

Thursday, January 30, 1975

# BILLY ROWE'S Note Book

NEW YORK CITY---Neither dirty words or harsh looks were audible or visible when Berry Gordy, Motown's founder and chief, relieved Tony Richardson of the director's chair of "Mahogany." The 2nd-flick for Motown, and its favorite tallow talent, Diana Ross, is on location in Rome after takes in Chgo. The association slipped out of focus because of what was described as "interpretive and creative differences." It developed in the Windy City and Tony was thrown to the lions in Rome, the Eternal City, where Gordy decided he would rather do it himself. It was not announced whether he would continue in that role for the two upshceduled pics in Motown's future, "Bingo Long and the Traveling All Stars," topped by Billy Dee Williams and James Earl Jones, and "Havana," the 3rd-film designed especially for Diana Ross, who was nominated for her stirring emoting in her first screen fare, "Lady Sings the Blues." ...Robert Neminoff, producer of the hit B'way musical, "Raisin," has okayed a leave for its musical director, Howard Roberts, so that he can conduct for Alvin Ailey's peerless Dancers at the Kennedy Ctr in DeeCee...Paramount Pics and ABC/TV are at "lawyers' point" over the filming of the biography of Louis Armstrong. Paramount claims ownership having brought same from the immortal "Satchmo's" spouse, Lucille, and the estate of his long time mgr, the late Joe Glaser. However, the network is going ahead with its dramatization, "Louis Armstrong's Early Yrs in Chgo," standing on the "legal leg" that he was a public figure and his life is open to the free bio treatment. Ben Vereen, who kept the B'way musical, "Pippin" poppin', has been signed to do the ABC/TV movie-of-the-wk., co-starring with comic Red Buttons... "Friends" of Redd Foxx, the ole gang, are preparing a goodie for his Feb. appearance at Carneige Hall...It's hard to find a ticket for the Jackson-5's, 7 at the Music Hall in Feb., as it is to find a chicken with teeth.

Dr. Buddy Cowan, the 1st-Black Ass't Secy of the Dept. of Defense, Health and Environment, has put his DeeCee house on the market. Talk is that he's tired traveling all over the globe and will furl his flag in about 6-months... There is wide spread capitol talk that EEO Chairman John Powell Jr., is thinking that there are greener pastures despite the job crunch...Berkeley G. Burrell, prez of the deed going, Nat'l Business League, also plans to nix it after this season and an honor bash for H. Naylor Fitzhugh the retired PepsiCo VeePee. Ben Wright and Ophelia DeVore are also planning a NAMD salute for the former top soda marketeer. To add to his chores, Berkeley Burrell has just accepted a Presidential appointment to a 24-member Nat'l Commission on Productivity and Work Quality. Mayor Tom Bradley is the other added color to the body...The Bon Bons are leading an organizational drive to keep the B'way production, "The Wiz" on the boards. Putting their money where their emotions as, the org will buy out most of the pews of the Majestic for its first thea-party of the yr. Several religious org's are planning to follow their lead to make the Ken Harper opus opulent. This take off on the "Wizard of OZ" was staged by Geoffrey Holder and won the best adjectives from most of the lads and gals in aisle seats... The NNPA (The Black Press) will honor Wonder-musician Quincy Jones at its San Francisco convention in June.

Fred O'Neal, prez of the powerful 4-A's and Joan Chandler, exec-dir., Black Theatre Alliance are on Gov. Hugh Carey's Task Force... Robert Hooks, co-founder of the Negro Ensemble Co., has been given funds soliciting time on the DeeCee tubes to keep his 'sister' so. alive there...Don't invite Roy Innes, CORE's big voice and Ralph Bakshi, writer-director of "Coonskin" to the same screening. The org. is as hot as a steam bath over the upshceduled Paramount release. It charges that "this picture is not only insulting to Blacks, it is also humiliating in its treatment of Jews and Italians," said Elaine Parker, who heads Harlem CORE...The National Black Police Ass'n has selected Boston for its Oct. '75 conference. With Amb. George Busch out, Art Fletcher has put in his papers with the National Republican Comm., effective Feb. one...Raymond and Marion Rogers' son-in-law, Joe Dingle suffered a double head injury on the coast just 3-wks after becoming a papa...Another notch to

# "CARIBE STAR"



YOUTHFUL star--Carl Franklin plays Sgt. Mark Walters in "Caribe," new Quinn Martin Productions series which starts on ABC/TV Monday, Feb. 17. Franklin and Stacy Keach, award-winning Broadway and film actor, play a law enforcement team which roves the entire Caribbean area in their war against crime.

# BLACK STARLET



COMING SOON--Beautiful Juanita Brown appears in the lead role of the new motion picture, "Black Starlet," which will be opening soon at the Rancho Circle Theatre.

Featured in "Foxy Brown" "Willie Dynamite," and "Uptown Saturday Night," Miss Brown is a rising star, having also done a number of recent television shows.

mark a great sadness, has been added by the members of the Fourth Estate who knew George F. Brown. His by-line will be sorely missed from pages which have been enhanced by his exuberant marshaling of facts into newsworthy features.

Mrs. Margaret Fowler, fired from her job as a cocktail waitress at the Las Vegas Hilton back in July of '73 has reopened the case with the Nevada Equal Rights Commission. She alleges that she was "canned" because she's Black and requested a better tipping area. She further charges that the hotel-casino set her up with the cops who arrested her for soliciting girls for two undercover agents. The charges were dismissed in Municipal Court for lack of evidence... "The Jeffersons," a Black spin-off from "All in the Family," has bowed in the tube series race. This Black sit-comedy is aware of where the laughs are buried and differs sufficiently from producer Norman Lear's other two Black comedy series, "Good Times" and "Sanford and Son" to attract interest. In their time slot, "The Jeffersons" suffer neither poverty or poor education. It's a well fixed family which comes up with a whole new set of funny situations which grows out of

their affluence. It's another insight on Black America and one which may find more joy in real Black livingrooms throughout the eye-ear length of the nation...Mona Richardson is back on the marquee line with rave reviews about her singing talent after a world-wide odyssey. The former feature of the Johnny Otis and later Ike and Tina Turner shows, is a bubbling solo performer on her home grounds of Los Angeles and the posh spots of Las Vegas...B. B. King is lighting up the Nightbird Lounge of the Las Vegas Hilton where he is among the room's all-time favorite blues belters...Mayor Maynard Jackson, Kevin white, Tom Bradley, Coleman Young, Richard Thatcher and former Mayor John Lindsey, have been asked to chair a committee of sponsors of a DeeCee benefit concert to help save our cities. The National Council of Negro Women and Urban Coalition will jointly banner the event...The bankruptcy of the Elmwood Casino, Windsor, Ont., created no far hearing sad song. It should however, be noted with sadnedd for Black stars took many a buck out of performing there and it was also a launching pad, for a number of them, before they reached superstar status....STAY LOOSE.

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March of Dimes

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**'TRUCK TURNER'**

**'FOXY BROWN'**

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She's the meanest chick in town!

Now they're together for the first time on one big show!

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CONT. FROM 7:00 PM

SAT.-SUN. OPEN 1:30 PM  
CONT. FROM 2:00 PM