Latoya Jackson

Q - What women are breaking down the bars to the music business?

Kellie Redd Richmond, Va. A - There are scarcely a score of

women conductors in the world. Of those, very few combine composing and conducting and it's rarer still to find one who is black. 20-year-old Tania Viera Leon, the Cuban born conductor, composer and musical director of the Harlem Dance of Theatre, is a most unusual lady. Tania is an intense, dedicated musician who devotes herself completely to her work. She composed her first piece of music - "Prelude" - at the age of fourteen, and went on to explore pop as well as the classics. One of her songs, "Ciego Reto," was recorded by Cuba's top woman vocalist, Elen Bourque.

Q — Woodie King has done a film on Harlem: "Six Torture of Mothers." What's it about?

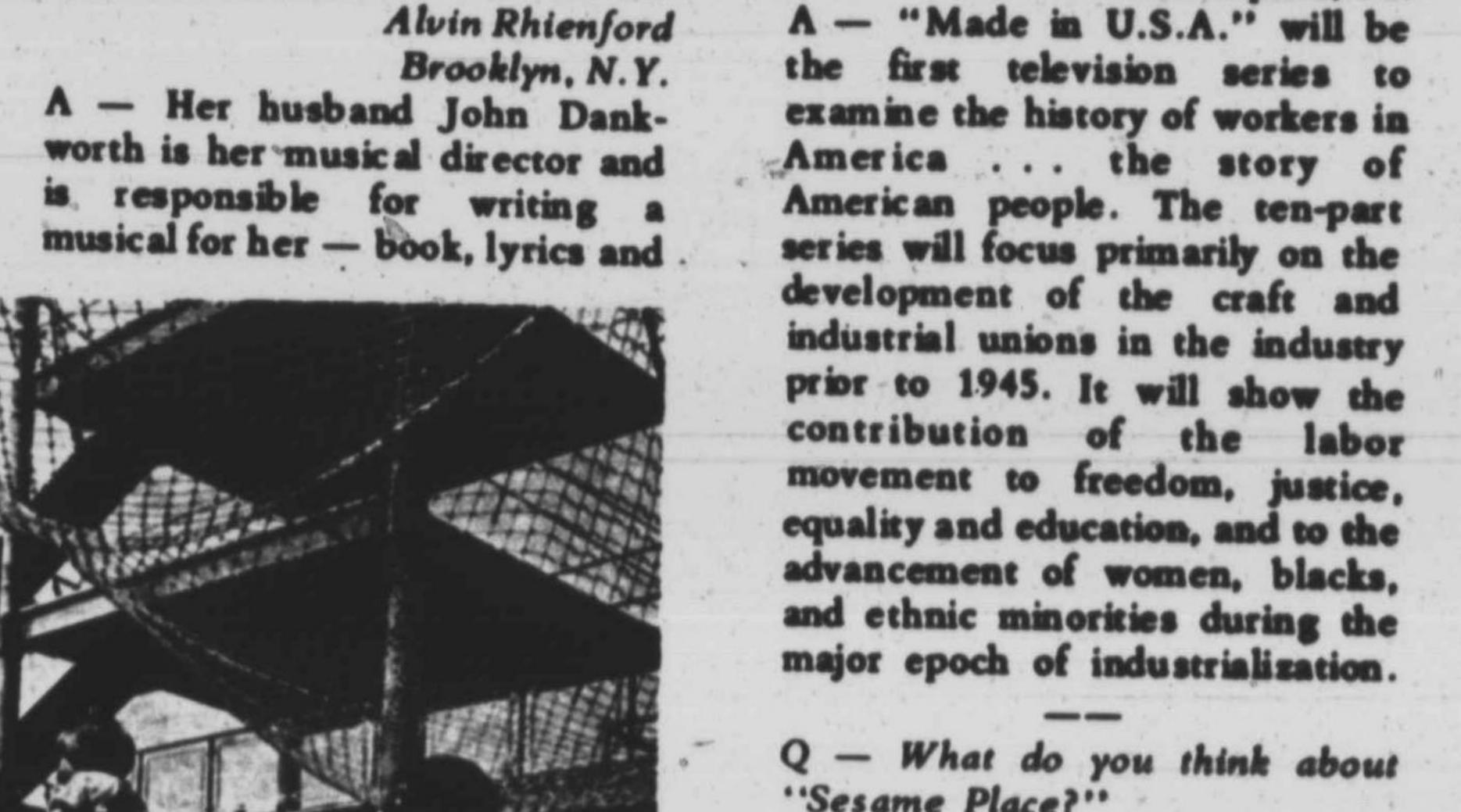


Jeanne Parnell's:

Tania Leon

Nelson's book about how a 1964 incident involving some Harlem school children overturning a fruit stand, and its repercussion that led to the imprisonment of six innocent youths. Ruby Dee, -Novella Nelson and others narrate the docu-drama film. It's authentic in its portrayal, and devastating in its results. It's a statement about the present power structure and media misinformation.

Q - Is Cleo Laine still around? Alvin Rhienford



2 - What do you think about "Sesame Place?" Penny Howard

Herb Alpert

tunes - on the life of Colette the

French writer. Cleo and Dank-

worth are writing special material

for her and arranging songs to

show her four-octave movie to its

best advantage. The show will

open in London, "and if it's a

success," she says with her soft

British accent, "we're thinking

about coming back here with it."

Q - Do you know anything about

Carl Alford

Philadelphia, Pa.

"Made in U.S.A." - T.V.?

- The newly opened playground which is located on a 15 acre site in Longhorl, Pa. is an important breakthrough in family

entertainment. It's definitely for

the young at heart, including all of us who enjoy fun with games and learning. It's dubbed a 21st Century playground,, a park without passive rides or shows, but rather a place where children stretch their minds along with their muscles, and all ages are invited to match wit with computers and explore the exciting world of science, and technology. lt's great!

- Let's talk about Herb Alpert's success.

Michael Bristow Englewood, N.J. A - Alpert's rejuvenated

popularity on pop radio stations, and a new and strongly supportive black listening audience led to a banner year which was capped by his winning the Grammy Award for "Best Pop Instrumental Performance." "I've never intentionally tried to make a hit record," he informed, "just a good record. I think quality always wins out, it seems to be the common denominator for success." He also became the first music personality to be included in the recently established Hollywood Hall of Fame.

Q- Pick a new celebrity for Celebenit?

Jackie Prince Houston, Texas A — La Toya Jackson shouldn't really need an introduction to music fans around the world. Internationally and domestically the striking attractive young singer has been performing for over five years with her brothers, The Jackson, on numerous concerts. Besides singing, La Toya's interests span a mukitude of areas. She would eventually like to pursue acting in motion pictures and television features in addition to her solo recording

All letters should be addressed to Jeanne Parnell, DAWN Magazine, 628 N. Eutew St., Baltimore, Md. 21201. All questions are welcome, but while Jeanne cannot provide individual answers, questions of general interest will be used in this column.



Sesame Village

