Successful 'Show-biz' couples

Look Forward to the New Year

By Ida M. Peters

Vanessa & Ramon

Vanessa Williams, former Miss America, and her hubby, Ramon Hervey, II, who owns his own management and public relations firm are looking forward to an exciting and productive 1988.

First on their agenda is daughter Melanie who will be one year old on June 30, 1988. They are plotting her growth and can't wait for her to begin walking and talking.

Vanessa has been putting together a new album on Wing-Polygram Records to be released in March, 1988 with a working title, "The Right Stuff." For the past three or four months she has been in the studio in Los Angeles and Philadelphia and in

December, 1987 recorded one track in

She has worked with Rex Salas on five tracks; Darryl Ross and David Bryant who did Jody Watley's single "Don't You Want Me" and Lewis Martinee who worked with Expose on their platinum album "Exposure."

Ramon Hervey, II, is not just Vanessa's management but a 10 year veteran in public relations. He is working with Vanessa on filming videos, and TV projects. In 1988, his PR firm will be working with Al Jarreau, David Sanborn, Miles Jaye and the Jamaica Boys.

When Hervey started in the business with Motown he worked with the Commodores, Stevie Wonder's "Songs In The Key Of Life" and Marvin Gaye. He was later vice-president with Rogers & Cowan where he opened doors for black artists and handled Richard Pryor, Bette Midler and Herb Alpert.

The Hervey's live in a condo apartment in Ladera Heights in Los Angeles and just like new parents nationwide share in helping to raise their daughter. Vanessa usually works in the recording studios at night and Daddy takes over the night duties with both sharing the weekends. His hobby is basketball and hers is shopping for two reasons ... for herself and for the baby.

In 1988, Vanessa and Ramon are hoping to see less violence and child abuse in this nation, more racial harmony and hope that the world moves closer to world peace.



Ashford and Simpson

New baby for Val and Nick

Nickolas Ashford and Valerie Simpson, one of the most prolific, versatile and exciting musical couples in recording history, whose fiery live stage shows have mended broken affairs and given love a shot in the arm, have spent the last months of 1987 preparing for the birth of their child due any minute in December, 1987 just as this issue of Dawn Magazine goes to press.

This awesome and creative pair have been married 13 years, have one daughter Nicole, 12 who has traveled with them on concert dates and weekends when she's not in school. In 1975 when they were preparing

for Nicole's birth, they started off 1976 loud and clear with "Come As You Are" followed by "So Satisfied" in 1977.

As husband and wife, parents and business partners, they both agree that their early friendship dates from 1964 when they first met and fell in love at White Rock Baptist Church in New York City. When she was 17 and he was 21. They both agree that their honesty and dedication have helped perpetuate their successful marriage and career. They divide their time between a fashionable townhouse and a rustic eight-acre estate in Westport, Conn.

In June, 1986 Nick and Valerie opened their own restaurant, "Twenty, Twenty" in midtown Manhattan. The eatery has become a favorite spot for many of their celebrity friends, including Bill Cosby (they are also next-door neighbors in NYC). That's where Bill held his famous 1986 "I Love My Wife"

Looking forward to 1988 Nick feels that this will be a good year. "I must say I feel very blessed and very satisfied with what we have accomplished and the way we have accomplished it."

Ashford and Simpson have created an unprecedented catalog of chart-topping hit singles and albums collecting 22 gold and platinum records and more than 50 ASCAP awards.

With a new baby in the house in 1988 Nick and Val hope to continue to "write music that touches people's hearts."

Says Nick, "Folks tell us what our music does for them and why they need it. Everyone needs hope and wants something to believe in."



Mr. and Mrs. Tim (Daphne) Reid

Tim and Daphne

Things are looking up in 1988 for Tim Reid and wife Daphne Maxwell Reid of the successful CBS-TV Show "Frank's Place."

Tim gained fame as Venus Flytrap on "WKRP In Cincinnati" and Daphne was the first black homecoming queen at Northwestern University 20 years ago. They have been married five years. They got together when Tim played Downtown Brown and Daphne, Temple Hill on "Simon and Simon."

Each has a son by a previous marriage ... hers is 16, his 21.

"We love working together" says
Daphne. "That's probably why we got married. We've a good partnership."

Tim Reid, who aspires to produce shows

on his own shares executive-producer credits with his friends Hugh Wilson on "Frank's Place." They've been friends for nine years when Wilson created and Reid played in "WKRP in Cincinnati." They played tennis together and it was over a net that "Frank's Place" was conceived.

Reid and Wilson say they have made a pact to show American culture in a way that has

In the waning hours of 1987, the nation

viewed the 10th Annual Kennedy Center

Honors ceremony broadcast Dec. 30 giving

highest praise to Bette Davis, Sammy Davis,

Jr., Perry Como, Nathan Milstein and Alwin

The actual festivities began Saturday night

Dec. 7, 1987 with a dinner at the State

Department given by secretary of State

George Shultz. The Sunday event was

preceded by a black tie and glitter reception

at the White House hosted by President and

Mrs. Ronald Reagan. Sammy with his Altovise

was there; he wearing his multicolored rib-

bon of honor, acknowledging congratulations

from guests who came to Washington just

ched from box at the Kennedy Center

Opera House as the program opened with

a tribute to him. Lucille Ball one of last year's

"This man can absolutely do everything.

Sometimes I think his first words were, 'Let

me entertain you.' And entertain us he

Ray Charles and a tap-dancing quintet.

Entertaining in the salute to Sammy were

"Hectic, wonderful, surprising," said Sam-

my, of the weekend's events. "It's kind of

strange seeing all these people you know; it

has a kind of nostalgia, but you know you

While in Washington, D.C. Sammy and

Altovise stopped by a concert-brunch given

for prominent Washington urologist and

longtime jazz buff Dr. C. Warfield Clark by

his wife, Savanna, at the National Museum

Entertainer Sammy Davis, Jr. says of his

1987 Kennedy Center Performing Arts

Honor that he believes this will be the first

time the award has gone to someone whose

principal working life has been late-night au-

Sammy has been dancing for 58 years since

he was 3 and his father Sammy Davis, Sr. was

the lead dancer for vaudeville entertainer

Altovise, a former dancer and Sammy have

been married for 17 years. They live on a

curving Beverly Hills street where white

diences, chorus girls and "saloons."

ain't been here like this before."

of Women in the Arts.

Will Mastin's troupe.

The 61-year-old Sammy and Altovise wat-

for the event from all the world.

honorees said:

Sammy and Altovise

Southern but not "woe-is-me downtrodden black people" and all the whites are not racist. They want Chez Louisiane to deal with a middle ground of people not the extremes ... pimps, hookers and superblacks. Plus, there is respect for older people. For example there is Miss Marie played by Frances Williams the Chez waitress emeritus.

Daphne says that if she has her way, Hanna will never marry Frank because "that way women can continue to think of Tim as single and women will continue to write to me."

"Frank's Place" has become almost like a child to the Reids. "You bleed about ratings but if someone says yours is an ugly child, you don't discard the child, but you want people to like it," says Tim.



Altovise and Sammy Davis

front walls go on for quite some time, attended by uniformed guards behind huge gates. The hedges are pink hyacinths and formerly Tony Curtis and Janet Leigh lived there and later, Anthony Newley and Joan Collins.

What's ahead for 1988. Well, Sammy is limping and he was due to get a new prosthetic hip. He credits Altovise for being his rock and being steady thru all of his ups and downs. She said on national TV from D.C. that their marriage has improved because they are now communicating more and more.

The Rat Pack, Frank Sinatra, 71; Dean Martin, 70 and Sammy Davis, Jr. have announced their big, really big Concert Tour

Dean Martin calls it a "Mice pack" and Sammy says "if we can get the curiosity people to come, that will be exciting. Let's go see what these three old guys that our grand-mothers told us about can do."

On his Kennedy Center Honors: "It's like the first thing that came to my mind was, WOW, boy! And I started to smile. It was like someone was saying, 'You're accepted. We love you. We're giving you this for the bulk of your work.' But we're also saluting a kind of show business that perhaps when you or a few others quit, or pass on, there ain't going to be no more."

And lest we forget, Sammy Davis, Jr. was awarded the NAACP Spingarn Medal in 1968, marched with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and has given his time to many causes including Operation PUSH and the United Negro College Fund. He was elected into the Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame in 1974.

Altovise Gore Davis, singer-actress studied with Lee Strasberg and was a dancer with the Alvin Ailey Dance Co.



Mr. and Mrs. Robert (Kool) Bell

Robert "Kool" Bell and Sakinah

"We are looking forward to a great New Year, with all the rumours of war, we pray that we come close to establishing peace."

Robert "Kool" Bell, member of one of the most successful R & B pop bands of the '80s relayed his peace message from the Ivory Coast of Africa in December through his PolyGram Records' press rep Beverly Paige.

Bell was in Africa holding press conferences for the start of Kool & The Gang's World Tour starting in February, 1988.

Bell and his wife Sakinah, a designer who likes working with leather, were high school sweethearts, live in West Orange, N.J. and have two sons, Akim and Mohammad.