



ENTERTAINMENT



KEY LARGO
31 NW FIRST 223-9919



Richard Elliott, former reed man with the Tower of Power horn section, brings his soulfully-- charged saxophone to Key Largo, Tuesday night, March 20th.

BEHIND- THE-SCENES

by Lisa Collins

Whitney Houston to Star In Film: It's no secret that Whitney Houston has been looking for a film property, and it now appears she has it in a dramatic love story opposite none other than Oscar nominee Denzel Washington. You may have to wait a while to see it though, as the film, titled "Disappearing Acts," is not slated for production until this winter. Meanwhile "Cry Freedom," the anti-apartheid film that earned Denzel Washington his first Oscar nomination, has been slated for rerelease in South Africa. Original prints were seized by south African authorities on what would have been its opening day in July of 1988.

In other film news, Ben Vereen has been tapped to play the title role in "Bojangles," a film bio of late, Black dance great, Bill Robinson. Discussions are underway for Debbie Allen to direct the film, which will go into production in July. However, Vereen is perhaps acting out his latest drama in real life, upon the breakup of a five-year relationship with Christine Rich. Rich, reportedly scared for her life, was to have filed assault and vandalism charges against the entertainer, but will settle for a permanent restraining order in a hearing set this month.

They Came To Party: Bobby Brown was working overtime on the dance floor at a surprise birthday party thrown for him at a trendy Beverly Hills disco. (Hard to believe he's just turned 21.) The party, planned by his mom, truly came as a surprise to Brown who was told that he was going to the club to tape his acceptance of an upcoming People's Choice Award. Among those wishing him birthday greetings were Elton John, New Edition's Johnny Gill and Michael Bivens, "Different World's" Dawnn Lewis and Cree Summers, Shaquice Wilson, The Boys, and Gary Coleman, who seemed to have forgotten all his recent court troubles as he danced his heart out all night long. (By the way, official word from Cree Summers, who is yet to sit down with me due to a heavily burdened calendar, is that she and actor Kadeem Hardison are "friends")... A star-studded crowd marked the Los Angeles premiere of "House Party"-- a film from two brothers Reggie and Warrington Hudlin--that is earning great reviews from film critics. The film stars New York-based rap unit "Kid & Play," Tisha Campbell, A.J. Johnson, and actor-comedian Robin Harris. The cast was joined by EWF's Maurice White, Eddie Murphy, actresses Sheryl Lee Ralph and Ann Marie Johnson, New Edition and Keenen Ivory Wayans in their LA debut.

Just Who Is Courtney Vance? It's a question Paramount execs think many will ask after viewing "Hunt For Red October". It is only the second film for Vance who missed out on a plum role in "Diehard," when "Fences" producers would not let him out of his contract in the Tony Award-winning stage play. Still, some at Paramount believe it's only a matter of time before Vance, who portrays a submarine sonar operator in "Hunt," is a hot property. Meanwhile, the young actor hopes the exposure leads to more work. However, Vance says the best part of being in the film was meeting some of its heavyweight cast, including Alec Baldwin, James Earl Jones, and Sean Connery. "Just being in their presence, you absorb so much," said Vance. "A large part of being a good actor is being a good listener. I'm a very good listener. I listen, learn, and wait--wait for my turn."

Short Takes: All of the Jackson clan were in Miami for the opening of Janet's solo world tour. Meanwhile, Jackson announced after selling out four Los Angeles dates (80,000 seats) in just 48 minutes, that 25 cents from every ticket sold during the tour, beginning with the LA dates, will be donated to a drop-out prevention program.

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Jam Sessions: The Tradition Lives On . . . at Niecey's Restaurant & Lounge

by Dante Che

Jam sessions in the inner N/NE Portland have a long tradition. Dating back to the late 1950s and early 1960s, in such notable nightspots, as the Cotton Club, Bess's and Geneva's. Jam sessions gave entertainers like Ronnie Steen, Franky Redding and Randy Smith a chance to exhibit their artistry at an early age. This format also gave audiences cost-free entertainment on Sundays. Niecey's, located at 5700 N.E. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., is presently continuing this tradition on Sundays from five until closing. Randy Starr is the host for the jam sessions, utilizing his expertise and contacts in the music industry to coordinate this time honored format. The following is an interview with Randy who is also the bassist for Calvin Walker and the Answer about Sunday jam sessions at Niecey's.



Randy Starr

Portland Observer: "What came about to get the jam sessions going?"
Randy: "Cliche had played Saturday (the night before) and Sunday I came to listen to the jam session about 9:00 in the evening, and there was no band. At that point master M.C. (master of ceremony) Hank Kelly asked me did I want to host the jam session. Of course I had to give it some thought and I told him I'd get back with him. I decided to give it a try. So the following Sunday I started, opening at five o'clock. My first idea was to hire some key players, that would attract other musicians. Musicians that would make other musicians feel comfortable and make them feel they were playing someone competitive. I also wanted to bring in a quality state-of-the-art sound system, light and stage show."

Portland Observer: "What local talents have been showcased?"
Randy: "Rusty Cox, from the Dazz Band...it has been an honor to play with him." "He plays perfect drum time. And in conjunction Donald Taylor from Club Dante - he crushes man. Jimmie and Johnny Sanders, keyboardists. If these guys were not playing the jam session, it wouldn't attract the audience the club gets. They (the Sanders brothers) are the best keyboardists around; I mean with the likes of Chick Corea, Jeff Lorber, and George Duke, they are up there with the best. They are equally as good at producing and song writing. Others who have played at the jam sessions are Richard Gates, guitarists with Force Major, which just recently toured in Tokyo Japan."

Portland Observer: "What do you see as an opportunity in a jam session?"
Randy: "First, it gives the musicians a chance to unite, not like union but a way to get together to create, where we can exchange business cards, talk shop, mingle a play in front of an audience. The audience is real

important."
"In Portland it is vital because politics play such a big role, like downtown and other clubs (outside inner N/NE Portland) around town."

Portland Observer: "So this gives them an opportunity they ordinarily wouldn't have?"
Randy: "That's true."

Portland Observer: "What are the benefits for the audience at a jam session?"
Randy: "First, there is no cover charge, the security at Niecey's is excellent, and that makes for a good atmosphere; plus, the food is excellent in the restaurant, and that's provided by Mike 'C', and the service from the waitresses is friendly and always with a smile. And don't forget the music is great!!!"

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& the Stilletos
Sunday, March 18th
Tragically Hip
Monday, March 19th
Cliche
Tuesday, March 20th
Richard Elliott
Wednesday, March 21
Big House

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	3:00 P.M.	The Blues
March 23rd, Fri.	6:00 P.M.	David Wilcox (A&M Recording Artist)

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