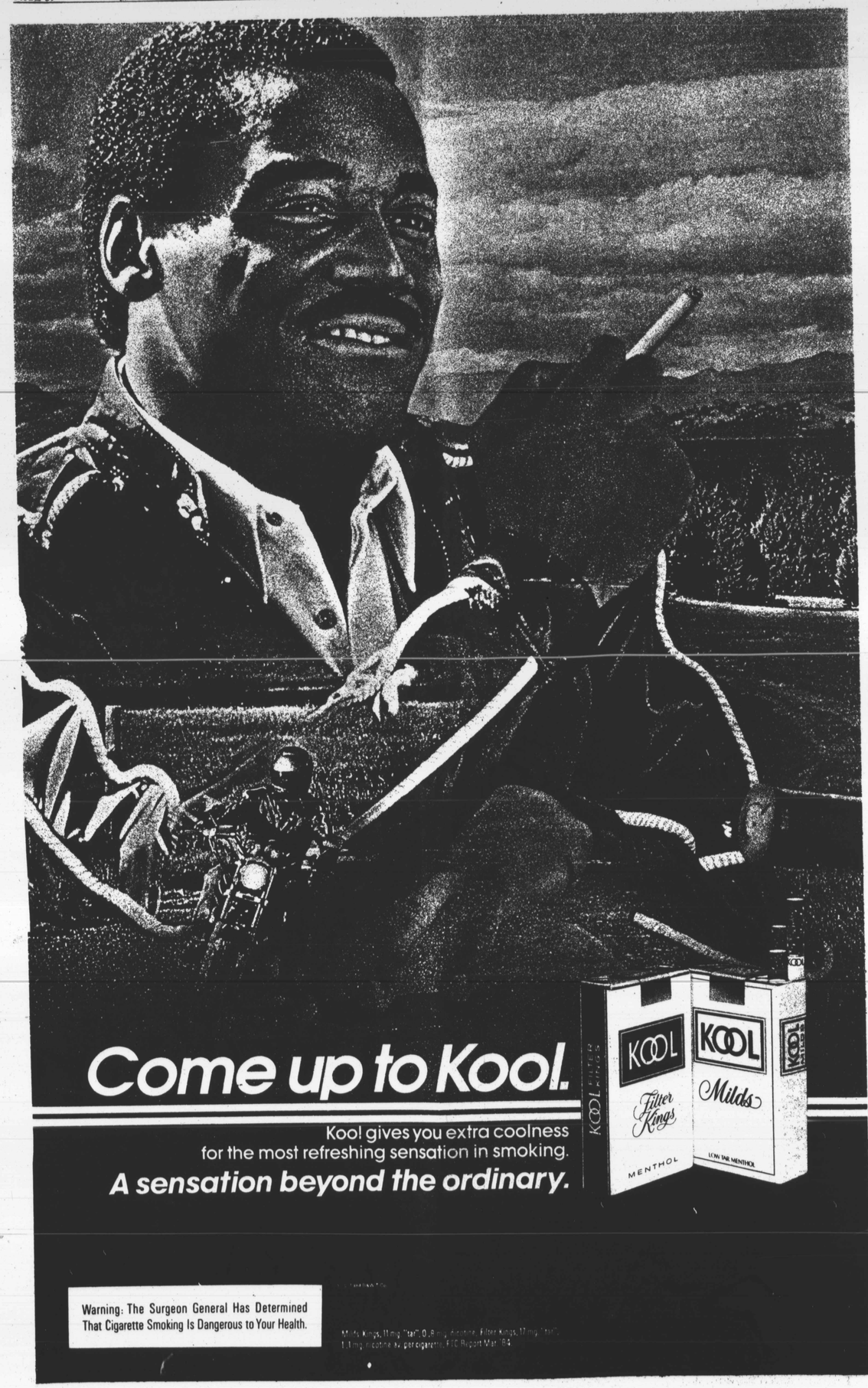

'Breakin' 2' stars... as lively off screen as on

By Ronald R. Hanna
AFRO Staff Writer

WASHINGTON

The stars of the summer box office hit "Breakin'" and its sequel, "Breakin' 2 Electric Boogaloo" are much like their colorful screen characters in real life. Indeed, all three stars, in the District this week on promotional tours, are dancers, with their smooth moves leading to instant fame in the two Cannon Films.

Michael "Boogaloo Shrimp" Chambers, at 17, is the youngest of the films' stars. Portraying Turbo again in the second "Breakin" film, Chambers is taking his new-found fame in stride, not too hard a task for the level-headed youth, who has the presence of co-star and group leader Adolpho "Shabba-Doo" Quinones for professional guidance.

Joining Chambers and Quinones in the sequel, to be released in D.C. and Baltimore, Dec. 19, is Lucinda Dickey. A professional dancer, Dickey returns in "Breakin' 2" as Kelly, and the trio are matched with hundreds of exciting, youthful dancers to make "Breakin' 2" a moving and colorful experience.

Quinones, who at 29 years of age boasts 13 years of dance experience, is a native Chicagoan, who was first discovered as a dancer on the "Soul Train" television show.

In addition, Quinones has numerous film roles to his credit, and with no formal acting training, he has already caught the eye of critics with his striking performances.

"Being from the streets, I can assume all kinds of characters, based on what I saw in the ghetto in Chicago," Quinones said this week, relaxing with co-stars Chambers and Dickey in the midst of a hectic promotional tour.

(Photo by Vanessa Johnson)

Lucinda Dickey signs poster while Shrimp and Shabba - Doo look on. They had just arrived from Atlanta without warm clothes and they kept hats on because they were cold.

Quinones credits a group he formed on Soul Train, "The Lockers," with originating street dancing in 1971. Eventually, Quinones formed his own troupe, the Shabba - Doo Crew, and Chambers later became a member of the group which went on to gain national attention.

(Photo by Vanessa Johnson)

Last time they were in Baltimore, Shrimp and Shabba - Doo autographed a poster for Entertainment Editor Ida Peters. Here they present her another poster for the Baltimore office. Previous poster stopped folks for almost a year. Lucinda holds plaque presented to City Council President Clarence Du Burns.

Matching the talents of dancing and acting took some work, Quinones said this week, but the two art forms combined provide a great amount of pleasure for audiences when perfected.

"It takes an incredible amount of acting ability to be able to act while you're dancing, and to be able to convey a message while you're dancing," Quinones said.

He added that dancing will continue to be a major career for him, even as his acting abilities, even before the "Breakin" films, have generated wide-spread acclaim.

"Dancing was surely my ticket into this (acting), so I'm not going to diminish that talent," he said. "Certainly it didn't hurt Fred Astaire or Gene Kelly."

Dancing is also a long-cherished talent of 24-year-old Lucinda Dickey. With a number of film credits in non-dancing roles, she has been dancing since the age of four, but initially was not prepared for the "street" or "breaking" forms called for in the current film series.

"I didn't know what breaking was," Dickey said. "I thought that was kind of a weird name for a...dance movie.

"I learned enough for the audition, and after I got the part, it was just learning another form of dance for me," she added.

Dickey, the second youngest of five girls, is from a family gifted with talented members. Her mother is a dance teacher, and although she is pursuing a career in acting, she equally enjoyed the dancing aspect of the "Breakin" films.

"The second one, (Breakin' 2), all in all, I enjoyed much, much more, mainly because of the choreographer," Dickey said. "There were sometimes hundreds of people dancing at the same time, which is a unique feeling."

With such acclaim granted by the "Breakin" films for the trio of stars, their futures may take divergent courses (Lucinda is a "free agent" while Michael and Adolpho are a team outside the theatre), each of the young film stars plan to pursue acting as well as dancing careers, and it will be no surprise if the trio team up for yet another film in the "Breakin" series.

"I've been pursuing an acting career, and I'm going to continue to do that," Lucinda Dickey said.

Michael "Boogaloo Shrimp" Chambers, at 17, displays the famous grin and without hesitation (besides a gliding, breakdance move) says of his immediate plans: "Now, I'm going to ride the crest of the wave, because break dancing and street dancing now - is known nationally."

Quinones interjects: "Internationally."

And outside of "streetdancing," "breaking" and acting, what occupies such young and vibrant stars?

"Acting and dancing takes up, I would say, 50 percent of my time," Quinones said. "Other times, I like watching football, basketball...going fishing. But basically, sitting in...my cut-offs with a can of beer watching the Los Angeles Raiders."

Quinones is reminded that he's in "Redskins' Country," then concedes: "Yesterday (Sunday), I watched the 'Skins, and they got off. That was an incredible game."

Chambers said that he spends most of his time "dancing and acting. The rest is school, and when I'm not in school I like to ski."

Lucinda Dickey, who like Quinones is married, said that she devotes most free time to her husband, and has "been pretty much committed to (dancing) all my life."

"I think I'm a pretty laid back person outside of that," she added.

Plans are in the works for a "Breakin' 3" film, but none of the current stars are yet committed to that production. All, however, are adament that acting, along with their heralded dance steps, will be pursued with vigor.

And breakin' is still popular, as evidenced by the $38 million grossed on the original "Breakin" film last summer. Michael "Boogaloo Shrimp" Chambers will continue to "ride the crest of the wave" of its popularity, but serious acting looms as a career goal outside the dance arena.

"Until that (breakdancing) goes out, we're going to keep showing the public how more advanced we're getting over the years," Chambers said. "As long as it keeps going on. Then once that goes out, more serious acting."

Showtime

Ida M. Peters

What's Happening

James De Priest conducts BSO

World-renowned violinist Pinchas Zukerman will join the Baltimore Symphony in two performances of Bartok's Violin Concerto No. 2 on the Orchestra's upcoming "Celebrity" series concerts on Thursday and Friday, Dec. 13 and 14, in the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall. The program, conducted by special guest James DePriest , includes Passacaglia, by Benjamin Lees, presented for the first time on the "Celebrity" series, and selections from Romeo and Juliet Suites No. 1 and 2, Opus 64 by Prokofiev. Both concerts begin at 8:15 p.m.

American-born conductor James DePriest was appointed Resident Conductor of the Oregon Symphony in 1980. He first came to international attention in 1964 when, despite a bout with polio in 1963, he took first prize in the Dimitri Mitropoulos International Conducting Competiton. Leonard Bernstein then selected Mr. DePriest to serve as Assistant Conductor of the New York Philharmonic for the 1965-66 season.

After a successful European debut with the Rotterdam Philharmonic in 1969, James DePriest was appointed Assicate Conductor to Antal Dorati at the National Symphony in 1972. Three years later, Mr. DePriest, became Music Director of L'Orchestra Symphonique de Quebec, Canada's oldest orchestra. Three performances mark his debut with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra.

Tickets are available through the BSO Ticket Office, located at Cathedral and Preston Sts. (open M-F, 10-6 p.m.; Sat., 12-6 p.m.; and one hour prior to performances). Food and beverage service is available before the concert and during intermission, and convenient parking is available in the Cathedral Street parking garage across the street. For tickets and information, call 837-5691.

James De Preist

Celebrities

Philip Bailey and Phil Collins' single "Easy Lover," currently one of the fastest-moving singles on the pop charts, was actually the result of a last-minute studio jam between Bailey (the lead singer for Earth, Wind & Fire) and Collins.

Bailey had flown to England to record an LP with Collins (known both for his role as lead singer of Genesis and for his own successful solo LPs) as producer.

Collins and Bailey spent days at the Genesis members' home improvising together in the music room, then moved into a London studio and began recording. At the end, they realized they were one song short. "I started playing a basic bass riff on an acoustic piano," says Philip Bailey, "then (bassist) Nathan East came over and began to elaborate on it, Phil (Collins) started to sing a chorus, and I sang some verses.

That night, Phil (Collins) took the song home to polish up the words, and the next day it was finished." The resulting song, "Easy Lover," has moved as quickly on the charts as it did from conception to completion. The Bailey-Collins collaboration jumped nearly 60 points in its first two weeks on the charts.

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The JACKSONS VICTORY TOUR has broken every concert record in the books. The tour attracted over 2.5 million people, half a million more than the Stones' fabled juggernaut in 1981, and a full million more than the largest previous tour by any American band (Styx' Paradise Theatre Tour, which was seen by 1.5 million).

The Jacksons' Victory Tour set new records for the largest concert attendance in the history of city after city, exceeding previous records set by the Stones, the Who, David Bowie and the Beatles... and frequently doubling those records. It carried more equipment (365 tons), gave employment to more people (1,500 at some shows), and presented more free tickets to the handicapped and underprivileged (close to a million dollars worth) than any other concert series in entertainment history.

James Booker's N.Y.

Top Draw Stuff: President Ronald Reagan planning a meeting with a key group of black Republicans to seek to improve his image in the minority community during his next administration...New Jersey Casino Commission member Don Thomas, an ex-National Urban League general counsel, quit his $60,000 post to become an executive with Pepsi-Cola in New York City... Former baseball greats Monte Irvin and Larry Doby being strongly considered as the new boxing commissioner in New Jersey...Philadelphia newsman Chuck Stone adding a daytime television anchor spot to his Philadelphia Daily News has a bit role in the upcoming movie, "Cotton Club," and has just landed a new role in "The Tenement," to be based on Bronx street gangs and apartment dwellers...It was quite a bash Tuesday night at the Waldorf that NAACP national director Ben Hooks and his wife threw with John Kluge for fellow Tennessean Sen. Howard Baker, who is retiring from the U.S. Senate.

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Around Town: One of Harlem's best known businessmen, Charles Buchanan, who was the king of uptown nightlife when he owned the famed Savoy Ballroom, on the extremely critical list at Presbyterian Hospital...Funeral services held Tuesday in the Bronx for popular Wentworth "Westy" Morris, one-time barman and local basketball ace...Federal investigators pressing their search for fugitive terrorist Jo Anne Chestmard in the Harlem area. She is still on the most-wanted list after five yeears in hiding...Lenox Avenue businessman Tommy Greene and his Bernice hit the high seas and now planning an Egyptian honeymoon after being wed just before the Thanksgiving

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