# Who will win the Oscars this year?

By Ida Peters

Which movie will win the Oscar for Best Picture? Will it be "Rocky" or "Network" leading contenders for this year's Oscar Awards of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences which will be telecast live on Monday, March 28 on ABC-TV.

In Tuesday's AFRO, this column lamented the fact that Richard Pryor was not nominated for Best Supporting Actor in "Silver Streak" or Lonette McGee was ignored for her part in "Sparkle".

AFRO readers voting since Tuesday's AFRO pick Robert DeNiro, "Taxi Driver", for Best Actor, Jason Robards, "All The President's Men", Best Supporting Actor, Faye Dunaway in "Network" for Best Actress; Jodie Foster in "Taxi Driver" for Best Supporting Actress; "Rocky", Best Picture of the Year.

Check the ballot below and tell us your choices to win the Oscars this year. Then we'll check your choices with the actual winners on March 28.

Dear AFRO:

I would like to comment about your March 8 AFRO column on the Academy Awards. Okay, the black performers and artists were ignored again. But, I've come to expect that.

Since I would have liked to have seen Lonette McGee nominated for "Sparkle" as well as Curtis Mayfield for his first-rate score. But what I really want to mention is this; just because a picture makes money does not necessarily mean the picture is good. I felt that "Bingo Long and the Traveling All Stars" was dull; "Let's Do It Again", "Norman Is That You?" were horrible and "Drum" was pure trash.

Maybe one reason why "Rocky", and "Network" aren't in the top grossing film list is because they are still in release and doing big business as well.

M. PITTMAN
Baltimore, Md.

AFRO readers vote your choice

AFRO Movie Awards
628 N. Eutaw St., Balto. Md. 21201

**Best Actor**
( ) Robert DeNiro in "Taxi Driver"
( ) Peter Finch in "Network"
( ) Giancarlo Giannini in "Seven Beauties"
( ) William Holden in "Network"
( ) Sylvester Stallone in "Rocky"

**Best Actor in Supporting Role:**
( ) Ned Beatty in "Network"
( ) Burgess Meredith in "Rocky"
( ) Laurence Olivier in "Marathon Man"
( ) Jason Robards in "All the President's Men"
( ) Burt Young in "Rocky"

**Best Actress:**
( ) Marie-Christine Barrault in "Cousin, Cousine"
( ) Faye Dunaway in "Network"
( ) Talia Shire in "Rocky"
( ) Sissy Spacek in "Carrie"
( ) Liv Ullman in "Face To Face"

**Best Actress in Supporting Role:**
( ) Jane Alexander in "All The President's Men"
( ) Jodie Foster in "Taxi Driver"
( ) Lee Grant in "Voyage of the Damned"
( ) Piper Laurie in "Carrie"
( ) Beatrice Straight in "Network"

**Best Picture of the Year:**
( ) "All the Prsident's Men"
( ) "Bound for Glory"
( ) "Network"
( ) "Rocky"
( ) "Taxi Driver"

# Michael Schultz . . . black man in white world

## Film director: 'Cooley High', 'Car Wash' 'Which Way Is Up' 'Greased Lightening'

By Ida Peters

Michael Schultz is, at this point the leading black director in Hollywood.

He is not the first, nor does he have the largest film credits.

But Michael Schultz is the main black, working full-time as a director. He's the man responsible . . . the architect of his films. He brings together light, sounds and music, sharpens the focus, overlooks the presentation of costume, scenery and atmosphere and pulls it all together.

To date, Michael Schultz, has just completed filming "Which Way Is UP" starring Richard Pryor. He also has completed filming "Greased Lightining" for Warner Brothers where Richard Pryor stars as Wendell Scott first recognized black racing car driver.

Schultz filming "Which Way Is Up" for Universal starring Richard Pryor which started filming Jan. 17 and ended March 4.

His successful "Car Wash" for Universal viewed at the Cannes Film Festival had a top rental of $4.1 million in 1976. His 1975 "Cooley Hizh" and AIP grossed $7 million.

# 'Showdown' outstanding romantic comedy

THE CAST

| | |
|---|---|
| Simon Crum | Adam Poindexter |
| Ronnie Larkins | Ross Richardson |
| Joan Coursey | Mrs Effie Morrison |
| Earl Burton | Jeremiah Jones |
| Eleanor Welch | Hazel Richardson |
| Harvey Denmark | Herman Richardson |

"SHOWDOWN," written by Don Evans. Directed by Ed Terry. Set and lighting design by Roscoe A. Thompson, Costume design by Mary Hall. Production Stage Management by Patt Wilson. Currently playing at the Arena Playhouse, 801 McCullough St.

"Showdown", the newest production by the Arena Players is one of the most outstanding of their season.

The play is an original script by a young playwright, Don Evans. The story of the play is Shakespearean in nature paralleling "The Taming of the Shrew".

In Don Evans' production, the characters are urban black rather than the classical performers used in Shakespeare.

The story revolves around an evil, hot-tempered young woman, Rosa Richardson, who is confronted and romanced by a clean, wholesome, country boy, Adam Poindexter.

Adams, a dauntless idealist, ignores the warnings of many people in the neighborhood, when they warn him of the trouble he is about to face.

Rosa, a hardened veteran of urban love-battles is decidely against begin tied down in marriage or even being involved with a man.

The clash of the two strong wills leads to one of the funniest and realistic productions Arena Players have produced.

Ronnie Larkins as Rosa and Simon Crum as Adam turn in two fine performances. Crum captures the sense of a naive, humble character and Ms. Larkins handles the quick changes in mood and character to perfection.

Also turning in notable performances are Harvey Denmark as Rosa's father; Mary Hall as the mother; Earl Burton as Jeremiah, the wino, and Joan Coursey as the meddling neighbor.

"Showdown" also introduces Ellen Smith as Velma, Rosa's younger sister, and the singing group "To Be Continued" as street toughs.

But all the credit for the show's success is not just the acting. The set designed and built by Roscoe Thompson, who commuted from New York to prepare the set weeks prior to the show, is the most authentic and realistic work, making the set both attractive and functional. It consists of two house fronts and an alley way, adding depth and dimension to the pay.

And, last but not least is the very deft directing of Ed Terry. His directing is superb mixing both seasoned veterans and novices into a very tight weave that make the production almost flawless.

stopped in the AFRO office last week and posed with AFRO lovelies Joyce Grant and Loretta Boiling to promote his new Philadelphia International album "Teddy Pendergrass".

The drummer-turned-singer was former lead singer with Harold Melvin and the Blue Notes and was featured on "Bad Luck" and other hits.

Pendergrass is out on his own now and is working on a new stage show with dancers to hit Carnegie Hall, March 31.

• • •

AFRO Jazz columnist Bob Matthews was up to his ears and armpits this past deadline Wednesday. He's head of NBC news in D.C. While talking to Bob the District building was under seige; Mayor Washington was being held hostage and Marion Berry the City Councilman was shot in the stomach. Plus, the Philly based Black Muslims had taken 100-hostages in the Islamic Mosque on Massachusetts Avenue.

Now is the time to recall a column ago when I wondered why the showing of "Roots" at the beginning of Carter's administration? Why inflame the haves and have nots, whites against blacks?

• • •

Debbie Allen in the new NBC-TV mini-series starting March 30. Debbie is a Houston, Texas native, a grad of Howard University and former teacher at D.C.'s Duke Ellington School of Performing Arts. Debbie was a dancer in "Purlie" played Beneatha in "Raisin", both on Broadway and was J.J.'s junkie girlfriend on "Good Times".

• • •

Melba Moore, 3/23/77 on the Mike Douglass show where she talks about her baby due in June and sings "Blue Sky" and "Come Be My Friend". The Supremes are with Mike on 3/21.

# More . . . more more

The Softones are back in B-More and visited the AFRO straight from triumphal six week tour of Japan.

Steve Johnson, first tenor; Marvin Brown lead singer; and Elton Lynch, baritone were promoting their new album "Black Magic". They expect the hit "Go On With The Show" to hit top of the record stores.

I didn't know the home boys. They are so sophisticated and grown up in their Bill Blass suits. They are really nice, single, young men and thanks to Rod Armstrong and Eddie Donaldson check into the AFRO after every trip.

They're home to rest up with their families before taking off for concerts with The Temptations, O'Jays and the Isley Brothers.

The Softones say they had no problems with money or the Geishas in Japan as this is their second tour of Japan. They alternated headlining with the Stylistics and Jose Feliciano.

They played in auditoriums holding 5,000 to 12,000 all over Japan. The Japanese study English in school and the record albums have lyric sheets in Japanese.

The autograph fans followed the Softones everywhere, all day and even to their hotel room. One cornered Marvin in the bathroom to ask for an autograph.

• • •

Rumors a week ago were that Richard Pryor and Pam Grier were altar bound. A note from Paul Gardner at Universal Studios where Pryor is completing filming of "Which Way Is Up" says that Pryor's friendship with Ms Grier is of course a well published fact. He says that Pryor advises that he has no marriage plans at the present time. His plans call for him to go into rehearsal for an NBC television special. Gardner says, if this situation changes he will let me know promptly. This is another nice way of saying, if they get hitched according to rumor which reaches me way out here in B-More, I'll be the last to know.

Delores Bradwell, whose film credits include "Shaft", "Cotton Comes To Harlem" and "The French Connection" has been given the starring role of the 16 mm motion picture "The Life of Harriett Tubman".

The pix is being produced by Baker Enterprises and is a remake of one made by the same firm in 1959, the pioneer production in the field of feature length motion pictures on black history.

Teddy Pendergrass,


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Look at the latest U.S. Government figures for other top brands that call themselves "low" in tar.

| | tar mg/cig | nicotine mg/cig |
|---|---|---|
| Brand D | 13 | 0.8 |
| Brand D Menthol | 11 | 0.8 |
| Brand V | 11 | 0.7 |
| Brand V Menthol | 10 | 0.7 |
| Brand M Menthol | 8 | 0.5 |
| Brand M | 8 | 0.5 |
| Carlton Soft Pack | 1 | 0.1 |
| Carlton Menthol | less than 1 | 0.1 |
| Carlton Box | less than 1 | <0.1 |

†As per cigarette by FTC method

Less than 1 mg. tar.

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Carlton

Soft pack-1 mg. Menthol-less than 1 mg. Box*-less than 1 mg.

Soft Pack, and Menthol: 1 mg. "tar", 0.1 mg. nicotine av. per cigarette, FTC Report DEC. '76.
Box: 1 mg. "tar", 0.1 mg. nicotine av. per cigarette by FTC method.



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# Bits & Pieces

By Vashti McKenzie

Natalie Cole had half a house at the Capitol Center last week-end.

That's amazing for someone who has just won a second Grammy award in two years. Promoters have overestimated the B-More-D.C. Market and people have something else to do with their money. Easter is coming and many people are out of work. You've got to pay those Gas and Electric bills.

Last year everybody who was anybody came to town during the Bicentennial, except Stevie Wonder and he'll be in the area this summer.

New person in town Jay Jabriskie, at WMAR-TV. He comes from WTOP in D.C. He's single if you are you single ladies are interested.

Alex Haley spoke at the Greater Washington "Opportunities '77 Fair," at the D.C. Hilton a week ago.

Minority businesses from all over the U.S. got a chance to meet big business like American Airlines, Shell, Westinghouse and make the availability of their services known.

Alex Haley really impressed me. He said he didn't consider himself a leader of black people as people are trying to make him.

He considers himself a role model to motivate and inspire other people to dig into their pasts.

The only way to move a people as a nation is to inspire them to discover themselves.

He gave three recommendations:

First, to respect older people and talk to older family members about family heritage before they die.

Second, find and preserve those old family memobilia. Save those old trunks; put them in the attic.

Third, start holding family reunions if for nothing else but to introduce the younger members of the family to the older members so they will have a sense of family pride and heritage. He asked, how are people going to have a sense of family history if they never see the family.

The Black Woman's Mean's Council of the University of Maryland College Park held their first sharing and caring seminar last Saturday in the Continuing Adult Center.

The College Park black faculty, staff and administrators organized to concern themselves with the academic and personal development of black women on the College Park campus.

Counselors from eight different life styles spoke to undergraduate and graduate women; many were sledgees from Zeta Phi Beta (in blue and white hats) and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority (red notebooks).

The panelists included a single black mother featured in Essence and a teacher who quit a $24,000 a year job to become an actress and singer, now with the Children's Opera Assoc. in D.C.

The women were able to discuss problems freely without fear of condemnation.

They discussed the definition of a strong black woman; how to balance career and family and the pros and cons of being the first black whatever. Also how to establish a woman's own identity whether in a married relationship or as the girls said a "stable" relationship . . . one that you can count on from days to day, not necessarily from year to year.

The also talked about the myths "our mama's taught us... take care of your character . . . keep your pants up and your skirt down,".

Moderator was Mrs. Yolande W. Ford, director, Human Relations, UM, also on the program was Dr. M. Lucia James, director Curriculum Laboratory; Mrs. Wilhelmina Haskins, assistant director, Intensive Educational Development; and Mrs. Laura Gardner, vice-chancellor, UM.

Panelists were:

Dr. Yvonne Chappelle, UM professor Mrs. Bessie Draper, widow Hon. George Draper; Career Federal Employee; Mrs. Norlishia Jackson, Director Teen-Age Youth Home; Mrs Jessye P. Miller, Career Homemaker, Girl Scout Leader; Dr. Elizabeth Moss, former publisher AFRO; president Betco Associates;

Mrs. Vashti McKenzie, AFRO Columnist, Shady Grove Music Fair, Public Relations Director; Mrs. Constance Newman, former Undersecretary of HUD; Mrs. Jean Pearman, a concert artist; and Mrs. Rose Williamson, retired D.C. public school teacher.

The Bar Kays with Rufus and Brick at the Civic Center this Sun., March 13.

# . . . and all that jazz

By Bob Matthews

It was billed as a concert, one of the series regularly put on by the Left Bank Jazz society.

But it wasn't.

What it was, was an old-fashioned jam session with the LBJS patrons as auditors. . .and it swang.

Featured attraction was Sonny Stitt, and remembering his last appearance in Baltimore, approached the ballroom with a feeling of trepedation.

Shouldn't have worried.

Sonny was on stage well ahead of "hit" time. Noodling on the piano, chit chatting with early arrivals in the audience...getting ready.

Twas a pick-up group...all sterling musicians in their own right, but never having played together. In fact, Sonny even didn't know their names.

Ruben Brown was on piano; Steve Novasel, bass; and Bertell Knox, drums.

First set was a bit bland. More feeling out process than anything else. The usual LBJS spark wasn't there. Sonny's pipes were adequate, but not inspired.

Then...came the second set. Sonny called up Don Patterson to play the piano. Don, of course, is well known as a jazz organist, and turned out to be a romping, stomping jez pianist as well.

By the time he finished doing a prolonged vamp while Sonny got ready...the group was in a groove.

Before the first set ended, a shy retiring figure sidled to the bandstand and eased towards the mike.

Was it a plane? Was it a bird?. . .No. . .'twas Super Mickey making his usual appearance at Sonny Stitt's set

Mickey Fields started to blow, and the place came alive.

This was the catalyst needed to ignite the fireworks, and the sparks showered all over the place.

In a jam session, everything is a "head" arrangement. And this group of pros reacted like they had practiced together for years.

Mickey Fields demonstrated once again that he has no peers and can hold his own with any tenor saxman extant.

What his fiery solos did, was to inspire Sonny to even greater heights.

Guest one of the things I like best about jam sessions is that the artists must of necessity use the old standards on which to base their riffs.

'Tis a pleasure to hear the likes of "Candy" "How Hich The Moon", and even "Killing Me Softly", as take-off bases for high-flying exploration.

If you've ever watched Sonny Stitt when there is a cutting contest available...he just plain glows.

After the usual solos, it evolved into a battle of fours or eights.

That's what happened...and it was good, and, this was really jazz at its best.

Lenny White, hometown Queens, N.Y. played his first pro gig with Jackie McLean and eventually replaced Billy Cobham in the Jazz Sanaritane. He is best remembered for his fusion work with Return to Forever featuring Chick Corea and Stanley Clarke.

# Lenny White 'Big City'

By James Greenberry

"Big City" - Produced by Lenny White and Pat Gleeson for Berry-Boo Enterprises Inc. Nemperor Records - Distributed by Atlantic.

Some people grow year to year. Some by leaps and bounds. Others in quantum jumps. Since "Venusian Summer", good things must have been happening to Lenny White. Last saw him at Capitol Center with Chick Corea.

On "Big City", White plays drums, Eu Synthesizer micro-mini moog, wallet, roto-toms, congas, Oberheim Polyphonic synthesizer, and chese-enchiladas.

He also writes, arranges, conducts, produces and probably prepared lunch. The album was recorded between June and September 1976 at three different studios including Electric Lady Studios in N.Y. and Different Fur, San Francisco. He's joined by Tower of Power horn section and the Brain Auger Oblivion Express on the title tune "Big City".

Herbie Hancock can be heard on the tune "Rapid Transit" playing the electric piano. A host of talented sting, percussion, acoustic, wind and assorted electric musical instruments are feaured.

The advance notice on the album calls "Big City" one of the most controversial fusion music projects ever. Whatever you call this urban fantasy, it shows a great deal of strength in Lenny not only as a performer but as a writer, producer, arranger with PhD Pat Gleeson as co-producer and synthesist, the album takes you on a musical odyssey thru the big city featuring a minute long percussion mind blower by Lenny.

Also featured is a sad funky experience dedicated to Jimi Hendrick, "Dreams Come and Go Away". You can also hear Verdean White of Earth, Wind and Fire on the tune "Rapid Transit" playing very funky bass while Linda Tillery does a haunting vocal on "Sweet Dreamer". She is worth hearing again.

# Grover Washington meet Roy Ayers

By Frederick I. Douglass

Painters Mill Music Theatre was the scene of a musical extravaganza last Saturday featuring Jazz saxophonist Grover Washington and Ubiquity, a group headed by jazz vibist Roy Ayers. The double header bill of fare was designed to blow the minds of jazz lovers from Baltimore and Washington. And that's exactly what happened as the brothers and sisters when caught up in the sweeping wave of a historic grove-a-thon that will be talked about for many a day.

Ayers kicked off the show, dalling maniacally on his electrified vibes like a blacksmith, pounding out fantastic melodies and rhythms that resounded throughout the theatre, tickling everyone's eardrums. Ayers also sang lead and background vocals and played everyone's eardrums. Ayers also sand lead and background vocals and played the piano, electric piano, synthesizer keyboards and a variety of percussion instruments. Most of the set was dedicated to playing tunes from Ayers' slickaphonic new album "Vibrations," in addition to selected tunes from recent albums by Ayers such as "Mystic Voyage" and "A Tear to a Smile."

Ayers nearly brought the house to the ground as he romped and stomped through up-tempo jams like "Domelo," "Higher" and "Come out and Play." The theatre may as well have been converted to a disco because all the folks were on their feet dancing in the aisles to the frenetic Roy Ayers best. Ayers kept the groove-a-thon tempo flowing by playing "Moving, Grooving," a fingerpopping jam that just won't quit.

Ayer then cooled out the pace a taste by playing a few ballads including "Searching," "Baby I Need Your Love," "Baby You Give Me a Feeling," and "Vibrations." The man then proceeded to knock the folks cold when he blasted out "The Spirit of Do Do," an orgiastic jam that was brought to a fiery climax with Ayers rolling around on the floor with the two female members of his group.

When grooving Grover Washington rolled out on the stage he was really ready to blow his saxophones untill the wee, wee hours of the morning. Grover opened his set by playing "Secret Place," the title track of his latest album. "Secret Place" is a haunting tune with a Reggae beat tinged with a hint of Latin. Grover plays the jam on soprano sax and, at times, one hears echoes of the late great Trane in his playing.

The man's playing on this jam was portentious of the dynamic playing that Grover would be hitting the audience with as the night eased on into infinity. Washington next eased into a mellow jam entitled "Not Yet" which allowed him to show off his monumental prowess on the tenor saxophone and to delight the members of the audience with his frantic musical antics.

Grover took the audience past the twilight zone when he played "Mr. Magic," the song that brought him to the attention of a wide variety of music lovers.

# Top R&B Albums

1 Songs In The Key of Life — Stevie Wonder
2 Ask Rufus — Rufus Featuring Chaka Khan
3 Car Wash — Original Soundtrack
4 Good High — Brick
5 In Flight — George Benson
6 Unpredictable — Natalie Cole
7 Any Way You Like It — Thelma Houston
8 The Jacksons
9 . . . Ahh, The Name Is Bootsy Baby — Bootsy's Rubber Band
10 This Is Niecy — Deniece Williams.


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# Smirnoff CALENDAR

## Events in your community

March 8-April 14, 1977 — "Human Relations for Women Managers" Each Thursday, 12:00 noon — 3:30 p.m., Invitation Inn, Edgewood, Md. Advance Registration required. For further details call, 682-6000, ext. 406.

March 11, 1977 — Morgan State University will host a fashion scholarship gala, sponsored by Stewart and Company, introducing designer Jack Fuller and his Spring-Summer collection for Jardine, Ltd., 9 p.m. at Morgan State University, Hillen Rd. and Coldspring Lane. Champagne and buffet reception included.

March 19, 1977 — The Karting Association of Maryland will sponsor a karting display at the Harford Mall, Bel, Air, Md. Display hours are 10:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. Call 679-4262 for additional information.

April 4-12, 1977 — The Department of Geography at Towson State University will conduct a trip to USSR. The trip will include round trip transportation, first class hotels, three meals daily, comprehensive sightseeing, tickets to two performances in Moscow and Leningrad and much more. For further information, call 321-2967.

Persons or organizations who wish to have coming events printed here are asked to write to Mrs. Gertrude M. Steele, AFRO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS, P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Md., 21203.

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