



ENTERTAINMENT



Behind - The - Scenes Behind - The - Scenes Behind - The - Scenes Behind - The - Scenes Behind - The - Scenes Behind - The - Scenes Behind - The -

by Lisa Collins
 On the recording scene, members of the top-rated group New Edition are once again dominating the airwaves only this time not as a group but with their own individual projects. Johnny Gill has hit the hardest with his smash Motown single, "Rub You the Right Way," which is winding its way up the nation's record charts. But so too, is "Poison" a cut off the new release from BBD (Bell Biv & Devoe), which is comprised of Ricky Bell, Micheal Bivens and Ronnie Devoe. A solo album from remaining member Ralph Tresvant, is due shortly. And while it may appear as if everyone is going their own way, the group is not breaking up. Fact is, the individual pursuits of its

members will not interfere with pre-terminated plans for them to record this summer and tour later in the year. In fact, there is also talk of a film, based on their rise to fame, which will also feature former member Bobby Brown. In other film news, Universal Pictures recently announced that they'd signed a two-year deal with Bill Cosby, to produce and star in several film projects. (Meanwhile, after three months of negotiations, NBC has announced that the Cosby Show will indeed be back for a seventh season)

Eriq LaSalle has been tapped to replace Denzel Washington in "Love Field", a film which also stars Michelle Pfeiffer.

Washington withdrew from the project due to dissatisfaction with the development of his character. LaSalle, you may recall, was featured as Eddie Murphy's rival for the affection of Shari Headley in "Coming to America."

LA Gets New Phantom: Robert Guillaume, former star of "Benson", is all set to take over as the Phantom in the Los Angeles stage production of the award-winning play, "The Phantom of the Opera" on May 1. Guillaume says that there are a lot of things that excite him about the role, which also marks his return to the stage. An accomplished tenor and veteran stage performer, he is however most thrilled

about going back to work. "I'm a worker, and I just enjoy working."

Black American Films--Capturing The Legacy: was the theme of the Black American Cinema Society's Eighth Annual BACS Awards. This year's honorees included veteran screen actor William Marshall (perhaps best remembered for his role as "Blacula" in America's first black horror film), Lou Gossett, Beah Richards, Danny Glover and Virginia Capers. All the awardees were on hand for the festive occasion, as were "House Party"'s Tisha Campbell, who performed a rousing rendition of "Summertime", Blair Underwood and Raymond St. Jacques

who served as presenters and a host of others. The honorees were visibly touched and shared anecdotes about each other. (Veteran actress Virginia Capers talked excitedly about the fact that she is the eldest in the filmmaking class she is now taking at UCLA). The event, is the brainchild of Dr. Mayme Clayton, whose Western States Black Research Center traces the heritage of blacks in film, and boasts the nation's most comprehensive collection of African-American films.

Hats off to Janet Jackson who hosted a lavish luncheon for members of the black press at Chasen's Restaurant in Beverly Hills, just one day after getting

her star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Speaking of which, the committee has announced it will posthumously award a star to Marvin Gaye on Hollywood's Walk of Fame.

Short Takes: Jim Brown, Bernie Casey, and Isaac Hayes may recreate their roles from the film "I'm Gonna Get You Sucka," if ABC picks up the option on a pilot of an upcoming fall series. The series, which would feature them as over-the-hill crime fighters, is titled "Hammer, Slammer & Slade". . . Congratulation to August Wilson on being awarded the Pulitzer Prize for drama for his play, "The Piano Lesson", which just opened on Broadway.



SPECIAL FRIENDS: Raven-Symone from "The Cosby Show" joins hands with Kermit the Frog for a song in the Magic Kingdom as she guest starred during the taping of "The Muppets... at Walt Disney World". The NBC television special, which will air May 6 at 7 p.m. ET/PT, also features noted actor Charles Grodin along with Miss Piggy, Fozzie the Bear, Gonzo, Camilla and the entire Muppet group. (Copyright 1990. The Walt Disney Company)

ODC Announces Ticket Program for Minority Youth

In a striking example of partnership between business, the arts and social policy, Oregon Dance Consort announced today the funding of a ticket subsidy program for minority youth by Security Pacific Bank Oregon. Through the generosity of the bank, 100 young people will attend a performance of ODC's annual modern dance choreographers' showcase, Pulse & Impulse, at the Intermediate Theatre of the Portland Center for the Performing Arts, June 8-10. Assisting in distribution of the tickets will be three other organizations: The Portland Observer Newspaper, the Office of Youth Services at the YWCA and the Interstate Firchouse Cultural Center.

Judith Catterall, Project Director of Pulse & Impulse, said:

"The impact of this program has a ripple effect that is potentially profound. One of the goals of Pulse & Impulse is to introduce new audiences to the thought-provoking exuberance of modern dance by offering them a sampler of styles from our diverse multi-cultural modern dance community. But I have been concerned for years with the problems of access: disadvantaged and minority audiences are continually denied access to the common cultural experiences of our society. Security Pacific Bank Oregon is helping us to address this problem in a direct, hands-on manner that is meaningful to artists and audience alike."

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METROPOLITAN ARTS COMMISSION

Music Millenium Launches Record Label

by Danny Bell
 Like many occurrences in the business world, serendipity plays a major role in initiating unforeseen projects. It was through such circumstances that brought about the creation of Burnside Records, a new local record label produced by Music Millenium. Unlike labels self-produced by the artists themselves, Burnside Records has the enviable position of being the product of a successful record store, with two Portland outlets and an affiliation with Precision Sound Marketing which has a distribution network in 22 states west of the Mississippi River including Alaska and Hawaii.

You might ask yourself how did this come about. According to Terry Currier, manager of Music Millenium East it all started one day when Johnny Koonce of "Johnny and the Distractions" was in the store. Terry asked Johnny if he had ever done a compilation of his best hits. Johnny said no, and that led to the question of would he be interested? It took three weeks for Johnny to decide and he told Terry that he would like to pursue the idea. In response to this Terry contact A & M Records about the purchase of a Masters license. He was told the expense was cost prohibitive. So he decided to explore the possibility

of producing the record through the resources at Music Millenium.

So from an off-hand question a record label was born.

Even though Johnny and the Distractions are a straight ahead no-frills party rock 'n' roll band, Terry firmly states that Burnside Records is open to producing good musicians whose chemistry is compatible with the Music Millenium organization. The label has a second act in the three piece rock band the Blubinos.

Terry encouraged artists to submit audio or video tapes to Music Millenium to him at 3158 E. Burnside, Portland,

OR 97218 by mail or in person. He said that each tape will be listened to by someone on staff. When asked about his expectations for the label, he said Burnside Records will promote the Koonce project till such time that it is not financially feasible. He felt there will always be some demand for the Koonce album because of the artist's popularity.

"No matter how much hard work is put into a record there's a certain amount of luck involved in the success of a project," Terry said.

WALNUT PARK VETERANS' CLUB PRESENTS "New Attitude"



Parnell Hopkins

By Tony Washington

One of Portland's hottest and newest R&B/Top 40 groups will showcase their talents at the Walnut Park Veterans' Club this weekend. Scheduled for Friday and Saturday night, April 27-28, the five-member group, featuring Parnell Hopkins on keyboard and vocalist is an all home-grown product with one member hailing from Chicago. Hopkins has appeared at the Jantzen Beach Red Lion Inn and more recently featured on KBMS Radio Scope. The group has also appeared at Niecey's lounge on Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard.

Walnut Park Veterans' Club has recently undergone a reorganization after a change in ownership.

Show time for New Attitude is scheduled for 10 p.m.-2 a.m. Friday and Saturday. For more information call Floyd Cruise at 287-2218.

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