

HOLLYWOOD THE SOUL SIDE

by Walter Burrell

(Ed. note: This is the second of a two-part exclusive interview with Diana Ross and The Supremes, number one female vocal group in the world.)

Diana Half Way There

SHE IS ONE of the most excitingly talented entertainers America has yet produced; she is captivating as a performer, effervescent as a personality, and beautiful. One prominent political figure has been moved to declare that if ever a "black is beautiful" coin were minted, her face would be the one to adorn it for, as he put it, "she is one of the most beautiful black women in America."

Her name is Diana Ross and she is the lead singer for The Supremes, the number one female group in the world.

However, despite overwhelming successes in the U.S., Tokyo, Munich, Holland, and even on an aircraft carrier in Kowloon Harbor, Hong Kong, it is this writer's humble opinion that Miss Ross is just now reaching the half-way point in what will evolve as a brilliant two-fold show business career as both singer and actress.

Diana, who has openly spoken of seriously entering the acting arena, visited another singer-actress, Doris Day, a few months ago on the set of Miss Day's new film, "The Epic of Josie." A long-time admirer of Miss Day's, Diana asked several questions about just how she should go about preparing herself.

The blonde star, who has never had a formal acting lesson in her entire career, suggested in effect that Diana simply dive right in and give it a try.

IT WASN'T long afterward that all of The Supremes' snared roles as nuns in an episode of the "Tarzan" series and Diana's performance was so promising that she was reportedly one of the major reasons for boss Berry Gordy's announcement that Motown was going into the movie-making business.

Among others, this writer was so impressed with the singer that he suggested to producer Ross Hunter that Diana be considered for one of the three major roles in the upcoming multi-million dollar production of "Sweet Charity," which will star Shirley MacLaine.

The role, one of the choice acting coups of the season, is a demanding one. The actress selected will of necessity have to be a good dancer, singer, and actress who can learn musical routines quickly and perform them effortlessly. After viewing Miss Ross on a recent Ed Sullivan show, there can be little doubt she is the one for the part.

IT WAS no surprise, then, when I literally bumped into Diana two weeks ago in an elevator at Universal Studios. The singer was there reportedly to confer with production executives and though two other noted personalities are also in the running, it would be to "Sweet Charity's" advantage to go with Diana. If ever there was a "natural actress," Diana is it.

However, despite her abundance of talent and fame, Diana has maintained a level headedness which is difficult to believe. When it comes to money, something she never had prior to her unprecedented career, she certainly has lots now, but she doesn't seem to be overwhelmed by it. It's well handled by her managers and she is on an allowance.

Her family is well taken care of; she bought her mother a home and her brothers and sisters are all in school. She isn't the type to buy a \$5,000 brooch just because she sees it in a window and wants it.

She has a quiet passion to be herself, to be different from others. She wants her hair, clothes and makeup to be distinctively hers. She won't tell the other two girls--or anyone else-- where she buys her dresses or what lipstick she uses. If she finds someone is using the same kind of perfume, she'll switch to something else.

WHEN QUESTIONED about her enormous fame, she answers easily that she enjoys it, but doesn't take it all that seriously. She's a stickler about signing autographs and doesn't believe in saying "no," then rushing off.

She feels that kids have respect for the three of them and that she can control crowds. She

SWINGING AT THE HIDEAWAY CLUB



CROWD PLEASERS at the Hideaway Club in the Moulin Rouge Hotel is the Big Daddy Rucker Revue featuring The Four Kings & a Joker Band...New to the Las Vegas scene, the group from San Diego offer Hideaway patrons a barrage of diversified entertainment featuring Roy "Rabbit" Vaughn on Bass, Drummer man Lionel Wishom, Don Gilliam on Alto Sax, Organist Dane Rabbi, Robert Brown on Trombone, and Guitarist William "Winnie" Brown. Vocal honors are shared between Bobby Barnes and Big Daddy Rucker to the patrons nightly delight.

Buck Rams Personality Productions of Hollywood, California handle the highly talented musical aggregation whose most recent engagements included appearances at the Top Hat and C's Supper Clubs in Riverside, California, the Riverside Ballroom, Phoenix, Arizona, and The Classic Cat in Los Angeles.

The Big Daddy Rucker Revue is scheduled to make its first tour of the East Coast beginning Feb. 1...Meanwhile, all that action is swinging nightly at the Moulin Rouge's Hideaway Club.

Blacks Need More Voice

NEW YORK - (NPI)--Black people "need much more of a voice in the direction of their communities--in their schools, in their welfare services, and police," according to Dr. Alvin Poussaint.

The assistant professor of psychiatry at Tufts University's New England Medical Center, Boston, said the black power idea may help prevent violence.

Addressing the New York State district branches, American Psychiatric Association, he declared the "Black Muslims have reached the untouchables of society and have allowed them to express their hatred of whites without much rioting."

The Muslims, he added, are "moving from that point to rehabilitate men into a positive relationship with the community."

When anger is channeled into effective action rather than frustration, riots become less likely, he said.

According to the noted psychiatrist, the "psychological castration of the society of black people" accounts for the "abnormal amount of aggression of Negroes."

He recommended "some form of black power" as a psychological antidote.

Male Shortage Is News?

NEW YORK - (NPI)--A study of this city's adult population has good news for lonely bachelors across the country: black women in this city outnumber the men, three to two.

The survey, issued by the Columbia University School of Public Health and Administrative Medicine, found that women outnumbered men generally in New York City. But among Negroes, the "disproportion is greater," according to the study.

Other findings of the recently published "Ethnic and Educational Data on Adults in New York City, 1963-1964":

--Three fourths of all Negro adults were brought up outside the city, compared with a half of all adults living in New York.

--Nearly four out of 10 black adults are under 25--evidence that the Negro population is younger than that of other New Yorkers.

--Half of the adult Negroes live in families with less than \$5,000 yearly income.

Producer Sidney Poitier

NEW YORK - (NPI)--Academy award-winning actor Sidney Poitier last week signed a three-year, non-exclusive, multiple production with Columbia Pictures as a producer-developer of original subjects in a milestone development for Negroes in motion pictures. Actually, in order to utilize Poitier's creative producing talent, Columbia signed the contract with the E&R Production Corporation, a firm headed by Poitier.

As producer, Poitier will develop original "life" subjects for Columbia.

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also thinks that police, especially "special officers," often use too much force and even create panic. She and the other two girls walk slowly from a stage and never run, push or show nervousness. They don't raise their voices or speak sharply to people.

Unlike many stars who complain constantly of their lives being too open to the public, Diana says she doesn't feel her privacy has really been infringed upon--at least, not yet.

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