ENTERTAINMENT/ LIFESTYLE

RISE COLLINS:

Actress helping youths

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Rise, (pronounced "Reeza") Collins is no stranger to the spotlight.

She won an Obie Award in 1976 for her portrayal of The Lady in Purple, in the original production of **For Colored Girls Who've Considered Suicide When the Rainbow Is Enuf.** That's just one highlight of a glorious theatrical resume.

Now, a decidedly different spotlight has been cast upon Collins.

Collins works through Affiliate Artists Inc., a national organization dedicated to improving the quality of education in our schools by providing schools with the nation's top artistic talent in the capacity of role models and educators.

She was being honored in Baltimore recently at Frederick Douglass High School for the work she has been doing with "Futures," the program Baltimore City Schools designed to persuade young people to stay in school.

Accolades were being heaped upon her by business community blue suits and grinning educators and she accepted their praise graciously. However, the spotlight is another time and place for Rise.

Now, she deals with the reality of young people who

Rise Collins

are on the edge, edge of dropping out of school, edge of hell, take your pick.

Edge of hell, is no hyperbole. For the kids that participate in Collins' workshop, "life ain't been no crystal stair."

These young adults have been identified as having emotional, academic and social difficulties, or possibly all three. They are also categorized as being,"high risks" as far as their chances of staying in school.

"Sometimes it can be somewhat difficult to break down their barriers, but I'm effective because I'm open," explains Collins.

"They know that they can say anything to me and they trust me with the information. They are a part of my life," says Collins.

Collins utilizes her dramatic and communicative prowess to engage the students in improvisational and writing exercises to enhance creativity, self-esteem and self-awareness.

Collins sets several important goals for her students and though she has had less than two weeks at Douglass, she feels progress.

"I help them to set worthy goals and pursue them. I encourage them to get their diplomas. I help them to be themselves, to be individual, original thinkers," says Collins.

She continues, "I want them to be in control of their circumstances, self-responsible and self-sufficient." sufficient."

Leading the students in discussions and improvisations about drugs, sex, peer pressure, staying in school,etc., you feel Collins' intensity. She pushes hard, but she always hugs and encourages.

"I have to build a sense of community with these kids, so that they can encourage and support each other and carry what they've done with me into their lives," states Collins.

FAMU Marching 100:

Hottest action in Paris

FAMU 100 at the ARch de Triomphe in Paris.

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Florida A&M University's (FAMU) Marching Band, "America's Band," moonwalked into Paris playing the tunes of James Brown, the "Godfather of Soul" and quickly became the "hottest act" in the French Bicentennial Bastille Day Parade.

"The band did a superb job," said William P. Foster, FAMU director of bands. "Considering their taxing schedule, rehearsals and tours, the band came through that night in flying colors."

For six days, 223 members of the FAMU "Marching 100" visited Paris, France as guests of the French government. The band was the only band from the U.S. selected by the French government to perform in the parade.

The French Government paid an estimated $500,000 for the band's travel, room and board. The band toured the city, traveled to the Louvre Museum, and Versailles, the palace of King Louis XIV.

To prepare for the parade, the band members spent a great deal of their time in rehearsals. The band had seven scheduled practice sessions on one of the main avenues in downtown Paris.

It was there, on Avenue Foch, before the passersby and the onlookers that the band began to generate popularity among the people of France.

FAMU President Dr. Frederick S. Humphries, said he and his wife Antionette, watched the dry run of the parade Wednesday, July 12 and saw first hand how the people in Paris felt about the "Marching 100."

When the first group, consisting of 2,500 members of a French drum corps, said Humphries, "the crowd clapped a little."

Several other performers in the parade passed before the crowd during the dry run including groups representing Great Britain, Africa and Russia.

The Russian act even had a polar bear ice skating, Humphries said the crowd clapped a little more heartily.

But when FAMU's Marching band traveled by the crowd, and yelled, "baby, baby, baby...." as part of the routine, Humphries said, the crowd became ecstatic. I was happy about their reaction." said Humphries. "Now I knew everything would be okay."

The band initially was scheduled as the seventh act of ten, but was placed last as the premier act after drawing so much attention from the media and the people of France.

IN A MELLOW TONE - Howard Dodson, of the Schomburg Center (R) discusses plans for "A Celebration of Duke Ellington" with (L to R) Mercer Ellington, and co-chairmen of the event, Mrs. Felix Rohatyn and Mrs. Edgar Bronfman, Jr. The October 29 gala celebration will benefit the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. There will be the grand finale of a series of special events all across the country marking Ellington's 90th birthday year.

Music with a message

"If you love me you wouldn't hesitate." "If you love me you would wait."

These are lyrics from a song titled, "Babies having Babies," by Trumpet recording artist, Terry Tate. The song, if you haven't guessed, deals with the massive problem of adolescent pregnancy and it is Tate's way of helping to combat this dilemma.

"Babies having Babies," has been a number one hit nationally on some music charts, however it is hitting home in the minds of many young people listening to the lyrics.

"I firmly believe that children model themselves after positive role models, so I wanted to give them a positive message, from my heart," says Tate.

Tate continues, "I want them to know even though this occurred, it doesn't mean that their lives are over.

They can be business executives, lawyers, musicians, whatever they want to do, but they have to go for it."

Tate's motivation to write this song is genuine. In addition to being a very talented young musician, he is a teacher in his home town of Plainfield, N.J., at an alternative high school for students with educational and personal difficulties.

Tate admits to being shocked when he first discovered that some of his 14 and 15-year-old students had children, were working and still going to school.

"These kids have touched my life, they have become part of my family," says Tate.

Terry Tate is currently conducting a mini-tour promoting his hit single and the message by the music. Soon, he will be traveling to Co Co Mo, FL., Las Vegas and will wind up the tour in Los Angeles.

"I'd like to go to Europe, because this is not just an American problem, or an African-American problem, it is a universal problem," explains Tate.

Terry Tate

Show biz scenes

NO Mrs. Murphy: Eddie Murphy keeps a close eye on his millions. A **Rolling Stone** interviewer asked Murphy if he knew how much money he was worth and the actor said, "Oh, Yeah, to the dime. . . . It's an obsession. One of my major fears is that I'd get the call — 'Your accountant's gone with all your money.' So I know where every dime of my money is and no one can sign checks for me."

Murphy says financial considerations are one reason he will never marry or even live with a woman. "Just because you're rich and you married someone, this person doesn't have to be rich for the rest of her life if the marriage doesn't work," he says.

"A lot of people scoff, 'Oh, money isn't everything.' Well, if you were making a lot of money, you'd see it differently. The idea of giving somebody (my house) and $20 million would blow my mind." That didn't stop Redd Foxx from betting Murphy $1,000 that he would be married within an 11-month period.

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STEVIE WONDER: Stevie Wonder was the sunshine of the life of a 12-year-old girl afflicted with a brain tumor Wednesday. Wonder, playing in a small theater in a Des Moines, Iowa, hospital for Channelle Coureur - Slack, her mother, hospital staff and a small group of kids, started with a short instrumental song he had written just for Channelle that afternoon before going into his hits.

"I could never have spent this day doing anything better than what I'm doing and that's why I know this is a good day," Wonder said. Wonder decided to play for Channelle after her doctor contacted Wonder's agent asking just if the musician could write or call the girl. Doctors say Channelle is recovering well enough to go home to the Caribbean island of St. Lucia this weekend.

1989 National Black Theatre Festival

The City of Winston - Salem and the State of North Carolina will be the site for the **1989 National Black Theatre Festival** which will be held August 14.

The Festival is being produced and hosted by the North Carolina Black Repertory Company. Larry Leon Hamlin is producer and artistic director.

Special guest celebrities appearing a the Festival include Oprah Winfrey, who will be the special guest at the opening gala banquet on August 14.

The Festival will feature some of the best black theatres in America. Approximately 15 different productions will be available for the general public.

Over 200 Black theatres from across America will be coming to the Festival to participate in workshops and seminars which will be important in creating an agenda dedicated to the continuity of Black theatre in America for the next decade.

Lee Spikes Arsenio: Moviemaker Spike Lee and talk show host Arsenio Hall have had a running feud recently and Lee won the latest round on the basketball court. Lee, who accused Hall's buddy Eddie Murphy of not doing enough to help black actors, coached a team of NBA all-stars including Magic Johnson and Michael Jordan to a 189-176 victory over Hall's team, which featured Dominique Wilkins and Isaiah Thomas. The Sunday night game in Inglewood, Calif., was a fund-raiser for the United Negro College Fund.

Witness To History: One of the members of the cast of "Murder in Mississippi," television movie about the slayings of civil rights workers, already knew plenty about the struggle of blacks in the 1960s. Donzaleigh Abernathy is the daughter of the Rev. Ralph Abernathy, an aide to Dr. Martin Luther King.

LIFESTYLE

Social Notes

Samuel Billups, Jr. (right), president of the Maryland Association of Secondary School Principals, meets with First Lady Barbara Bush during a leadership conference. Mrs. Bush indicated that when she sees a good school, she sees a good principal.

EDUCATOR MEETS NATIONAL LEADERS

Samuel Billups, Jr., president of the Maryland Association of Secondary School Principals, met with First Lady Barbara Bush, a strong proponent of improved literacy, along with other national figures in Washington last week during a leadership conference sponsored by the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP).

Billups, who is principal of Walbrook High School, was one of 43 educators who attended NASSP's 8th annual Leadership Workshop for officers of its affiliated state associations.

Billups met with Mrs. Bush who discussed the importance of school principals and assistant principals in the literacy movement, and Gregg Petersmeyer, deputy assistant to the President and director of the Office of National Service, who spoke on the President's youth service initiative. He also heard presentations on legislative issues impacting local schools, student exchange programs, and middle level education.

NASSP is the nation's largest school administrator organization and works to improve middle level and high school education through helping principals and assistant principals develop their skills. It is based in Reston , Va., near the nation's capital.

Ron White, mid-Atlantic Regional Director for Groove Phi Groove Social Fellowship, Inc. presents a check for $400,000 to Yetta Galiber, Executive Director of IPACHI, as Clayton Witt, Executive Board member looks on.

GROOVES 1ST REGIONAL DANCE

The men of Groove Phi Groove Social Fellowship, Inc., the Mid-Atlantic Region, held their first annual Mid-Atlantic Regional Dance. The theme for this affair, "Love Will Save The Day" was most appropriate, as a $400.00 donation was presented to Information Protection and Advocacy center for Handicapped Individuals (IPACHI).

Ticket sales and promotional activites by Fellowmen in the Washington D.C., Baltimore, Columbia, and Peninsula Graduate Chapters were the primary reasons for the success of this affair. Also support received from the ladies of Swing Phi Swing, S.F.I., and several IPACHI staff members were very important success factors.

DOUGLASS CLASS OF 33

The Douglass High School Class of June 1933 and associates celebrated their 56th Anniversary this year with a series of activities.

In June the class enjoyed an evening of dinner and entertainment together at the Harbor Lights Dinner Theatre. Featured was "The Little Shop of Horrors," a very funny musical. Class members celebrating birthdays at the time were serenaded by the cast with different arrangements of "Happy Birhtday."

The class was the guest of class member Robert Smith at a breakfast at Waters A.M.E. Church. The food was delicious, plentiful and served with a smile. Dr. Calvin Burnett, President , Coppin State College was the speaker.

Following breakfast, the class worshipped together. Everyone was lifted by the timely Father's Day sermon of the pastor, Rev. Ronald Braxton.

A day of fun, games and food culminated the Anniversary activites. A picnic was held on the spacious lawn of the daughter of the class Vice President, James Thomas and his wife Mary. All kinds of picnic foods were enjoyed by the class and their guests.

The class meets monthly from October to July. The last activity for the year will be a Christmas party held early in December. There will be a Carol sing-a-long, catered repast, dancing and exchanging of gifts.

Class officers are W. Clifton Busch, President; James Thomas, Vice President; Anna Christmas, Secretary; Audrey Taylor, Treasurer; Elvira Richardson, Financial Secretary; Mamie Miller, Corresponding Secretary; and Sophronia Wright, Chaplain.

Coker-Giles-Hilliard REUNION

The Coker-Giles-Hilliard clan recently held a family reunion at St. Edward Catholic Church hall. This fun-filled get together gave them a chance to renew old acquaintances, catch up on recent events in each other's lives, and even meet some previously unknown family members.

The evening began with a social hour followed by a buffet style dinner and family meeting. Entertainment in the form of games, and dancing rounded out the evening.

One of the family members, Alfred David Watts presented an amazingly well researched and documented family history, entitled "The Genealogical History of a Black Maryland Family, the Migration and the Growth of the Coker-Giles-Hilliard Branches and Other Member Branches."

For others who may be interested in tracing the roots of your families, Watts has some advice. He said "The research which resulted in the publishing of this family tree was a very time consuming project that began in 1981."

"Obtaining information on early family members is a difficult task and this was especially true during our search. Documents that were used to record the comings and goings of family members were not available on black families because their standard of living did not lend itself to the written word."

"It was not uncommon for a very large number of family members to be unable to read or write. Therefore business and communication was mostly verbal with few written documents."

" However, there were instances where family members were literate. There is evidence that Samuel H. Giles and Eugenge Hilliard were literate. Samuel Giles signed his name on the mortgage papers when he took out a thousand dollar mortgage on 704 Eden St."

"Eugene Hilliard listed his occupation as "clerk." This would suggest that he was a very well educated person for his time. Thomas J. Hilliard was a very successful businessman and a trustee of Kittrel College in Virginia. He also knew how to read and write."

"Please keep in mind that 19th Century Baltimore was vastly different from Baltimore today. In 1830 or 1840, pigs and other animals we consider to be farm animals were as common as cats and dogs."

"In fact, men were paid to remove dead pigs from the streets. Black commerce was a major force in the black community because whites did not seek out black business. Thus, you will find that many of our ancestors were self-employed."

"Some were quite well off by the standards of that time period. While Baltimore had a relatively large "Free Colored" population, this status was still uncommon. Most black people who obtained this status had to buy their freedom or have some person, black or white, able to buy their freedom. This was a costly venture and many could not afford to obtain this status."

The reunion was hosted by Elizabeth G. Osborne, Carolyn W. Samuels, Mary L. Watts, and Sarah E. Watts. A special acknowledgement went to Mrs. Carrie Pinkett, the oldest living family member.

Lt. to rt. front row Kenneth Armstead, Gilbert Giles, Carlean Mullen, Lorna Armstead, Dorothy Giles, Keli Bowman, Deon Edmerson. Top row Dwayne Giles, Thomas Giles, Mary Watts, Alfred Watts, Anthony Bowman.

Mrs. Jessie M. Taylor, Keli Bowman, Deon Edmerson, and Mareline Sidney enjoy family ties at recent reunion.

EASTERN DIST. POLICE AWARDS

The Eastern District Police Community Relations Council's Annual Police and Community Awards Banquet was held recently at LaFontaine Rogue.

A host of individuals and organizations were presented with awards from elected officials U.S. Senator Paul Sarbanes, U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski, Congressman Kweisi Mfume, Governor William Donald Schaefer, Legislative Senator Nathan Irby,

Delegate Hattie Harrison, Delegate John Douglas, Delegate Clarence Davis, Mayor Kurt L. Schmoke, President of City Council Mary Pat Clarke, City Councilman Carl Stokes, City Councilwoman Jacqueline McLean, and City Councilman Anthony Ambridge.

The awardees were far too numerous to name, however, top awards went to Officer Terry Love, Policeman of the Year, and Mr. Charles W. Wells, who received The Community Service Award.

Officer Love, is a native Baltimorean married to Kathy Leah Love, and the father of four children. He has been a member of the police force since 1983. During the past year he has made over 190 arrests.

Mr. Wells was born in Isle of Wight, Va. He has worked for 25 years in law enforcement. He has worked for the past nine years as an officer in the Baltimore City Auxiliary Unit. Mr. Wells currently holds the rank of Auxiliary Major for the Baltimore City Police Dept.

The welcome for this affair was given by Doris Minor-Terrell, Chairperson, and the invocation was given by Rev. H. Walden Wilson, II. Agent Allen "Dickie" Burke, coordinator introduced the mistress of ceremonies, and Julia Woodland introduced the head table.

A solo was rendered by Charlene King, and greetings were expressed by Major Robert L. DiStefano, District Commander, and Captain Alvin A. Winkler, Deputy District commander. The Honorable Kweisi Mfume was the special guest speaker.

Charles W. Wells, Congressman Kweisi Mfume and Officer Terry Love at police awards banquet.