



ENTERTAINMENT



Morgan Freeman Hopes to Change Attitudes With Positive Roles



Morgan Freeman

Morgan Freeman, who is one of a handful of black actors to be nominated for more than one Academy Award, said he hopes to change people's attitudes by making movies that "heal" and "mend us."

"You know, I have a great opportunity through the roles I choose to help educate us all," Freeman told PARADE Contributing Editor Wallace Terry, who interviewed him.

"I'm not a social do-gooder," he added, "but I find myself more and more a campaigner. I want to change people's attitudes. About black people. About us as Americans. About America itself. I want to give us a better historical perspective of ourselves, which will make us get along better."

Freeman, who was nominated for an Oscar for "Driving Miss Daisy" and also starred in "Gloria," two movies which painted sympathetic portraits of Southern blacks, said he hopes to find more roles such as these.

"We never thought of this country as belonging to us," he said of black Americans. "We always thought of ourselves as stepchildren. We're not stepchildren. We belong to the Daughters of the American Revolution. The Sons too. All we have to do is do it. The barriers are down."

Freeman, who received his first Oscar nomination for the movie "Street Smart," with Christopher Reeve, said, "My mother instilled in me that I could do anything I wanted to do. So I've never been afraid to try. When I see what I want, I don't see the barriers."

Willamette Writers Group Sponsors "Books for Kids"

Willamette Writer, Oregon's largest literary organization, is sponsoring the Books for Kids Program for the second year. Willamette Writers believes the gift of reading is one of the greatest gifts you can give a child. This Christmas, we ask you to purchase a new book or two for needy children.

The donated books will be delivered to Toys for Tots, Shriners Hospital, and Doernbecher Children's Hospital. As an incentive, the following bookstores have offered discounts on children's book purchases: The Book Barn for Children, 4570 S.W. Watson, Beaverton (15% discount); Catbird Seat Book Store, 913 S.W. Broadway, Portland (15% discount); Children's Place, 1631 N.E. Broadway, Portland (15% discount); Child's Play, corner of N.W. 23rd and Kearney, Portland, (15% discount); Ginger and Pickles Bookstore for Children, 425 S.W. 2nd, Lake Oswego (15% discount); Learning Palace, Canyon Place Shopping Ctr., Beaverton, Eastport Plaza, Portland, and Vancouver Plaza, Vancouver (15% coupon can be picked up at the office or the December 4, monthly meeting.); Powell's Children Bookstore, 8775 S.W. Cascade Ave., Beaverton, (20% discount); and School Daze, 6328 S.W. Meadows Road, Lake Oswego (20% discount).

To receive a discount you must mention Willamette Writers Books for Kids Program at the time of purchase. Discounts available Friday, November 23 - Saturday, December 8, 1990.

Some stores require the purchased books be left at the store for later pick-up by Willamette Writers. Book gifts may also be brought to the Willamette Writers' December 4th general meeting or to the Willamette Writers office. Call 452-1592 for further details. Books must be delivered, unwrapped, no later than December 14, 1990.

Single Parents Hold Annual Christmas Dance

Parents Without Partners invites all single parents to enjoy the holiday season festivities with us at our annual Christmas Dance to be held at the Eagles Lodge, 8835 SW 30th (off SW 30th & Barbur) on Saturday, December 22nd, from 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Dance away any holiday blues to live music by The Classix.

For more information call 283-2138.

Music Spotlight

RALPH TRESVANT

by Aaron Fentress

After seven years as the lead singer for New Edition Ralph Tresvant has followed in the footsteps of his five other group members and branched out.

In most cases of flying solo the lead singer is usually the first to do so. In Tresvant's case he's the last, but definitely not the least.

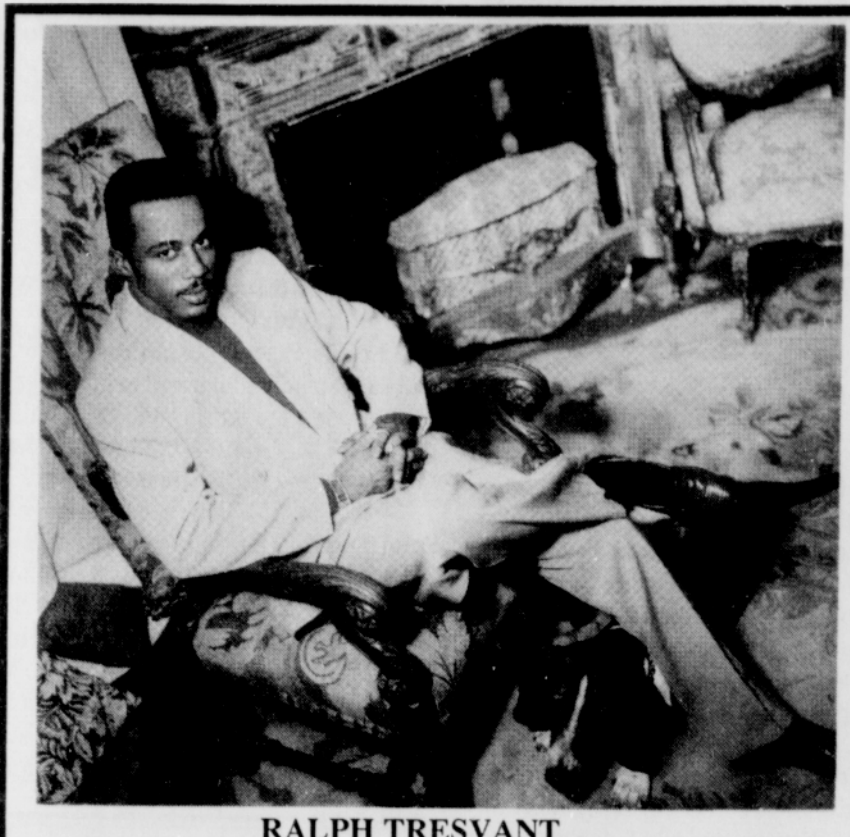
Although it's unwise to think Tresvant can duplicate the success of former New Edition member Bobby Brown's 1987 *Don't Be Cruel*, it is safe to assume that Tresvant's new CD will be successful. If only modestly.

The strike against Tresvant will be timing. In 1987 Bobby Brown capitalized on fresh new song writers L.A. Reid & Babyface and was properly promoted. What came about was a surprise number one record and four top 10 singles for Brown.

Although Tresvant's CD, entitled *Ralph Tresvant*, has potential to match *Don't Be Cruel*, the presence of new and similar albums by Bell Biv DeVoe (former New Edition members), Johnny Gill (another former New Edition member) and a forth coming album in early 1991 by Bobby Brown (that other former New Edition member) makes Tresvant's album simply one of the pack. How many New Edition albums can America take at one time? They all essentially sound the same.

Tresvant went the same route as Bobby Brown and put his trust in a few young song writers. In Tresvant's case he picked Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis, who produced Janet Jackson's hit albums *Control* and *Rhythm Nation*, and who along with L.A. Reid and Babyface are becoming the McCartney and Lennon's of R & B. Also appearing as song writers on the album are indeed L.A. Reid, Babyface (although not together), Kyle West, who writes with Al B. Sure, and Michael Jackson, who teams up with John Barnes on *Alright Now*.

Despite Tresvant's star studded cast of song writers surprisingly the



RALPH TRESVANT

strongest dance track is Tresvant's own "Rated R", which leads off the album as sort of a testament to the arrival of Tresvant as a solo artist. The 'R' stands for Ralph as Tresvant tears off from the beginning in a fast paced rap which Tresvant pulls off quite well.

Disappointingly, aside from "Rated R", the only other dance tracks that stand out are "Stone Cold Gentlemen" and "She's my love thang". Both figure to be hits while "Girl I can't control it", "Love takes time", and "Ordinary Guy", hold their own but don't present anything special.

On the mellow side Tresvant's first release as a single "Sensitivity" is already climbing the charts and deservedly so. "Sensitivity", written by Jam & Lewis is the CD's best song. Tresvant gives his most inspired vocal performance on "Sensitivity". The songs only weak point is in the middle when Tresvant breaks into a rap sequence.

The rap lyrics are nothing special and only serve to disrupt an otherwise great song. Aside from this "Sensitivity" is a bonafied hit that will put Tresvant on the map quick.

Other songs on the mellow side include, "Do what I gotta do", "Love hurts", "I love you", "Alright Now" and "Last Night". Of the five only "Do what I gotta do" has significant potential to be a hit while the other four are pale efforts compared to "Sensitivity".

The *Ralph Tresvant* CD comes with two bonus tracks that don't appear on the album or tape. "Alright Now" and "I love you". All told *Ralph Tresvant* has 12 tracks of which five hold their weight. If Tresvant can fight the wave of New Edition spin-offs and those five songs can become hits *Ralph Tresvant* could be a big hit. Otherwise it will simply be another album by a member of New Edition. Leaving Bobby Brown as the lone super star.

M.C. Hammer Releases Video

You know what time it is. M.C. Hammer--the biggest rap entertainer in history and #1 male performer of 1990 if not the decade--has spent more time at the top of the charts than anyone we can remember. As Hammer's incredible tour continues to sizzle across the country, this new one-hour music video captures pumpin' music videos from the #1 album *Please Hammer Don't Hurt 'Em* (eight times platinum!) and his debut *Let's Get Started*. It includes "Let's Get It Started," "Turn This Mutha Out", "Pump It Up", "They Put Me In The Mix", "U Can't Touch This", "Have You Seen Her", a new version of "Pray", plus the documentary "Please Hammer Don't Hurt 'Em". Cameos by Oaktown's 3.5.7., Ace Juice, B. Angie B., Special Generation, Ho-Frat-Hoo! and Soft Touch hammer it home.

Speaking of The Hammer, Pepsi-Cola recently signed a sponsorship agreement for his world tour (which hits Portland on December 13 and 17). The tour will begin in the U.S., and then go on to Europe, Asia, and Australia. Pepsi and M.C. Hammer additionally just negotiated an advertising contract, which should be reflected on the airwaves soon...

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Lloyd's Center Lerner To Open

Lerner/New York, the largest women's specialty apparel business under one name in the country, is opening its eleventh store in Oregon, a new 11,900 square foot store at the Lloyd Center in Portland on November 21. The announcement was made by Lerner's President Bob Grayson.

Currently under construction, the opening of this store marks the beginning of a new era for Lerner and its customers, the president says. "We have upgraded the Lerner/New York store's image and merchandise, without raising the prices," explained Grayson, "as well as offering outstand-

ing service."

Featuring peach and cream decor, marble floors, private fitting rooms, lush seating areas and richly handpainted wallpaper and an array of mannequins, the store design captures the elegance as expressed in the great art deco stores of the past.

The 9,500 square feet of selling space will carry popularly-priced national brand names such as Bonjour (jeans and sportswear), Gloria Vanderbilt (hosiery and lingerie), David Benjamin (career and dressy sportswear), D.B. Sport (casual knits and weekend wear), and Sedu (lingerie).

Christmas Bazaar Fights Crime

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