



TAKE ONE vocal genius, add a heaping portion of acting talent, a sprinkling of mystery, the agility and grace of a ballerina and a lot of soul, and the result is a kind of female Sammy Davis, Jr.: the inimitable Eartha Kitt.

Miss Kitt, nominated for an Emmy last year for her incomparable "I Spy" performance as a narcotics addict, will wriggle her way through a labyrinth of ventilating ducts in a Russian embassy for a "Mission Impossible" segment titled "The Traitor," to be aired on CBS-TV Saturday, April 15.

As a dancer, Eartha has appeared before England's royal family. As a singer, she's warbled in Haitian, African and Cuban. As one of the world's most exciting women, she's been praised in Paris, Belgium, Switzerland, Turkey, Greece, Egypt and, far from being the least important, in the infamous section of Los Angeles called Watts.

IT WAS regarding her association with the latter community that I spoke with the vivacious entertainer at her tasteful and intimate Bel Air home recently. For Eartha has taken time from her already gargantuan schedule to establish and supervise a free dancing school in Watts.

"After I first thought of the class," enthused Eartha, "I called Lou Robinson, West Coast Editor for Johnson Publications, on Saturday. He put me in touch with the well-known Westminster House in Watts on the following Tuesday. The first classes started on that next Saturday."

In a few short weeks, enrollment grew to such proportions that Eartha took on three assistants--dancers Walter Painter and Claude Thompson, and Marjorie Mead, a housewife. "I didn't want to choose which kids should stay; I want them all and I won't reject any. Of course, I may have to change the class from two to four hours or have it meet twice a week."

But what of the time and money Eartha is giving up to instruct the class?

"I honestly don't think of that," she says. "I'm not giving up anything. I'm involved in something I want to do and feel I must do. I work hard as an entertainer and I'd be the first to admit I make a good living, but I certainly don't have to spend every minute of my life making a dollar."

"ALSO, IT'S NOT my purpose to create great dancers from these kids. More than anything else, the class helps them evolve and progress as human beings. They get love and affection--and a sense of accomplishment and worth."

The results of Miss Kitt's efforts have already been deeply felt. An adhesive loyalty has grown among Eartha's assistants and the mothers of the young dancers. While the star was away in Houston on tour, Marjorie Mead took to the Los Angeles freeways in some of the worst rain in the state's history to keep the class going.

The children's mothers have named the youngsters The Eartha Kitt Dancettes. The mothers call themselves The Eartha Kitt Dancettes' Mothers. Eartha has also received offers of aid from everyone from cab drivers to actors.

"So many people have wanted to help," says the entertainer, "that I might start an organization of people who want to help other people." She already has.

RAYMOND "Perry Mason" Burr, star of the refreshingly good new TV series, "Ironside," surprised his brilliant young co-star, Don Mitchell, with a birthday party (Don's 24th) at Burr's home. An excellent chef, Burr put together a meal worthy of a king and Don insists it was the most memorable birthday party of his life.

A Real Lady Of The Biz There's No Biz Like



LADY SPY--Eartha Kitt is caught in a scene from "Mission: Impossible" segment titled "The Traitor." Miss Kitt recently started a free dance class in Watts, Calif.

ADVICE FROM A PRO FOR SUPREMES' DIANA



Doris Day poses with friend, Diana Ross, on the set of Miss Day's current film, Universal's "The Epic of Josie." Diana, lead singer for The Supremes, is contemplating an acting career.

DIANA ROSS, lead singer for "The Supremes," is seriously contemplating a film career and if her acting ability is anything like her lyrical prowess, Hollywood had better make way for another really big star.

Diana, who insists that she'll continue in her position with the number one singing group in the world, has discussed the possibility of taking acting lessons from Lee Grant in Hollywood and the Actors' Studio in New York. She has also talked with Jack Garrein (husband of actress Carroll Baker), who's head of the Actors' Studio West, and he's encouraged her efforts.

The 23-year-old singer, who's always been an admirer of Doris Day, visited the actress recently on the set of her current movie, "The Epic of Josie," and sought some personal advice about film work.

MISS DAY, who never took a formal acting lesson in her life, assured Diana that acting is "a natural thing; it's something you don't really have to study, just practice."

Diana, who's primarily interested in doing television work, says she'd like to do an "I Spy" segment first.

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