AT THE MOVIES with Frederick I. Douglass

BARRY LEVINSON BEGINS NEW MOVIE IN BALTIMORE

"This is one of the largest and most complicated movies that I've ever done or that has probably ever been done in Maryland" says Barry Levinson while describing his latest flock which he began filming here on Tuesday, a film that is expected to pump $8-10 million into the Maryland economy before Thanksgiving.

Levinson, a native Baltimorean, says the film is complex because "it covers several decades, from 1914 up to the 1960's, so we have to recreate Baltimore streets and neighborhoods that existed in different eras . . . We want to be accurate, so we have had to do a lot of research on how things really looked in the past.

"For example, at one point in time there were rarely railings on marble steps, so we will have to remove 27 or so railings in one neighborhood where we plan to shoot a scene. It sounds like a minor detail, but you'd be amazed at how good moviegoers are at catching historical inaccuracies that are allowed to reach the screen."

You have to see the rowhouse that is being constructed inside the Flite Three studio on Cold Spring Lane to comprehend the fastidious level of detail involved in this project.

Barry Levinson, a 1988 Academy Award winner, co-wrote . . . "And Justice For All" (a movie in which I had a starring role as an extra), plus wrote and directed both "Diner" and "Tin Men," all of which were set in Baltimore.

Barry Levinson relaxed at his hotel and spoke with the AFRO during his promotional tour to promote his movie "Diner" which was shot in Baltimore.

He directed "Good Morning, Vietnam" "Young Sherlock Holmes" and "The Natural."

During April, Levinson won the Best Director Award for "Rain Man," a movie starring Dustin Hoffman and Tom Cruise.

Levinson's upcoming movie, which has not been titled as of yet, features a distinguished, but not well known, cast of actors that includes (alphabetically): Leo Fuchs, Eve Gordon, Lou Jacobi, Armin Mueller - Stahl, Elisabeth Perkins, Joan Plowright, Kevin Pollak and Aidan Quinn.

When asked how he could shift gears from working with big name stars like Dustin Hoffman and Tom Cruise in "Rain Man" to doing a movie with relatively obscure actors, Levinson replied "There are movies which require a star or two like "Rain Man," but there are also movies that require an ensemble of actors who can come together and dramatize a particular story.

"In the case of my latest movie, I think the story line does not call for so-called superstars and I think that the seasoned actors who have been cast will do an excellent job of telling the story."

Describing the story of his new movie, Levinson says "It is loosely autobiographical and tells the story of a Russian immigrant family in Baltimore, tracing the lives of four brothers and their large families from 1914 to the 1960's. It is a comedy/drama."

He humorously added "No, I will not appear in this movie. I have no interest in acting. The only reason that I ended up appearing in "Rain Man" is that we were ahead of our shooting schedule and the actor who was scheduled to appear in the scene we were going to work on next could not be available for a few days because of other contractual arrangements.

So I decided that I would take a shot at playing the part and see how things looked on the dailies.

"Believe me, my heart was pounding every second while I was doing the role and even more so when I had to look at the daily footage to see what I have done. Everything worked out all right, but I don't think I'll be acting in any more movies."

Levinson has assembled a monstrously talented and acclaimed technical crew for this production. His troops include producer Mark Johnson who won the 1988 Best Picture Oscar for "Rain Man," and who was the executive producer for "Diner" as well a producer for all of Levinson's other films; and cinematographer Allen Daviau, an Oscar nominee for his work on "E.T.," "The Color Purple," and "Empire of the Sun."

Randy Newman, who scored "Ragtime," "The Natural" and "Parenthood," will be putting together the music for Levinson's yet to be named project. Norman Reynolds, the film's production designer, has been nominated for six Academy Awards and won awards for both "Star Wars" and "Raiders of the Last Ark."

Levinson says he also plans to make extensive use of local talent and facilities. "I anticipate that we will need at least three thousand extras, 40-50 local actors and local musicians and singers for various scenes. We will be filming all scenes in Baltimore and the surrounding areas, so we will be using local hotels, restaurants and various craftsmen."

Mason and Moran, the Baltimore-based casting company, is coordinating all local talent for Levinson's new movie which will be released during the summer or fall of 1990.

Responding to a question about why he has chosen to make so many of his movies in Baltimore, Levinson says ". . . making a movie is never easy — all kinds of frustrations have to be dealt with. But I love it here because I receive lots of cooperation from the city and State as well as the people in the various neighborhoods where we have shot our movies."

"That's why I'll continue to come back here."

Jaki Green, a seasoned professional with 15 years experience will appear as Mrs. Taylor in "Gerbert" which airs on Sunday, September 10 on the Family Channel. This is part of the new FunTown, 26 hours per week of children's shows, complete with special graphics, music, a club for kids and a FunTown mayor. The show airs at 8:30 a.m.

—Night Life

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of Mickey for on September 14 at the Sportsmen's Lounge, another birthday celebration will take place for the man along with drummer Johnny Polite and Smitty. The fun will begin at 8 p.m.

* * * * *

And speaking of the Sportsmen's, Nita Thompson, Charlie White and Vernon Wolst will celebrate their birthday there on Thursday, September 21.

SPECIAL NOTE TO D.C.: We want to talk about the happenings in your town so, HELP! If there is something going on in your favorite nightspot and you want us to cover it, please give me a call here at the AFRO in Baltimore. My direct dial number is 301-383-3279 or write me a line at 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore, Md. 21203.

Remember, the Nightlife is about YOU!

INSIDE

METRO PROFILE .....Section B

THE TRADITION CONTINUES: This weekend, the Congressional Black Caucus convenes its 19th annual legislative assembly — stating its purpose and educating Blacks with a series of workshops; seminars; brain trusts and social fare. What's in store during these three days, and the future? .....**Page B1.**

BUSINESS *PULSE* .....Section C

PERSISTENCE PAYS OFF: Armed with only a master's degree in City Planning, Juliet Welker was denied a job as a real estate agent. That was 16 years ago. Now Welker spins her own real estate releases. To the latest she gives a $12 million. She says you can dance to it all the way to the bank. Story on **Page C1.**

FORBIDDEN BUT FRUITFUL: After her short arms tired from too many boxing rounds with God, Rev. Phyllis McCleod accepted a position she said God called her to as a child.....**Page D1.**

FRIDAY PLUS .....Insertion

ZIGGY MARLEY: The legend continues.

In This Edition:
DAWN MAGAZINE

LATE CITY EDITION September 16, 1989

BALTIMORE
Afro-American

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BALTIMORE, MD 98th Year No. 6 50 CENTS

SOURCE TELLS THE AFRO:

Informant who leaked story on Rev. Stallings is dead

A man who sources say leaked allegations against the Rev. George Stallings to a local newspaper, reportedly died shortly before the story appeared, an anonymous source told the WASHINGTON AFRO.

The anonymous caller identified the man as Lorenzo Lancaster, but refused to give further information on his role in the allegations before slamming down the receiver.

Although several sources told the AFRO Mr. Lancaster had been seen at St. Teresa's — the Southeast parish once pastored by Rev. Stallings — Imani Temple spokesman William Marshall could not confirm or deny, he said, if

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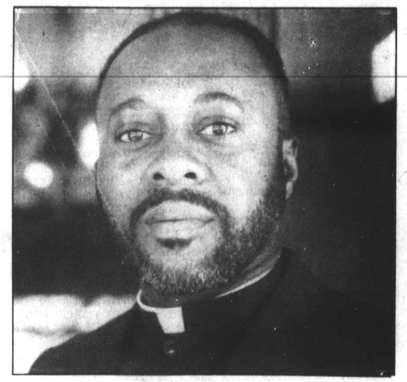

THE REV. GEORGE STALLINGS

Rev. Stallings calls for business boycott

Father George Stallings and members of his new Imani Temple, are gearing up for a massive boycott of well known companies that do business in the Black community which they say have allowed a daily newspaper to "form and shape the agenda for the African-American Community" and allowed that paper to "attack Black leaders".

Mr. William Marshall, director of communications for Imani Temple said that the target of the boycott would be businesses which advertise in the *Washington Post* and thereby allow the Post to be

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D.C. mayor's aide joins city schools

By Joy Tyler
AFRO Staff Reporter

In the midst of a whirlwind of controversy inside the Barry administration, yet another key player has managed to remove himself from the eye of the storm.

Press secretary, John C. White has resigned his position which he has held for the past three years to join the educational system in the Baltimore City Schools.

But Mr. White is tabling any rumors that his departure is akin to abandoning a sinking ship. He says the change is due to his personal desire for a career move.

"I always decided that two years would be the most amount of time to spend in my position with the Barry camp, or with most positions in this business," Mr. White said.

"Dr. Hunter, superintendent of the Baltimore Schools, offered me an opportunity that I couldn't pass up."

"Baltimore is my home town, and I have family there. I wanted to bring my experience to the school system to make a contribution to a Black administration," Mr. White said.

Speculation of a mass exodus from the Barry camp has been raised, in part due to the resignation of two other key players in the face of alleged accusations by the

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Dinkins dunks Koch in NY

ALL SMILES, Dinkins poses in front of New York's skyline.

David Dinkins preached party unity and racial reconciliation during his campaign to become New York City's first Black mayor, and his message apparently reached voters.

Mr. Dinkins, a 62-year-old grandfather and the President of Manhattan Borough,

(Continued on Page A2)

Summit slated for MD

By Joy Tyler
AFRO Staff Reporter

This November 5-12, Baltimore will host the first of its kind African American Summit conference.

The idea of a Maryland African American Summit '89 came about last June, branching off its predecessor, African American Summit held in New Orleans to implement a stronger, more unified effort for Black Americans to get a bigger part of the political, economic, and social power needed in order for Black Americans to flourish.

The planners of the conference have been meeting in Annapolis, MD for the past several months to plan the event with active citizens, politicians, and interested

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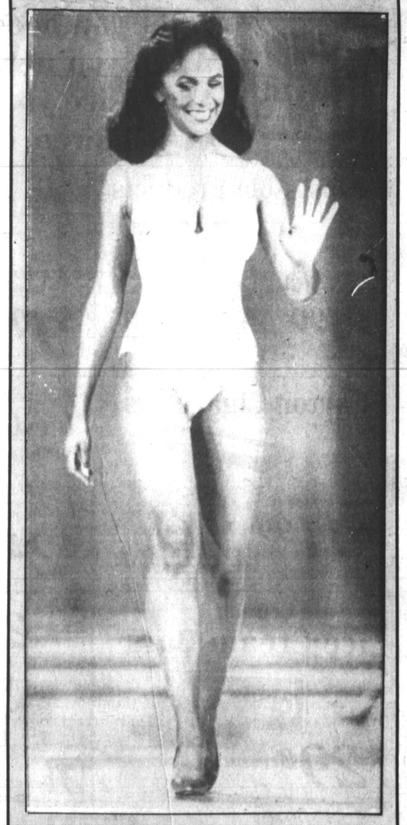
SWIMSUIT WINNER



Debbye Turner took the swimsuit contest Tuesday evening in the first round of preliminary competition in the 1990 Miss America Pageant. Turner, 23, a 5-foot-7½ inch, 118-pound Mexico, Mo. resident, wants to become a veterinarian. She is one of the three black contestants in the pageant.

Drug Free Zones: working!

By Joy Tyler
AFRO Staff Reporter

It has been a week since the Baltimore city police department has implemented its drug-free zones to deter drug activity in known hot spots throughout the city, and the results show success.

The ordinance, which enables the police to deter loitering for the purpose of engaging in drug-related activity and other violent activities that breed in such an atmosphere, has already pro-

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