

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

A Star-Studded Variety Special To Air On CBS May 29

(Bill Cosby, Anita Baker, Eddie Murphy, Halle Berry, James Ingram, Kathleen Battle among special guests & a very special tribute from President Bill Clinton)



Patti LaBelle and Danny Glover to host 1993 Essence Awards

The 1993 Essence Awards, a prestigious tribute to the outstanding achievements of eight prominent African-American women, will be broadcast on the CBS Television Network on Saturday, May 29, 9 to 11pm ET/PT. This variety special features music, dance and comedy performances and special presentations by some of today's hottest stars and entertainers. And, President Bill Clinton pays a very special tribute from the Oval Office to the Essence Award recipients. This will mark the first time since the inaugural celebration that the President will appear in an entertainment special. The gala ceremony, hosted by Patti LaBelle and Danny Glover was videotaped before a black-tie audience at The Paramount Theater at Madison Square Garden in New York City on April 30.

Eddie Murphy will pay a very special tribute to civil-rights activist and Mother of the Civil-Rights Movement, Rosa Parks. Bill Cosby will also be on hand to pay tribute to Tina Turner and Edward James Olmos will praise the work of "Sweet Alice" Harris. On the music front, James Ingram will perform "Sing for the Children" for the very first time and Anita Baker, Shanice, Kathleen Battle, Karyn White, and Sounds of Blackness will be among many other performers adding to the stellar lineup. Phyllis Yvonne Stickney and Mark Curry will be among the comedians on the show. The show will be choreographed by the electrifying Michael Peters, whose extensive list of credits have earned him numerous awards including a Tony and an Emmy. The show will be directed by Bruce Gowers, whose most recent credits include the Lincoln Memo-

rial inaugural Concert for HBO, MTV's Inaugural Gala Ball and Up Close with Paul McCartney for ABC. Gowers also serves as Executive Producer with his partner in Together Again Productions, Carol Rosenstein. Rosenstein award-winning credits as an executive producer, producer and writer include live award shows, children's programs and music and comedy specials. Also serving as Executive Producer is Dan Gasby of Gasby, Inc. whose production credits include 26 one hour episodes of Big Break, a musical variety program hosted by multi-Grammy Award winner and Artist of the Year for 1991, Natalie Cole. Valerie Norman is producer and Rita Cash and Khephra Burns are the writers.

The 1993 Essence Award recipients are: Senator Carol Mosely-Braun, the first African-American woman elected to the U.S. Senate; Gail Dever, U.S. Olympic Gold Medalist; Aretha Franklin, the Queen of Soul and multiple Grammy Award-winning singer and songwriter; "Sweet Alice" Harris, community activist and founder of Parents of Watts (POW); Lena Horne, legendary actress, singer and dancer; Rosa Parks, civil-rights activist; Tina Turner, multiple Grammy Award-winning singer and actress; and Dr. Corla Wilson-Hawkins, educator and community activist.

Susan L. Taylor, Editor-in-Chief of Essence magazine say, "For the second year we are proud to bring the Essence awards to a national audience. The strength and depth of these eight great women show us a world in which all things are possible. This year's award recipients are role models for the nation's people, especially our children."

Sterling Macer Co-Stars In DRAGON: THE BRUCE LEE STORY

Sterling Macer's hilarious wisecracks are scene stealers in "Dragon: The Bruce Lee Story." He portrays Jerome Sprout, Lee's first pupil and subsequent friend. By teaching Jerome and other non-Chinese students the techniques of kung fu, which the Chinese elders forbid outside their community, Lee pays dearly.

"Jerome is based on a real person in Bruce Lee's life. I understand he now lives in the Seattle area," Macer says. "I was thrilled to get the role. I am not a real martial arts expert, but I know enough to get me in trouble."

Macer's successful acting career bridges the gap between theatre, film and television. Television fans remember him, most recently, as Robert Davis in the critically-acclaimed ABC television drama "Homefront." Macer portrayed a young World War II veteran who brings his French war bride back to his hometown, where they experience prejudice as a result of their racially-mixed marriage.

Macer will soon be seen in a new CBS pilot "Hearts of the West," starring with Lloyd Bridges and his son, Beau. Macer describes the show as "present day dude ranch." He plays an ex-attorney who lost his job for insider trading and goes to the ranch to find inner peace. Macer also had a guest starring role in "Star Trek" this season. Born in east Moline, Illinois, Macer grew up primarily in Missouri. His family is close-knit, with his parents encouraging him to pursue his dreams, telling him that with hard work he could be anything he wanted. Macer was previously enrolled in the University of San Diego's Masters IN Fine Arts graduate program in association with the "Old Globe Theater, where he appeared in numerous productions, including "Joe Turner's Come and Gone," "Slow Dancing on the Killing Ground" and "The Piano Lesson," among others. Shortly before graduation, Macer left the program to play Romeo in the Dallas Theater production of "Romeo and Juliet" and received his Masters degree early.

Moving to Los Angeles, he quickly was cast in the TV series "Tour of Duty," followed by a co-starring role in the daytime series "Generations." His leading role in the



(Top) Jason Scott Lee (left) stars as Bruce Lee, an extraordinary man who became a legend for all time in the world of movies and martial arts, and Sterling Macer as Jerome, Bruce Lee's pupil and friend. (Bottom) (l. to r.) Jason Scott Lee as Bruce Lee, Lauren Holly as Linda and Sterling Macer as Jerome.

LaJolla Playhouse production of "My Children, My Africa" was so well received that it moved to the Henry Fonda Theater in Los Angeles, where Macer was cast in two television pilots, "My Old School" and "1945," which was later retitled "Homefront."

Macer both directed and produced their first production, "The Slave," which ran at the Gardener State in Los Angeles. Their second play, "Macbeth," also directed by Macer, will be staged at The Brewery in downtown Los Angeles this fall. Macer notes, "I feel our production company

should reflect the needs of a community and here in Los Angeles the community is multi-cultural, which is something we all need to understand, especially in these troubled times in our city." Macer is also one of the founders of the multi-ethnic, multi-cultural Inkululeko Theater Company in Los Angeles.

Macer's other love is music and he has formed a small production company, Pipeline Records, to encourage talented young musicians. The first group Macer is working with is Mojo, a hip/hop rap group from his

hometown in Missouri. His ultimate goal is to align his acts with larger labels. Constantly growing, always working, Sterling Macer, Jr. is a young man with an enormous future ahead of him both in front of the camera and behind the scenes.

Universal Pictures presents "Dragon: The Bruce Lee Story," a Raffaella De Laurentiis Production and a Rob Cohen Film. Jason Scott Lee stars as Bruce Lee (no relation). Lauren Holly, Michael Learned, Nancy Kwan, Kay Tong Lim, Robert Wagner and Sterling Macer co-star.

Fictional Characters Face Real Life Issues In The Season Finale Performance Of Teens & Company



Jack and Jill have contracted the AIDS virus. Santa Claus is puzzled by a little boy's request for a Barbie doll. Dorothy and Toto learn the importance of birth control. And the Brady Bunch deals with homosexuality. These issues along with many others will be presented at the 1992-93 season finale of Teens & Company, Planned Parenthood's award winning theatre troupe.

TEENS & COMPANY combines education and entertainment in a dynamic performance about important issues such as decision making, racism, sexuality, depression, drug and alcohol abuse, and MORE. This "one night only" performance will be held May 27, 7:00 pm at the Metropolitan Learning Center (2033 NW Glisan). A reception will follow the performance. The performance is FREE but donations are encouraged. Seating is limited, reservations are required. Call 775-3918 to reserve seats.

TEENS & COMPANY is a theatre group which combines education and entertainment in a dynamic performance about the issues facing teenagers. The performance stimulates discussion about issues confronting today's teens including decision making, eating disorders, sexuality, drug and alcohol abuse, racism and more.

What makes this show unique is the performance material which was developed by the 14 member cast. It

blends humor, role play, movement, music and drama to provide timely information to the audience.

The May 27 performance will be a culmination of the 1992-93 TEENS & COMPANY season in which they performed over 40 shows. Their audiences included middle and high school students, church and community groups, other youth-service organizations and professional conferences throughout Oregon and Washington.

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