Do The Right Thing," while it's still in town!

It is currently playing in two Portland moviehouses (that's got to be a first for a Black movie), the Guild and the 82nd Street Theatre (of all places)! If you saw Spike Lee's two other powerful films, "She Got To Have It," and "School Daze," you can call yourself a "together and dead-on-it-type" moviegoer, film aficionado, and will have something to tell your grandkids about. "Ya mon," just how "cool," you were in the "ass-end" of the eighties!

IN OTHER CITIES THEATREGOERS DID "THE RIGHT THING"

In New York, the Black press has been shouting about the fact that in spite of paragraphs of prior warnings from some White movie critics, Spike Lee's brilliant and thought provoking new film, "Do The Right Thing," did not inspire instant street riots (some of these silly press people are so "tired" and behind the times). The Universal Studio release, opened in New York and in other cities without an exchange of any "bad mouth" or dirty stares. In its initial three days out on 353 screens, its cash intake reached \$3.5 million. Universal Studio (and I know Ned Tannen from my old Hollywood days, who is now president of the Studio, is very pleased), the company that put up the \$6 million which insured the making of this outrageously advanced Black film, announced that the field reports are that the film was a strong magnet in African American, White and racially mixed neighborhoods (I caught it at the 82nd Street Theatre, because I needed to see the film at a matinee, and that neighborhood is not exactly what I would call "racially mixed, but maybe it is).

In three days on some 49-screens in "the Big Apple" territory, its cash flow averaged \$13,714 per theatre (now that's serious money for a Black film of this un-Hollywood-type). This is mind-blowing music to Ned Tannen and Universal's financial ear (I only wish a company from our community was doing it and counting the money). It insures the landmark new film and its hot young actor/director/producer and his team of young movie-makers, big success in a "cold-blooded" American film industry and distribution market. Howsomer, people like New York columnist, Joe Klein's "write" hand really got caught out on a bias limb. He is quoted in his column: "The film is irresponsible and could ignite violence and could lead to (check this out) the defeat of New York mayoral candidate, the current Black NY borough president of Manhattan, my old friend, David Dinkins. Well, eat ya heart out, Joe, because it didn't cause any rioting, just lines of interested Black, Hispanic, White, young and old moviegoers!

In "Do The Right Thing," Spike Lee clearly outlines a fairly broad panorama of the pathology of African people and give our some insight into the European (Italian-American) psychic, as it pertains to their working among Blacks neighborhoods (Sal's Famous Pizzeria is the most vibrant

business in the community). We also see a Korean couple operate a vegetable fruit stand, which is very true-to-life in New York today. It points out the economical slavery as a serious problem in the African community. A Puerto Rican brother has a homemade mobile ices stand just like it is throughout the city, but not a single Black business is featured or exists. Lee does not glorify the sick-the 70's. He just "lays it out there for us to observe.

The "greek chorus" (a group of actors commenting on the major action) of the movie, displays a line of "brothers," broken and disillusioned, like I have seen for years in Harlem, Brooklyn and all over New York City. And he presents the young brothers, directionless, in a typical Black community in Brooklyn, New York. The older brothers, such as "De Mayor," played beautifully by my dear friend, Ossie Davis, is a homeless old wino-head, but his is "rich" in character, like "the old Black man" in the famous film, "Black Orpheus. Other older men, who should represent wisdom and a foundation for the community, sit on the corner, just as we have seen for years, talking "crap" and "BS," about women and feeling-literally their penises, the only part of their manhood that has not been "ripped off!" Hollywood could have never made this film, so I know why "the French cinema crowd" at the Cannes Film Festival had their minds "blown away" by this important Black film statement of African American art, rhythm and form. Like jazz, it is unique and indigeous in its total scope.

When a young Black brother called, "Buggin Out," (a fine young actor, who has worked with Lee in "School Daze" and at the Negro Ensemble Company, Juan Carlos and I can't remember the correct spelling of his last name) complains that "Sal, the Italian owner," doesn't have any pictures of Africans heroes on his all-Italian "Wall of Fame," "Sal" tells him to create his own store and put up his own "Wall of Fame." "Buggin Out" "freaks out," and threatens to lead a boycott against the place. He becomes the militant in the movie. He is the catalyst for the anger and the need to self-actualization in the frustration of the Black community, but is not to be taken seriously because by his very name, he's a psycho, someone to held up to ridicule, until the fateful moment of truth when the "real deal goes down" in the climax of the film. I'll let you go see it to dig this heavy piece of business on Spike's screen. Write on.

In the absence of strong role models, the young brother, like the character, "Radio Raheem," hides from reality by blasting their "ghetto boxes," as we have all seen and heard in our Black communities from one end of this country to the other. A major point in the film is that the filmmaker plays a major role, "Mookie," the pizza deliveryman at the pizza shop, and the pathology of the Black community is thoroughly seen when "Sal, the White owner, makes passes at "Mookie's" sister, which can be seen as a metaphor for the famous "Tawana Brawley case" (The young Black girl, who accused a group of White men of raping her in upstate New York) There are so many other little subtles shading and "colors" in this piece of fresh new work that I just have say, "Do The Right Thing," check in out! Write on, Spike Lee and company.

Sixteen Vendors Will Offer Array of Food

Jazz and food have had a positive relationship for years at the Mt. Hood Festival of Jazz and 1989 is not exception as 16 vendors this year offer the best of their restaurant menus at the Food Faire.

Located at the opposite end of the Mt. Hood Community college stadium's main stage, the Food Faire caters to the hungry and the thirsty among the thousands of jazz fans who troop through the turnstiles. The 1989 festival is Friday, Saturday and Sunday, August 4, 5, and 6.

One thing's for sure at this annual jazz event: The hungry have much

more to choose from than basic burgers and paltry pizza. What keeps the jazz fans happy when hunger pangs strike is the variety the vendors offer. And that goes for beverages as well as food.

Oscar Mayer, sponsor of this year's Jazz Workshop, brings the all-American hot dog to the Festival site along with Jello pudding and soft drinks.

The Food Faire also caters to other tastes with both tap and bottled beer and a fine selection of wines. patrons are not allowed to bring alcoholic beverages onto the site. Glass containers are also not permitted.

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ON THE MONEY

Black Investment Bankers Forge New Ground: "They don't teach this in school", said 37-year old Napoleon Brandford III. "It is the last bastion of white male supremacy. But it doesn't take a rocket scientist to be an investment banker, it's just basic math. The key to being a successful is hard work." It is a premise that he and his two partners, Calvin Grigsby, 43, and Arthur Powell, 44, have put into practice with the establishment of Grigsby Brandford Powell, Inc.--the USA's largest black-owned investment firm. In fact, the firm ranks No. 20 among US investment bankers and its fast gaining a reputation for competing head on with Wall Street. The firm was founded by Calvin Grigsby, a securities lawyer in 1979, with startup capital of \$100,000. Today, the investment firm has a full-time staff of 28, 10 offices spread throughout the country and capital of \$5 million dollars. But Brandford is most proud of the fact that the company is 100% black-owned, with no outside investors, and no debt. According to Brandford, their secret is hard work. "We may not be the smartest individuals, but we can outwork anybody by 25%. In so doing, we make ourselves indispensable to our clients." Some of their major projects have included the new United Terminal at Chicago's O'Hare airport, a \$100 million financing for the city of Compton, and the refinancing of a \$133 million bond offering used to build a prison in Alameda County, just outside of San Francisco. "Our goal", said Brandford, "is to be the first successful financial institution that is global in scope. It's really sad to think that we, as a race of black people, do not have one successful black financial institution in the world. That's one of the reasons why we have fallen behind other ethnic groups. Our goal is to build an institution that will allow us to build economic development in our own community".

New Plan To Raise Funds For Minority-Owned Companies: Sen. Dale Bumpers of Arkansas plans to introduce an amendment that will enable Minority Small Business Investment Companies to raise \$70 million annually. The funds would be provided through government-guaranteed debt issues for deals involving minority group members as owners. Under the plan, companies could float debentures through Wall Street, and the debt would be backed by the Small Business Administration.

And What Does Crime Pay? "Dealing drugs is very profitable," said one LAPD narcotics detective. "The reason that there are so many people in it is that there is such a large profit to be made. If you stop to figure that one gram sells for anywhere from \$100-125, and there are 454 grams to a pound, that's \$45,400 for a pound of cocaine. Multiply that figure by 2.2 which represents a kilo, and you're almost at \$100,000. A kilo on the street can be purchased for about \$9,000-11,000. That's at 100% purity. So, these gangbangers are making lots of money. So much so that these kids have set up a network, franchising basic areas in south-central Los Angeles as well as all over the country, and as one person gets ripped off, someone else is there to take his place."...And if the lifestyles of these kids aren't flashy enough, their funerals are. At a recent Crips funeral, the procession included over two dozen white limousines, as well as a police escort of a dozen or more black-and-white as well as unmarked cars. The pallbearers donned powder blue tuxedos and a stream of elaborate blue wreaths covered the powder blue casket. The deceased, however, had been gunned down in a drive-by shooting, and perhaps that is real price of crime. **In Short:** Reports are that superstar Michael Jackson offered his sister LaToya \$12 million not to publish her book about what it was like growing up in the Jackson household. When she rebuffed his offer, word has it he put in a bid of \$84 million to buy the book: publishing company outright...Next week: a look at the state of America's vanishing black doctors and the high cost of good health.