NYC to BWI to Hollywood route of 'Partners' partner

Rupert Crosse's appearance in an Actors Studio production of "Echoes" at UCLA led to his co-starring role of Ned McCaslin in the critically acclaimed motion picture "The Reivers," with Steve McQueen.

Saturday he begins his role as co-star with Don Adams in NBC's serie "The Partners."

Director Mark Rydell was in the audience at U.C.L.A. Several months later, when he was looking for an actor to portray McCaslin, he recalled Crosse's performance and signed him for the role.

Crosse was born in New York City. When he was seven, his father died and he went to the Island of Nevis (British West Indies) where he was reared by his grandparents.

His education was in the hands of his schoolmaster grandfather, who, with two of Crosse's aunts and an uncle, was responsible for the education of all youngsters on the island for over 50 years.

Rupert's sister is a schoolmistress there now and another uncle is a minister on the island.

Returning to New York, Rupert continued his education in Manhattan public schools. The tall, powerfully-built youngster left Benjamin Franklin High School to load box cars.

Rupert Crosse
the road was long

Later, until he was drafted, he was a packer in district. He served with the U.S. Infantry in Germany and Japan for two years.

Upon his discharge, he completed his high school education, then entered Bloomfield College and Seminary in New Jersey. Later he transferred to Brooklyn College.

While studying, he worked as a machinist, a construction worker and a recreation counsellor for juvenile delinquents and underprivileged children.

He also worked at the Youth House of Boys in Manhattan, the Hebrew Children's Home in the Bronx and the Cedar Knolls School for the Emotionally Disturbed in Hawthorne, N.Y.

Crosse then decided to become an actor. His entrance into the world of the theater began with enrollment at the Daykarhanova School for the Stage. His first professional appearance was in an Equity Library Theater production of "Climate of Eden."

He then transferred to John Cassavetes's workshop. Later he helped create and appeared in Cassavetes's "Shadows," which won a Venice Film Festival Award. His association with John continued when he went to Hollywood to play a guest role on Cassavetess "Johnny Staccato." Rupert's first motion picture appearance in Hollywood was once again with John in "Too Late Blues."

Crosse's stage appearances include "Sweet Bird of Youth," "In White America," "The Blood Knot," and "A Hailful of Rain." He also had roles on various network TV series.

His ability to speak French and to assume Spanish as well as various African and Jamaican accents, have increased the scope of his roles.

His hobbies include regular workouts as a member of the All America Karate Federation and the study of yoga.

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Miriam Makeba jailed

COPENHAGEN — South African singer Miriam Makeba spent a night in the local jail last week at the conclusion of her concert at the Falkonercentret.

Miss Makeba was taken into custody on a complaint charging that she failed to return $7,000 to the Scandinavian Booking Agency.

The money was allegedly paid the artist 16 months ago as an advance on a scheduled concert. Asserting that she was ill, Miss Makeba did not show up for the engagement, according to the agency.

Miss Makeba was finally released after 22 hours of questioning at the Frederiksberg Police Precinct. Bailing her out was Guinean Ambassador Seydou Keita who planed in from Rome with $4,500. The singer travels on a Guinean passport, which acounts for the envoy's intervention.

Authorities have placed the $4,500 in escrow along with another $4,500 deposited by the SBA, awaiting the result of further legal proceedings. At a court appearance following a night in jail, Miss Makeba vowed she would never perform in Denmark again.

The ambassador, who also appeared in court, accused Danish authorities of racism. This elicited a mild guffaw from Judge Erling Christensen.

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Ellington, Dunham among arts, letters honorees

NEW YORK — Poet Gwendolyn Brooks, dancer Katherine Dunham and Duke Ellington, musician, are among those to be honored at the second annual awards banquet of the Black Academy of arts and Letters on Sept. 19 in the Grand Ballroom of the Waldorf Astoria.

Miss Brooks will be honored for outstanding achievement in letters and Miss Dunham, for her work in the Arts.

The Medal of Merit will be given to Ellington for his "lifelong, sustained contribution to the arts and explication of the black experience."

The Duke is also a founding fellow of the Black Academy. • • •

The academy will also present $500 cash awards to winners of its first annual Letters Competition, for the most distinguished 1970 books (by social science, and a distinguished work of non-fiction which does not fall into these categories.

Three esteemed contributors to black arts and letters, all of whom lived in the 19th century, will be enrolled in the academy's hall of fame: Ira Aldridge, actor; Frederick Douglass, statesman; and George Washington Williams, historian.

The closest descendant of each will be presented the citation during the awards ceremonies. • • •

Rudy Dee and Julie Belafonte, both wives of Black Academy members, are co-chairmen of the dinner committee for the banquet, which is a fifty dollar-a-plate fundraising affair.

Bill Cosby, who was unable, at the last minute, to appear at last year's awards banquet, will make up that commitment this year as guest artist, along with Letta Mbulu, the South African singer, and the Howard Roberts Chorale which features gospel-rock singer Ella Mitchell. • • •

Ossie Davis, who is master of ceremonies, and the presenters of the awards, are all members of the Black Academy.

The presenters are: **Imamu Baraka, Lerone Bennett, Arna Bontemps, Lonne Elder, Alex Haley, Adelaide Hill, Robert Hooks, Elma Lewis, Henry Lewis, Dorothy Porter Chuck Stone, and John Williams.**

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Dear Nancy

? (Forget the rumors. Get The Facts. Write Nancy, c/o P.O. Box 419, Hollywood, 90028.)

Q. At a Jackson 5 concert at the Hollywood Bowl we all heard Jermaine Jackson dedicate one of his songs to somebody named Hazel. Just who is this mysterious Haze!? We girls would really like to know. — Envous Mary, Los Angeles.

A. **Jermaine says the song was dedicated to his good friend HHazel Joy Gordy, who was in the audience. Miss Gordy, daughter of Motown head Berry Gordy J., and she had only the day before celebrated her 17th birthday.**

Q. Will actress Cicily Tyson be appearing with a bald head in any upcoming television shows or movies? I saw her recently and her shaved head really surprised me, to say the least. — Marylee Travis, Philadelphia.

A. **Miss Tyson usually wears a wig on TV. And she wears one in the movie "Sounder," which she is now making in Louisiana.**

Q. Can you tell me in which state black people hold more jobs of public office than in any other? — Freddie Wsyniger, Greenville, Miss.

A. **Would you believe — Alabama Uh hur!**

Q. You recently wrote that Rafer Johnson had broken off his romance with that blond woman of women's liberation, Gloria Steinem. But my fellow office worker says she knows for sure they are still going together. What do you say about that? — Harriet Oftley, L.A.

A. **I didn't say they'd broken up. Miss Steinem was quoted as saying it. Truth is they haven't.**

Q. I read recently that Yusef Lateef's religion as Islam, but the story did not say if he is a Muslim. Is he? — Jerry Roseberry, Pendleton, Ind.

A. **Followers around the world of the Islamic faith are known as Moslems and more often called Muslim, whether their mosques are in Cairo, Egypt or administered under Elijah Mohammad in Chicago.**

Q. I love Flip Wilson. He can always make me laugh. Would you please print his address so I could write to him? — Olivia Smith, Jefferson City, Mo.

A. **You may write to Flip Wilson, c/o Kathi Fearn Banks, NBC Studios, Burbank, California.**

Q. Did Booker T. Jones really leave the MG's to do an act with his new white wife — Pearl Chatman, Wilmington, Del.

A. **Yes. They record, together, on A and M Records. Here's hoping radio stations in your area will not ban their recordings.**

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Holton scheduled on 'Press' show

Gov. Linwood Holton is among six of the nation's leading governors slated to appear on a special, hour-long version of "Meet the Press" on Sunday on WWBT, Channel 12, 1-2 p.m.

To be broadcast in color, the program will originate live from San Juan, Puerto Rico where the National Conference of Governors is scheduled to meet.

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'Wonderful World' opens 11th season

An American Indian archaeologist tames a wounded coati-mundi and the animal (related to the raccoon) helps him uncover ancient relics in the Arizona desert in "Charley Crowfoot and the Coati-mundi," a nature adventure opening the eleventh season of NBC's "The Wonderful World of Disney" Sunday.

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HOLLYWOOD BEAT

Richard Roundtree in line for role opposite Hepburn?

By BILL LANE

HOLLYWOOD — Frantz Fanon's life story just might soon get on the motion picture screen, if producer Gene Corman has his way. He told me he has been talking to author James Baldwin about doing the screenplay. And, probably jokingly, he said he'd like to have Vida Blue play the star role.

Anyway, a movie about the late black literary guidepost to worldwide black revolution would surely get big audiences around the world in non-white locations: just ask the CIA.

His book, "The Wretched of The Earth," is subtitled: "The Handbook For The Black Revolution That is Changing The Shape of The World." Another of his mind-blowing tomes is "Black Skin, White Masks."

Corman said almost all the white news people phining him about his movie-making intentions ask to see the screenplay—which has not yet been written. He says the movie will have three million of those invested green ones behind it.

Richard Roundtree has struck gold in these here hills.

He's ready to leave for Beirut, Lebanon to film the starring role in "Embassy," which will also have Chuck Connors and Ray Milland.

He'll play an "I Spy" kind of role, as a U.S. agent. And all this along with please that he take a role opposite Catharine Hepburn in a flick to shoot in foreign lands. • • •

Chuck Connors was on hand the other night at the spectacular birthday party staged by Berry Gordy, Jr., for his 17-year-old daughter, Hazel Joy Gordy, at the half-million dollar Gordy landmark atop one of the tallest Hollywood hills.

The rambling, modern manse, with a meandering pool snaking around the knotty-pine jewel of architecture like a private river, has a guest house which makes some of the best Bel Air homes look like vacation cabins.

Also on hand were Dionne Warwick and hubby Bill Eliott who's now making a lot of inroads into films; Leslie Uggams and hubby Grahame Pratt, Clarence Williams II and wife Gloria Foster, Sugar Ray Robinson and wife Millie, and actor Jim Brown who told us he'll be leaving soon for Europe to make a movie with Elliott Gould. Hazel Joy's gift from her dad was a nifty new Firebird. • • •

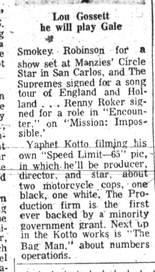
Lou Gossett took sick and had to drop out of a movie in which he was to play Gale Sayers, the Chicago Bears plunging back. For his role in "Brian's Song," they brought in Billy Dee Williams . . . and pretty Judy Pace joins Billy Dee as the wife of Gale.

Thelma Houston joining Smokey Robinson for a show set at Manzies' Circle Star in San Carlos, and The Supremes signed for a song tour of England and Holland . . . Renny Roker signed for a role in "Encounter," on "Mission: Impossible."

Yaphet Kotto filming his own "Speed Limit—65" pic, in which he'll be producer, director, and star, about two motorcycle cops, one black, one white. The Production firm is the first ever backed by a minority government grant. Next up in the Kotto works is "The Bag Man," about numbers operations.

Judy Pace
film wife of Sayers

Richard Roundtree
ready for Beirut



Lou Gossett
he will play Gale

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