On our cover

There is something about Hollywood that makes it like not another place in the world. It's the place where dream makers come and dreams come true. It's a place where dreams come true and a place where dreams fall. It's a place of fantasy, imagination, creativity and where men and women flock with stars in their eyes.

Make no mistake, Hollywood is also a place of hard knocks, paying your dues and it's a who you know, not-how-good-you-are-kind-of-place.

Blacks are also striving to make it in Hollywood, yet sometimes what they are doing don't end up in print nor on the silver screen.

Diana Ross, songtress-actress personified is making it in Hollywood. Look for designer hosiery to come from this lady who is not singing the blues but is singing all the way to the bank. She will autograph $3-a-pair stockings soon to be marketed out of a Rhode Island hosiery mill in a multi-million dollar package for her.

Last week Diana gave $250,000 out of her own savings (how would you like to have a quarter of a million lying around a bank) to New York City for the Diana Ross Playground in Central Park.

Diana put on a free concert in Central last summer that attracted 350,000. The TV rights were sold to cable TV and she promised the profits from the concert would go towards the playground. The concert was rained out and rescheduled. All of that meant no profit for the playground cost New York City $650,000 for clean up and police overtime.

Mayor Ed Koch was upset by the reports of no profit. But, Diana, out of the goodness of her heart, bank account and bad publicity donated the quarter of a million dollars anyway.

Friday Plus

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Best Bets

Hooray for Hollywood

Baltimore Tamara Dobson Stars In "Amazons"

Baltimorean Tamara Dobson, who had the title role in "Cleopatra Jones" is co-starring in the television movie "Amazons" airing as "The ABC Sunday Night Movie," Jan. 29 (9-11) p.m. EST) on the ABC Television Network.

While investigating the mysterious death of a prominent U.S. Congressman, a beautiful young doctor discovers a secret organization of women who possess power beyond their beauty, and use it to control or destroy their enemies., in the thriller - adventure."

Paul Michael Glaser directed this action - thriller set in Washington, D.C., where women of a subversive organization have been methodically moving themselves into position of power in order to ultimately control the United States.

These intelligent, single - minded women are driven by the haunting memory of their ancestors, the Amazons, a legendary race of women warriors who vowed to make war against men.

In a Washington hospital, an ambituous young physician, Dr. Sharon Fields, is framed for malpractice after the mysterious death of an influential Congressman. Convinced that she didn't err in her treatment of Congressman Barstow, Sharon seeks advice from police Lt. Tony Monaco, who suggests that someone could have tampered with Barstow's medical chart.

To save her career, Sharon begins her own medical investigation. The hospital's pathologist, Dr. Menzies, reports unexplainable traces of three drugs in Barstow's body. But Menzies is killed before he can give Sharon more information.

At the urging of Diane, the assistant hospital administrator, Sharon attends a gathering at the home of a Washington socialite. Sharon is fascinated by an ancient bow and arrow display in the house that is similar to identical charms worn by Diane and other women guests. But it's Sharon's accidental discovery of a hidden computer that suggests the existence of a fantastic conspiracy of vital national significance.

Besides **Tamara Dobson** starring as Rosalund Theri's Jack Scalia as Tony Monaco, Stella Stevens as Kathryn, Madeline Stowe as Dr. Sharon Fields, Jennifer Warren as Diane, William Schallert as Congressman Barstow, Nicholas Pryor as Dr. Thompson, Peter Scolari as Jerry Menzies and Leslie Bevis as Vivian Todd.

Tamara Dobson stars in "Amazon" airing Sunday night on ABC-TV.

Comedy's Golden Comedian Eddie Murphy

Eddie Murphy is looking more like comedy's newest golden star everyday. His career took another step forward as his first two albums "Eddie Murphy" and "Eddie Murphy: Comedian" were just certified gold.

The first album earned a Grammy nomination last year as "Best Comedy Recording" and the National Association of Recording Arts and Sciences announced this week that the second album has also earned a Grammy nomination in the Comedy category. The Grammy award will be aired Feb. 28 on CBS.

Now in his 4th season as a regular cast member of NBC's "Saturday Night Live," Eddie Murphy is also stronger than ever in box office appeal. His movie debut in **"48 Hours"** second film, **"Trading Places"** with Dan Aykroyd ended 1983 as one of the three top-grossing films of the year.

For his work in **"Trading Places,"** Murphy won an NAACP Image Award as "Actor of the Year." And it was confirmed this week by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association that he has been nominated for a Golden Globe award as "Best Actor in a Comedy or Musical," results to be announced January 28th.

Eddie Murphy

Murphy's third movie role is a cameo/feature performance in **The Best Defense**, starring Dudley Moore, produced by Gloria Katz and directed by Willard Huyck (same pair who wrote the original screenplay of **"American Graffiti"** and this summer's sequel to **"Raiders of the Lost Ark."** Murphy is currently in the midst of a three week shooting schedule in Israel for the new movie.

When he returns to the United States, Murphy will make three more appearances on "Saturday Night Live" before the season wraps-up in May. This is in addition to several taped segments planned for each show.

Robert Guillaume, star of ABC-TV series "Benson" has been nominated in the 41st Annual Golden Globe Awards in the Best Performance by an actor category by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association. The Golden Globes will be presented this weekend in L.A.

Peabody Black Music Symposium

A Symposium on Black Musical Theater, presented jointly by the Peabody Conservatory of Music and Morgan State University, will be held on February 16, 17 and 18 at Peabody. The

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Hollywood TODAY

by Vincent Tubbs

"...It ain't what it ought to be, and it ain't what it's gonna be, but it sure ain't what it used be!" stated NAACP National Executive Director **Benjamin Hooks** at the Beverly Hills Hollywood Chapter's 16th Annual Image Awards about Hollywood's treatment of blacks.

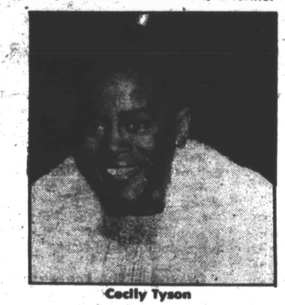
Blacks are making inroads in the Hollywood community both in front of and behind the camera. And, they're making headlines!

Tamara Dobson, who had the title role in "Cleopatra Jones" and nothing like it since, is back in town co-starring in an upcoming TV movie titled "The Amazons"...**Sammy Davis Jr.,** who fell out of bed (?) and broke a rib, is okay again...Lunched recently with **Elizabeth Taylor,** a few hours before lawyers told Miss Taylor that **Cicely Tyson** is suing her for $626,000 in a contract dispute about a cancelled Broadway play.

Yaphet Kotto is set to produce and star in a movie about the first rich Black family in Colorado. It will be called "The Fords of Colorado" and is based on the factual novel "The Black Baron"...And word is that the First Lady Nancy Reagan is the person who invited Mr. T to the White House to be Santa Claus for the annual press party.

Ted Lange, who co-stars in the TV series "The Love Boat," recently directed his sixth segment of that long running hit show...**Michelle Nicholas,** that gorgeous Brown beauty in "Star Trek" and mother of **Kyle Johnson,** who starred in "The Learning Tree," is being featured in a video cassette production of "Anthony & Cleopatra" by Bard Productions...**Bubba Smith,** the one time terror of the gridiron, will be a regular on ABC TV's new series "Blue Thunder"'...And, finally, "The Jesse Owens Story" is set by Paramount as a 4-hour film to air in July, 1984.

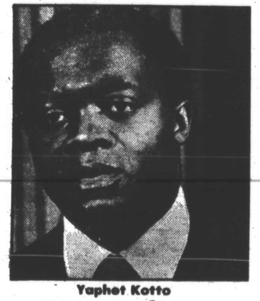
Richard Pryor has returned from vacationing in Africa and when last we looked his "Richard Pryor Here and Now" comedy movie had taken in more than $15 million at the box office. . . **Atty. Samuel L. Williams,** a former



Cecily Tyson

president of both the State and local bar associations, has been named to the board of directors of Walt Disney productions, reportedly resultant of an agreement with the NAACP's **Benjamin Hooks** for increased participation by Blacks in studio activity.

Break Dancing is going to be epileptic all over your neighborhood movie screens soon. Both **Sidney Poitier** and his long-time friend, **Harry Belafonte,** are making films about the new dance or whatever it is, although neither will appear in the films they are making. Harry will be concert touring in Europe while his "Beat Street" is being made, reports state. Sidney will direct a screenplay by **Richard Wesley** titled



Yaphet Kotto

"Shootout" for Columbia release. He is screen testing 17-18 year old dancers nationwide for the seven featured roles. Shooting will start next May in New York...**Clarence Williams, III** has a role in a new film titled "Purple Rain"...**Moses Gunn** is appearing in a new Universal film titled "Firestarter." And **Eddie Murphy's** next outing will be in Paramount's "Best Defense."

Rolls Royces are as common in Hollywood as pigtails as the old saying goes. There are more of 'em here than in any other place in the world outside of London...And among your acquaintances who tool around in the $95,000 to $165,000 "toys" are **Flip Wilson** and **Smokey Robinson** and **Michael Jackson,** who envious Mercedes Benz drivers say "is so young he doesn't have a driver's license and has to be chauffeured"...**Billy Dee Williams** is said to be giving the mailman a Christmas bonus for the deluge of fan mail he received for his role in the TV special "Chiefs" and will probably have to do it again when moviegoers see him with **Denise Nicholas-Hill** in "Marvin and Tige"...World famed photogrpher **Gordon Parks,** who was in town recently arranging distribution for a new film he directed in South Carolina, left hurriedly for his hometown in Kansas where TV network cameras focused on a docu biography of HIM...And principal photography has been completed in Arkansas on **Norman Jewison's** film adaptation of the Pulitzer Prize winning stage drama "A Soldier's Story" starring **Howard E. Rollins, Jr.** and **Adolph Caesar** for Columbia Pictures release.

Have you noticed that here are at least a dozen shows on TV starring or co-starring Black actors, actresses, characters or children? Check 'em out: **"The A Team," "The Jeffersons," "Different Strokes," "The Love Boat," "Benson," "The Whiz Kids," "Magnum P.I.," "Mississippi," "Hill Street Blues," "Gimme A Break," "Webster," "Trapper John M.D.,"** and go on...betcha can think of some more!

Harry Belafonte

Whoopee for kiddies: "Fat Albert and the Cosby Kids" will be airing across the board on both network and independent stations next year. A total of 90 shows (40 repeats and 50 new segments) costing about $200,000 each will be there to keep Junior out of mischief Saturday mornings. **Bill Cosby** conceived and will continue to host the new shows dealing with such subjects as graffiti writing, neighborhood watches, video games, filmmaking, wild animals, gambling, gang wars, drugs, sex discrimination and even VD.

Year end surprise for many long term Hollywood watchers was the December Beverly Hills Hollywood NAACP Chapter's 16th Annual Image Awards ceremony where 1400 loyal ticket buyers were told the Chapter will supplant its beefing and bullying about problems with new tactic of recommending that we do see or tune in what is liked and simply ignore what is not liked at the movies and on TV. It is a "sugar rather than vinegar approach to civil rights" is the way one trade publication reported it. But fiery National Executive Director Benjamin unforgivingly points out: "Hollywood has made more agreements with the NAACP than our government made with our Indian brothers."

Biggest business news of the year is the appointment of **Ashley Boone** as President of Distribution and Marketing at Columbia Pictures—highest executive post ever held by a Black in motion picture history, albeit a sort of second coming for the brilliant Brandeis University graduate. Just a couple of years ago, Boone moved up from Vice President of Domestic Marketing and Distribution to President of World-wide Marketing and Distribution at 20th Century Fox, and that was very heady stuff for an industry infamous for its lily-white game of musical executive chairs.

So **Boone's** role model position is not a Tinseltown overnight success story. He got his start as a publicity trainee of United Artists in New York in the early

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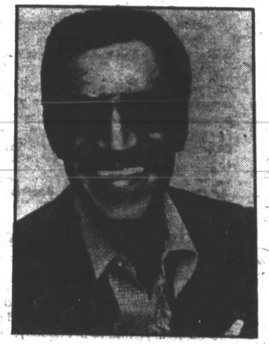
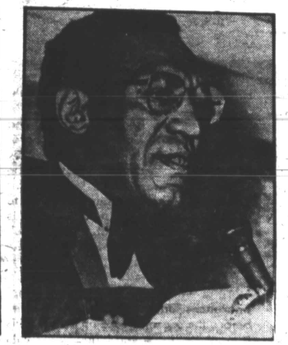


Sammy Davis Jr.



Bill Cosby

Nichelle Nichols