



WALTER BURRELL

Hollywood Happenings

Of all the black actors in the U.S., there is one who, in this writer's humble opinion, stands so far above the others he defies comparison.

He doesn't enjoy the widespread publicity and patronage of a Sidney Poitier and he isn't as good looking as a Harry Belafonte, but he's an actor's actor and the black man's actor; an actor for all seasons.

A guy named Shakespeare created a character named Othello just for him to portray. His name is William Marshall.

PERHAPS YOU know him from one of his countless portrayals of "Othello," for which he's gained worldwide acclaim (the London Sunday Times says he's "the best Othello of our time").

Or perhaps you've seen him on TV in "Bonanza," "The Nurses," "Rawhide," "Hitchcock Presents," "Ben Casey," "Secret Agent" or "Man From Uncle." He's also appeared in the movies "Lydia Bailey," "Demetrius and the Gladiators," "Something of Value" and "Sabu and the Magic Ring."

But whether in a play or on the Silver Screen, Marshall's 6'5" frame and profound, reverberating voice dominate the scene totally. His current venture is a role in Universal's "A Time For Heroes" with Rod Taylor and Claudia Cardinale.

Marshall portrays an expatriot soldier who chooses not to return to post World War II America when his hitch in the Army is up. Instead, he settles in Paris, where he opens a bar.

The character in the movie is based on a real person, Leroy "Barrel House" Haynes, whom Marshall has actually met. "Leroy still owns his club in Paris," says Marshall.

"ONE THING I remember about him is that he always wore a tee-shirt. He couldn't put on anything more because he was constantly back in that steamy kitchen at the club 'creating' dishes. He's a great cook and his French wife can't keep him out of there."

However, despite Marshall's lucrative film career, his real interest is in theatre, especially theatre for black people.

"Few of us realize it," says the actor, "but it was black people--the Egyptians--who first brought theatre into being. Of course, they used it to preach, instruct and teach. Entertainment was their last thought."

"In America every group has managed to establish a theatre which has shown their culture, struggles, aspirations and relationship to the total society--every group, that is, except the black man."

"I remember auditioning for the American Negro Theatre years ago in Harlem. After I was finally accepted, I saw the theatre change from black to white as the white power structure took over with a production of 'Anna Lucasta'."

"When the show moved to Broadway the theatre was uprooted from its very blackness in Harlem and lost its basic purpose. After that, both Poitier and Belafonte tried to establish a meaningful black theatre, but neither worked."

BUT THE attempt to form such a theatre never stops and Marshall is now making a try in Los Angeles with his Mafundi Institute, working in conjunction with militant, young black leader, Ron Karenga, a very popular L. A. figure.

"In all honesty," Marshall continued, "we can't have anything of a meaningful nature take place under our present government. Despite many protestations to the contrary, the federal government and the white majority of the country are an indivisible nation when it comes to the basic tenants of the race issue."

Of course, this is precisely the kind of thing the Negro actor finds himself questioned about

The "Actor's Actor" Makes Another Film



William Marshall and Claudia Cardinale are captured in a scene from "A Time For Heroes," post World War II film in which they star with Rod Taylor. (See Hollywood Happenings)

NSU Art Exhibit Opens

The opening reception for an exhibit of Contemporary Spanish Art from private Las Vegas collections will be held in the Art Gallery of Grant Hall at Nevada Southern University from 8-10 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 30. The public is invited to view paintings and sculpture by modern Spain's top young artists--Antonio Saura, Manolo Millares, Martin Chirino, Fernando Zobel, Manuel Mompou, Lucio Munoz, Eusebio Sempere and Alvero Delgado.

THESE ARTISTS make up the vanguard of Spanish painters. The works to be shown, for the most part, were produced between 1964-1966. The 24 works are from the collections of Dr. Theodore Jacobs, Dr. Parvin Modaber Jacobs, Dr. and Mrs. Harris Knudson, and Dr. and Mrs. James A. Gorman.

These modern artists have the traditional "restraint, absolute control of material, unsentimental romanticism" for which the Spanish are noted. To this, they add drama and intensity to their mainly non-figurative works.

This exhibition will be shown Sept. 30 thru Oct. 26 at the NSU Art Gallery in Grant Hall. Gallery hours are Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sun. 2-5 p.m.

constantly by the press. A recent example was Poitier's appearance on a national TV news program where he was grilled on things relating more to race than acting.

Poitier was quite vocal in expressing his objections to such questions. Marshall takes an opposing position.

"OF COURSE, the ideal situation would be to be regarded first as an actor, but the unavoidable fact is that we're black first, then actors. Since we are black men, the press is understandably interested in our opinions and comments regarding the most crucial issue in our country today: the relationships between the races.

"I think I know what Poitier feels. It's like Leroi Jones once wrote of the situation: 'When they hung that old Jew (Jesus), they then took the cross and hung it on Poitier'."

"And Poitier, like many other prominent black men, is carrying the cross for all of us without having anything to say about it. I personally feel he's far more talented than Gregory Peck or many other big actors and should be recognized for his talent, but in these times his Negroness dominates his being."

This kind of insight, from a man who's received ovations throughout the world never before accorded an actor, is perhaps part of the reason Marshall is regarded as one of the noblest of actors--black or white.

Show Folks In The News

By NEGRO PRESS INTERNATIONAL

TOP POLL

ATLANTA - (NPI)--The National Association of Radio Announcers cited singers Harry Belafonte and Ella Fitzgerald as the man and woman of the year at its recent award banquet at which television's "I Spy" co-star Bill Cosby, served as master of ceremonies. Other honorees included Cosby himself, singers Aretha Franklin and Jim Brown and the Temptations and Supremes.

DETHRONER

LONDON - (NPI)--Star-Volt recording star Otis Redding of "Memphis Sound" fame has replaced rock 'n' roller Elvis Presley as the "world's number one male vocalist" according to a readers poll by Melody Maker magazine. Presley had dominated the poll for years until Redding came along.

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