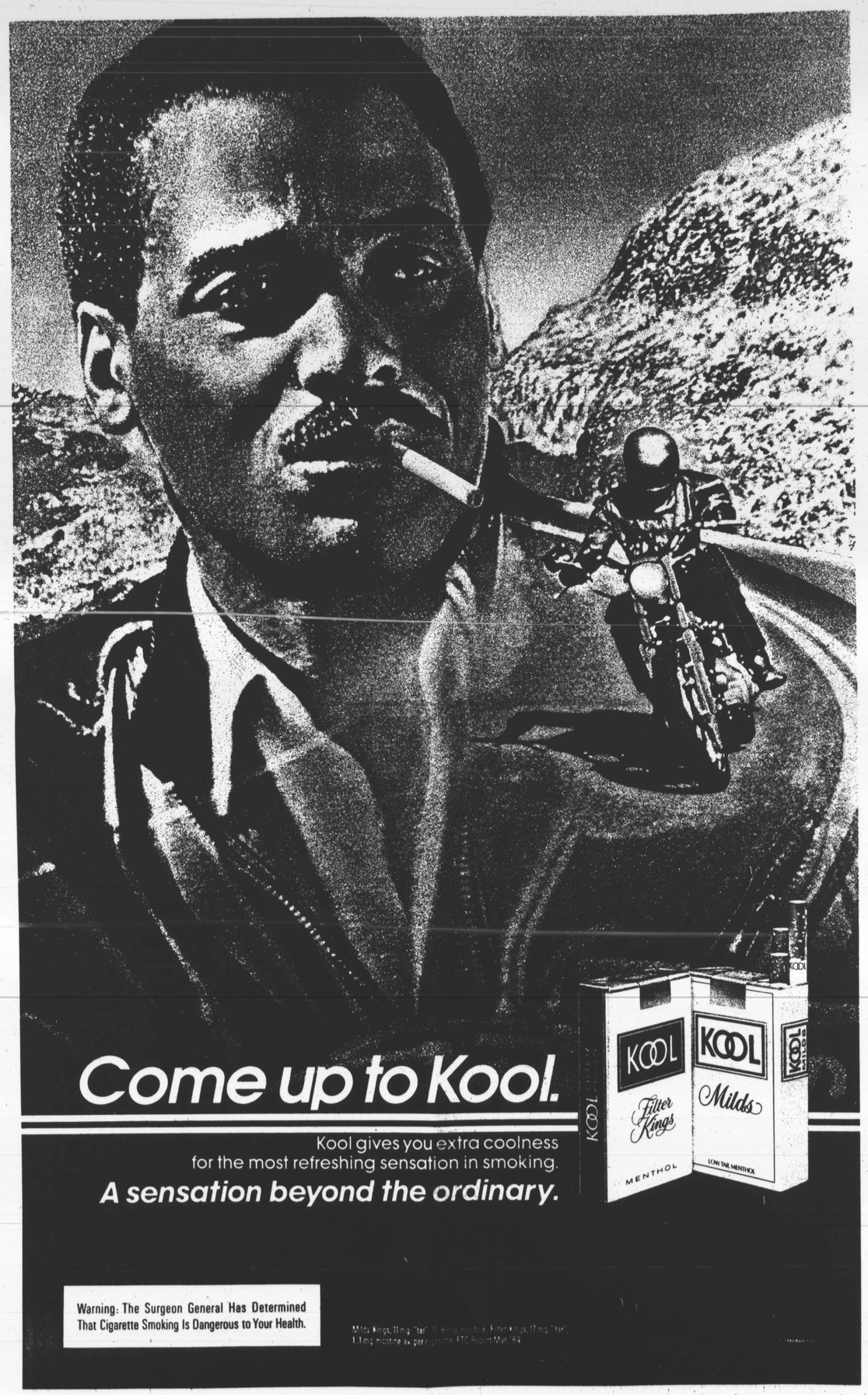


Christmas Movies

Cotton Club girls included beauties like Lena Horne, Adelaide Hall, Lethia Hill, Bessie Dudley and Tondelayo (L). These ladies appeared at the real Cotton Club with Avis Andrews, Mae Johnson, Tip, Tap & Toe and the Tramp Band.

Tondelayo 1930s

Backstage at $47 million 'Cotton Club'

"The Cotton Club" which cost $47 million to make has emerged as one of the most widely-awaited films in many years.

From behind the doors of the closed set filming in New York came rumors and conjecture about producer Robert Evans, director Francis Coppola, and stars Richard Gere, Gregory Hines and Diane Lane. The press has had a veritable field day attempting to ascertain what was going on behind those closed doors.

According to the press book, "The Cotton Club" was where the lords of the underworld hobnob with the cream of society; where deals are made and lives were traded; where the kingpins and the floozies and the swells all met and where the jazz was as raw as the bootleg booze.

Gordon Anderson, the Baltimore-born photographer to the stars writes the AFRO that when Francis Ford Coppola of "Godfather" fame started to film "Cotton Club" he looked around for memorabilia, photos and films.

Coppola had heard of Anderson's work and gave him permission to shoot on the set and make publicity and resume photos for members of the cast.

Pictures made by Anderson on the set have appeared in the New York News, New York Post, Vanity Fair, Essence and Life.

He says that the movie is sensational and is expected to revive such vintage fashions as the cloche hat, bobbed hair, knickers, spats, canes and derbies.

As a result of publication in the AFRO of his series of photos on the Royal and Apollo Theatres, Anderson will have an exhibit during Black History Month at Gallery 409 and the Maryland Historical Society.

Gordon Anderson photographed these Cotton Club beauties, all actresses. The one on the end (R) portrays the young Lena Horne.

Showtime

Ida M. Peters

What's Happening

Gregory Himes is Sandman Williams in "The Cotton Club." He was on to the numbers racket and The Cotton Club and he wanted wealth and sudden fame and Lila Rose, played by Lonette McKee. He is snapped on set by Gordon Anderson.

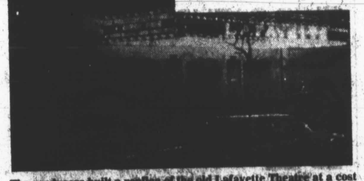
DELILAH JACKSON, a fine actress and historian, is shown with actor Porter Ellis in film. Along with Honi Coles she brings authentic flavor to film.

GORDON ANDERSON in front of a 1925 taxi on the Cotton Club set in NYC, December, 1983. The producers hired the whole block and paid the people who lived there. They remodeled everything to look like Harlem in the 1920s.

Al Perryman portrays Baltimore dancer Snakehips Tucker. Center, Norma Jean Darden portrays Cotton Club dance director. Right, famed dance director Arthur Mitchell lends his services to the movie.

1925 Cotton Club on Parade presented by Dan Healy headlined Cab Calloway with Aida and the Berry Brothers plus 50 talented performers. Menus were preserved by Gordon Anderson, the Baltimore-born photographer who took pix of stars at the Royal and Apollo Theatres.

1925 — Front Cover of Cotton Club menu. Club was located at Lenox Ave. and 142nd St., NYC. Club served Chinese food with Chicken Chop Suey at $1.50 and Shrimp Foo Yong, $1.50 Lamb Chops were $1.75 and Filet Mignon, $2.25.



The producers built a replica of the old Lafayette Theatre at a cost of thousands of dollars. It was demolished after the movie was completed.

Blockbuster 'Beverly Hills Cop'

Axel Foley (Eddie Murphy) seems destined to become an outstanding law enforcement officer one of these days.

For the present, however, he has an uncanny knack for making monumental waves at the Detroit Police Department, where he spends a great deal of time in very hot water.

Young Officer Foley's emotional enthusiasm for his job frequently causes him to forget the mundane rules and regulations by which the police must live.

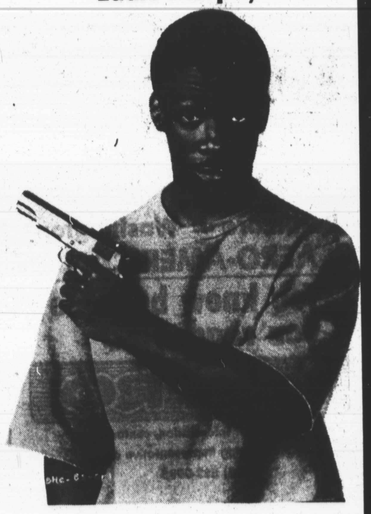
When he sees a close friend inexplicably murdered, there is no way Axel can keep his hands off the case, despite strictest orders. Unfortunately, the key to the mystery is hidden many miles away in the never-never land of Beverly Hills, California. Suddenly, in a jurisdictional transgression of staggering proportions, unpolished Axel Foley bursts onto the marbled turf of one of the world's wealthiest communities.

Axel has never experienced anything like Beverly Hills and its police department. And the feeling is more than mutual as the intruder creates chaos with his one-man cultural exchange.

Eddie Murphy stars in "Beverly Hills Cop" as the brash, single-minded Axel Foley, a guy who may not be able to spot a salad fork but sure knows a creep when he sees one. This marks Murphy's fourth film for Paramount Pictures, and with it he takes a tale of action and suspense and laces it with the rare comedy talent that has made him one of entertainment's most prized performers.

"Beverly Hills Cop" poses this simple question: Can one lone individual manage in less than two days to offend the police, the criminal element and the general citizenry of one of America's most fabulous cities while getting himself caught up in an international crime web of drugs, smuggling, high finance and murder?

The motion picture was produced by Don Simpson and Jerry Bruckheimer, makers of Paramount's runaway 1983 hit, "Flashdance." It was directed by Martin Brest, who was also the director of the well-received octogenarian comedy, "Going in Style."

Murphy, who drew excellent notices sharing the spotlight with other stars in "48 HRS." and "Trading Places," is the main focus of "Beverly Hills Cop." His co-stars are Lisa Eilbacher, Steven Berkoff, Judge Reinhold and Ronny Cox. Dan Petrie, Jr. wrote the screenplay for Don Simpson-Jerry Bruckheimer Productions in association with Eddie Murphy Productions.

Eddie Murphy