



ENTERTAINMENT



BEHIND- THE-SCENES

by Lisa Collins



Spike Lee Snubbed By Motion Picture Academy? Filmmaker Spike Lee whose "Do The Right Thing" was the talk of the film circles last year, was all but snubbed by this year's academy award nominations, receiving just a "best screenplay" nod for the controversial film. (Most felt a bid for "best director" was assured). Word from "40 Acres & A Mule Filmworks" and Lee himself—who intends to be on hand for the ceremonies, was simply this: "we think that we deserved more" . . . Meanwhile, Denzel Washington, who stars in Lee's next film, received the nod for best supporting actor for his part in "Glory," while Morgan Freeman, as expected, capped the nomination for "best actor" for his work in "Driving Miss Daisy" . . . In other award news, Soul II Soul topped the list of those vying for this year's Soul Train Awards, scheduled to take place in Los Angeles on March 14. Don Cornelius arrived two hours late to the brunch held annually at the Beverly Hills Hotel. (Close friend Barry White read off the nominations). One of the first orders of business for Cornelius, however, was a public apology to Capitol's

Step Johnson as his top rap artist --M.C. Hammer failed to gain any nominations. Cornelius said he had nothing to do with it. Nonetheless, Janet Jackson, Bobby Brown, Luther Vandross, Eric Gable and Quincy Jones nabbed three nominations each. Quincy Jones appears to be the "music man of the hour" as he is also slated for a special tribute that night . . . And Lee Bailey of Radioscope and his fashionplate wife, Diane, have scheduled a special radio salute to Jones for his musical contributions.

Hearts For Ella: Ella Fitzgerald was recently feted with a star-studded tribute, billed "Hearts For Ella" at Lincoln Center in New York. On hand for the festive occasion was Lena Horne, Manhattan Transfer, Mayor David Dinkins, Cab Calloway, and Bobby McFerrin. The 71-year old ailing performer was helped to the stage, but once on it, she knew just what to do as she treated the packed house to an impromptu version of one of her all-time favorites—"Honey-suckle Rose." Proceeds from the gala went to benefit the American Heart Association . . . Speaking of charity, a date with Ray Parker Jr. cost one single lady \$1,900 at the Fourth Annual Bachelor Auction held by Big Brothers of Greater Los Angeles. Parker was one of 45 celebrity bachelors who paraded down a runway while over 600 women shouted out their bids. Way to go, Ray! . . . (As to rumors of a serious romance between heretofore good friends, Cree Summer and castmate Kadeem Hardison, Cree came down with the flu and had to rearrange her appointment to talk with me, but I promise to have some answer for your next week).

"227" To Go On Hiatus? Among the latest changes at NBC-TV, is the removal of "227" from their prime-time Saturday night lineup. At press time, the series was slated to return sometime later in the season. The official reason for the change in programming, which is scheduled to go into effect during the first week of March, was to try out some new TV series.

Short Takes: Sammy Davis Jr. remains hospitalized suffering from a recurring bout of the throat cancer that was detected last fall . . . Ike Turner, former husband of Superstar Tina Turner, was sentenced to four years in state prison for his latest cocaine-related conviction. Turner will have to serve about 18 months before he is eligible for parole . . . Our congratulations go out to 16-year old, brainy Cosby co-star, Tempest Bledsoe, who recently became a finalist for a National Merit Scholarship. Bledsoe maintains a straight-A average.

Next Week: Actor Courtney Vance generates excitement in the upcoming "Hunt For Red October," and we'll have all the highlights of the recent Grammy festivities.

Stephanie Mills at Seattle Paramount March 7th

White Rose Ltd. is proud to announce the appearance of Stephanie Mills at the Paramount Theatre for one show on Wednesday, March 7th.

On the boards since the age of 15, when she won the starring role of "Dorothy" in the Broadway production of "The Wiz," Stephanie Mills is a remarkable talent. This tiny lady can belt out a song with the lung power of someone twice her size and make any song, and any audience, her own.

Leaving the company of "The Wiz" after five years of critical acclaim and SRO crowds, Stephanie attacked the Pop and R & B charts with the same fiery enthusiasm she brought to her Broadway role. She started out with "What Cha Gonna Do With My Lovin'" in 1979 and then hit it big with the million-selling "Never Knew Love Like This Before." And her hits just keep on coming.

One thing's for certain, when Stephanie Mills hits the stage at the Paramount March 7th, you'll "Feel the Fire."

Tickets for Stephanie Mills's single performance at the Paramount Theatre are on sale now at Ticketmaster, Frederick and Nelson, Tower Video and the Paramount ticket office. All seats are reserved at \$21.50 (subject to convenience charge). Tickets may be charged at 628-0888.



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TWICE A WINNER--Rap star Young MC won a Grammy Award recently as the "Best New Rap Artist" just a few days after the announcement that he had been signed to write and perform a series of national radio commercials for Pepsi-Cola. Pepsi-Cola officials say the first of the commercials, titled, "The Choice," are set to debut on Urban Contemporary and Top 40 stations nationwide and will feature the young artist drawing amusing parallels between his choice of soft drinks and other choices in life. Young MC won the Grammy Award with the song, "Bust a Move."



Vocalist and Entertainer Marilyn McCoo to "Conduct" the McDonald's World's Largest Concert

Marilyn McCoo's talented voice will be one of more than eight million united by song on Thursday, March 8th during the "McDonald's World's Largest Concert" to be broadcast on PBS beginning at 1 p.m. (EST). Children from around the world will participate in the concert, the centerpiece of the Music Educators National Conference (MENC) held during March as part of the organization's celebration of "Music In Our Schools."

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Yukon Jack Arm Wrestling Championships Set for March 6-8 at Champions in Portland

Portland-area men and women will have the opportunity to compete for 41,000 in prize money and at the same time help raise funds for a worthy cause at the Yukon Jack Arm Wrestling Championships, set for March 6-8 at Champions in Portland.

The competition, which is open to everyone 21 years of age and older, will benefit the Portland Chapter of the Multiple Sclerosis Society. Each \$7 entry fee, for which competitors receive a free official souvenir T-shirt, will be donated to M.S. Yukon Jack will make a matching donation of all entry fees collected for the event.

The double-elimination tournament, which gets underway at 8:30 p.m. sharp (with registration beginning at 7:00 p.m.),

is supervised by the American Arm Wrestling Association and features four separate divisions. There will be three men's weight classes--160 lbs. and under, 161-190, and 191 and over--and one women's open division.

Winning competitors on March 6 and March 7 will meet in the regional finals on March 8. Overall winners will go home \$200 richer, while second place finishers will earn \$50 apiece. Trophies will also be awarded to all winners and runners-up.

The Portland event is part of a series of Yukon Jack Arm Wrestling Championships designed to find the finest arm wrestlers in America. The national championships are scheduled to take place in Chicago in April, 1990, with the winner in each division earning \$1,500.

School Readies Annual Multi-Cultural Fair

Boise-Eliot Elementary stages its ninth-annual Multicultural Fair next Friday (March 2).

Themed "A Celebration of Peoples," the event expects to draw 1,500 visitors to food booths, souvenir shops and "foreign ports of call" from 6-8 p.m. at 620 N. Fremont St.

Each classroom in the early childhood

education center, which serves students in preschool through Grade 5, features one of 30 countries of cultures as study units and fair attractions.

Student-produced arts and crafts are sold during the fair, raising funds to support school enrichment programs including assemblies and RIF (Reading Is Fundamental). Contact Olivia Stefan, B-E curricular coordinator, 280-6171.

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- MARCH -

Thursday, March 1st
Calvin Walker & the Answer

Friday, March 2nd
B.M.I. Showcase
Final Exam · Red Strain
Killing Field · Dharma Bums

Saturday, March 3rd
B.M.I. Showcase
Brydg · Beauty Stab
Dub Squad · Nero's Rome

Sunday, March 4th
So-Do-I & B.B.C.

Monday, March 5th
Final Exam

Tuesday, March 6th
Snapper Head

Wednesday, March 7th
Big House