'Sparkle' world premiere sneak preview Monday

Stix (Philip Thomas and Sparkle (Irene Cara). Dwan Smith, Lonette McKee and Irene Cara in musical scene from "Sparkle". Underworld Kingpin played by Tony King is a woman beater and dope pusher in "Sparkle".

What's Happening

By Ida Peters

Baltimore has been selected for the most prestigious world premiere sneak preview of Warner Brother's new movie "Sparkle".

Monday night at 8:30 at the New Theatre J. F. Theatres will host Warner Brothers biggies from New York and California. Flying in from California will be Vincent Tubbs, Press Director of Community Relations and Arthur Manson, Warner Brothers Vice-President of Advertising and Publicity. From New York will come Bob Dorfman, Eastern Advertising Director.

What makes Baltimore so special? Baltimore's audiences are a cross-section of the United States. It's cheaper to bring in a hyped ethnic movie to Baltimore than it is to take it to N.Y. or L.A. If a movie bombs in those two cities, no one will ever go see it. If it bombs in Baltimore, who cares?

"Sparkle" closely resembles the life and times of three real-life female singers, Diana Ross and The Supremes. Only difference is that Ross worked her way from the secretarial pool to the studio plugging her little high school group all the way.

The movie focuses on Sparkle, played by young 17-year-old **Irene Cara**, sister, **(Lonette McKee)** and Delores, **(Dwan Smith.)** The three girls win an amateur night contest in Harlem. This starts them on the road out of the ghetto to the top of the rock-and-roll world with the help of Stix, **(Philip Tomas)** and Levi, **(Dorian Harewood.)**

The villian in "Sparkle" is Satin, played by **Tony King** seen every Sunday night co-starring in the TV drama "Bronk". He hooks Sisters on drugs and puts Levi in the penetentiary. In the face of huge success, the group is destroyed. Sister dies of drugs, Delores dies of a broken heart.

It's no wonder. She's been singing since she was five, dancing since she was nine and she starred on Broadway when she was eleven, so she had quite a head start on everyone.

Her first feature film role was as Angela in "Aaron Loves Angela" which starred Washington-him **Kevin Hooks**.

You'll remember King from his various feature roles in "Panic In Needle Park" with Al Pacino, "The Godfather", "Shaft" opposite Richard Roundtree, "Gordon's War" and "Hell Up In Harlem".

The villian in "Sparkle" is Satin, played by **Tony King** seen every Sunday night co-starring in the TV drama "Bronk". He hooks Sisters on drugs and puts Levi in the penetentiary. In the face of huge success, the group is destroyed. Sister dies of drugs, Delores goes off to become an activist and only Sparkle continues to top stardom as a single act.

Two thousand young actresses tried for the role of Sparkle. One Baltimorean made the trip to New York for the auditions. It seems that Irene Cara just outdanced and out-acted them all