



ENTERTAINMENT



BEHIND-THE-SCENES

by Lisa Collins

Grammys--A Dud: The National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences held its annual Grammy Awards ceremony recently in Los Angeles. Topping the list of this year's winners were Anita Baker, who capped the award for R&B vocal, female, and Bobby Brown--R&B vocal, male. Soul II Soul nabbed two awards for R&B group, and R&B instrumental, while Young M.C. topped off in rap, and best new artist went to Milli Vanilli. However, for all the excitement generated on screen, it could have been bedtime backstage, save for some emotional moments when a nonthinking journalist asked Patrick Swayze about his wife's recent miscarriage, and an anxious young Black journalist told Milli Vanilli that he didn't think they deserved the "best new artist" nod. (They reply from the duo was along the lines of "we couldn't give a...") Yet, the truth is criteria has always been a question mark for the Grammys.

Take, for instance, the fact that Luther Vandross has never won one. Vandross speculated that it could be a question of exposure. "You just don't know what the criteria is from year to year that people use to vote for you. My career is very successful; don't get me wrong, the accountant will tell you that. But it is a lower profile career. I was always very apprehensive about doing TV, so I don't do a lot of it. For the longest time I've had a weight problem, and I still struggle with it." Incidentally, Vandross recently completed an extensive fast.

Yet, while the awards themselves may have been a dud, the festivities surrounding them were all but boring. Arista led off the

week-long parties on Tuesday, with its annual pre-Grammy gala (the invitations read "Dressed to kill") at the Beverly Hills Hotel. Among those in attendance were James Ingram, Jennifer Holliday, MTV's Julie Brown, Kenny G, Ashford & Simpson, Michael Bolton and Milli Vanilli. Across town, Capitol Records hosted a party and showcase featuring M.C. Hammer. Of course, the parties were spread all over town on Grammy night. Top producers Jimmy Jam & Terry Lewis, high on the success of Janet Jackson's "Rhythm Nation," could be found at A&M's sit-down dinner and buffet, as were Herbie Hancock and Wilt Chamberlain. Tone-Loc, Byron Allen, and yours truly braved the scene at MCA's Grammy bash, held at the exclusive Beverly Hills Hotel. And while the room glittered with the likes of Michael Douglas and Sally Struthers, notably absent were its star-studded lineup of R&B acts including Jody Watley and Bobby Brown. Of course, a great many of music's top stars including Paula Abdul and Natalie Cole attended the official post-Grammy party at the L.A. Biltmore Hotel.

The very next night, Warner Brothers Records feted Black Entertainment Television with its tenth anniversary bash, which drew Angela Winbush, Joe Sample, and actors Dorian Harewood and Tisha Campbell. On Friday, Virgin Records feted its top star Paula Abdul with a party. Abdul, outfitted all in white, was on hand to greet the star-studded crowd which included "Magic" Johnson, "L.A. & Babyface" and 227's Barry Sobel. What a week! (Meanwhile, we've talked so much about the Grammys that we'll just have to deal with the rumored romance of Cree Summers and new actor Courtney Vance next time).

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NANCY BRIGHT, who owns her own business in Portland, Oregon, is one of five women featured in "Fax and Figures," a six-page pictorial in the March issue of Playboy magazine. Nancy was among the nearly 100 women who faxed their photos to Playboy last year after learning about the feature. The March issue of Playboy goes on sale Tuesday, January 30. (Photo credit: Playboy 1990)

KEY LARGO
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- MARCH -

Thursday, March 8th
Roisen Dubh

Friday, March 9th
Nero's Rome

Saturday, March 10th
Dub Squad

Sunday, March 11th
Blues Bash

Monday, March 12th
King Wah

Tuesday, March 13th
Naked Ice

Wednesday, March 14th
Big House

Black Velvet Invites Women With The "Velvet Touch" To Enter Local Competitions

FARMINGTON, CONN.--A Portland area woman may soon launch her own international modeling career and join the ranks of Kim Alexis, Christie Brinkley and Kelly Emberg. All three went on to become modeling superstars after appearing in Black Velvet Canadian Whiskey advertising campaigns.

The third annual nationwide search is underway to find the 1990 "Black Velvet Lady." Heublein, Inc., importer of Black Velvet, will select a beautiful but undiscovered talent to represent the brand in its advertising and promotional material. Glamorous, yet approachable, the "BV Lady" must communicate the brand's smoothness, quality and premium taste.

Black Velvet will donate proceeds from state final entry fees to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for the conservation of fish, plant and wildlife resources in the U.S.

Last year's winner, New Jersey resident Monica Edwards, was convinced by friends to enter the competition by submitting a photo and entry form from a local liquor store. After being selected as a finalist, Edwards postponed her wedding to compete in the national competition in Scottsdale, Ariz. She became the newest "Black Velvet Lady" to be featured in the longest running advertising campaign in the distilled spirits industry. She will appear in newspaper advertisements, billboards and point of sale material for the premium brand.

Champions-The American Sports Bar at the Downtown Marriott, 1401 SW Front Street, Portland, March 15, 22, 29.

Refectory, 1618 NE 122nd, Portland, March 21, 28.

Steamer's Restaurant & Lounge, 8303 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland, March 29.

Flirts Lounge at the Holiday Inn, 8439 NE Columbia Blvd., Portland, March 22.

Aspiring models may also enter by submitting a color head-and-shoulders photo, accompanied by an entry form available at the Black Velvet Model Search display in liquor stores during February and March. Neither modeling experience nor affiliation with a modeling agency is required. Entries must be post-marked no later than April 2, 1990.

Susan Blakely, the inaugural "Black Velvet Lady" symbolized the brand in the '70s, today, Black Velvet is looking for a contemporary woman of the '90s. Heublein is searching for someone who is polished and sophisticated but still maintains the qualities and appealing personality of the girl next door.

For more information about the Black Velvet Model Search call 1-800-752-8271. Black Velvet Canadian Whiskey is imported by Heublein Inc., Farmington, Conn.

They who give have all things; they who withhold have nothing.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Announces 17th Annual Student Film Awards 'Call For Entries'

BEVERLY HILLS, CA--The call for entries for the Seventeenth Annual Student Film Awards competition has been announced by Karl Malden, president of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences, the institution best known for its annual Oscar Presentations.

Malden commented, "The Student Film Awards give many young, talented student filmmakers the opportunity to have their work seen and judged by some of the industry's top professionals. Many of our past winners have, in fact, gone on to build very successful film careers."

Students interested in submitting their work must first enter a regional competition; the Academy has divided the country into seven regions for this judging. Entries will be judged by regional juries in four categories: animation, documentary, dramatic and experimental.

Students attending colleges and universities in Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Nevada, Alaska, Washington, Oregon, and Northern California, (inclusive of Santa Barbara and northward), should contact Mr. Bill Foster, or Ms. Kathy Budas, Northwest Film Video Center, Oregon Art Institute, 1219 SW Park, Portland, OR. 97205, (503) 221-1156, for more details. To be eligible, films of 16 mm or larger must have been

completed after April 1, 1989, and made in a student-teacher relationship within the curriculum of an accredited school. All entries must be received by the regional coordinators on or before midnight April 2, 1990.

Winning entries at the regional level then move on to the Academy for consideration. Final voting is restricted to the Academy membership, the same group which each year selects the Oscar winners.

All winners will be flown to Los Angeles to participate in an intensive week of industry-related activities, such as visiting film locations, meeting with industry professionals leaders, and attending state-of-the-art filmmaking demonstrations. Several gala dinners and an awards reception are also held in their honor. The week culminates in the Awards Presentation Ceremony, where achievement and merit the award-winners in each of the four categories will receive \$2,000 and \$1,000, respectively, along with their Student Film Award trophies.

The Student Film Awards were established in 1972 to encourage outstanding achievement in film production by college and university students with no previous professional experience. The Awards are sponsored, for the third consecutive year, by the Colgate-Palmolive Company.

Sinbad is Coming to Make Portland Laugh

Sinbad is bringing his own brand of comedy routine to the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall, Saturday, March 24th at 8:00 p.m.

Sinbad's name recalls the literary legend that symbolizes strength, adventure and optimism and that is what he strives for. Sinbad believes life should not be taken too seriously and we must learn to laugh at ourselves. Certainly, he adds to our laughter on Thursday nights when he portrays a zany, energetic dormitory director and gym teacher, Walter Oakes, on NBC-TV's "A Different World."

Born in Benton Harbor, Michigan, Sinbad grew up singing, dancing and telling jokes. His childhood dream was to be a professional basketball player and actor. At 6-foot-5 he figured that his only way to see the country was accepting a basketball scholarship at the University of Denver where he played forward and center. But his comedic flair intervened here--his real goal was to be a member of the world famous "Globe Trotters." A serious knee injury ended those hopes in 1981. However, Sinbad has been forward and center ever since.

In 1983, Sinbad began what he refers to as his "Poverty Tour." With no money, he

slept in bus stations and stranger's homes while pitching his act to local clubs. Sinbad soon started working the local comedy clubs and college circuit.

While performing in Denver, he accidentally crossed paths with a "Star Search" audition and was not only asked to appear on the show, but went on to win... win... win! After ten consecutive wins and then losing in the finals, Sinbad earned a broad audience and the beginning of a television career. A contact with ABC later led to a regular spot on the CBS series, "The Redd Foxx Show." Although people thought he was simply polishing his act by doing audience warm-ups at "The Cosby Show" tapings, Sinbad's mother did not raise a dummy. He was really trying to get Bill Cosby's attention. Well, he succeeded and not only appeared on "The Cosby Show," he then became a regular on "A Different World." Soon after, Dick Clark became interested and asked him to co-host "Keep On Cruisin'."

Sinbad's first love is stand-up so when his television work permitted he toured with the likes of Kool and the Gang, B.B. King, Smokey Robinson, The Pointer Sisters, Miami Sound Machine, Anita Baker, and Luther Vandross.

Sinbad is a family man and devotes much of his time to raising his daughter Paige and son Royce in Los Angeles with his wife Meredith. This family affair is strengthened by his brother and personal manager Mark Adkins, sister Dorothea as road manager and wardrobe designs by sister Donna. His father, Reverend Donald Adkins and mom Louise continue to support him while residing in their hometown, Benton Harbor, Michigan.

Though Sinbad's schedule is hectic, it doesn't keep him from what he finds most rewarding--his commitment of helping kids. It's a reputation he's proud of. He supports many youth organizations throughout the U.S. and his "Think Positive" message is well received by young audiences everywhere.

ECI and Artist Consultants are proud to present "An Evening With Sinbad," Saturday, March 24th at 8 p.m. at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. Reserved tickets at \$13.50 and \$15.50 (Includes .50 city user fee, subject to service charge) are available at G.I. Joe's/Ticketmaster, PCPA, Civic Auditorium and Coliseum Box Offices or Charge-by-Phone: PCPA 248-4496.

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