

# STAR ENTERTAINMENT

## THE MANY CAREERS OF DENISE NICHOLAS

School's out for Denise Nicholas. Although the popular television series that she starred in "Room 222" is off the air, the attractive young actress has graduated to several other careers in her on-screen life.

For the Dean Martin starrer, "Mr. Ricco," an MGM picture being released by United Artists, the delectable Denise has been cast as a very capable girl who has a glamour-type job putting together exhibitions in an art museum in San Francisco. She's single, sophisticated and an involved member of the community.

In her next film assignment, which begins in March, Denise will be playing Bill Cosby's wife in the sequel to "Uptown Saturday Night."

"Denise is not only beautiful, she also radiates intelligence and warmth. She has credibility, appeal and that undefinable something we call 'star quality.'" believes Douglass Netter, who produced "Mr. Ricco."

In addition to her talents as an actress, Ms. Nicholas is also an accomplished songwriter and authress. Her book, "The Denise Nicholas Beauty Book" published by the Cornerstone Library, is included in the curriculum in modeling schools across the country. As a songwriter with BMI, Denise has had one big hit so far, "Can We Pretend," which Bill Withers recorded.

Interested in producing and directing, Denise has pursued her goals in that direction by working as an associate producer with Channel 58 (KLCS) in Los Angeles.

"I want to be just as comfortable behind the camera as in front of it," says the ambitious and artistic actress. "Good women's roles are at a premium - especially if you're black. That's why I'd like to see some of the black women who can't find work as actresses or want to be involved in some other area of show business doing something a little more challenging than spending 8 hours be-



hind a typewriter or getting someone a cup of coffee."

That's why Denise has formed her own production company, Masai Productions with Joe Wilcotts, the only black cinematographer in Hollywood and producer Fernandez Goode.

"The best way to learn and grow is by doing, not just talking." The determined Denise is a doer of the first order.

## 'Super Fly' Fights Upstream All the Way Home

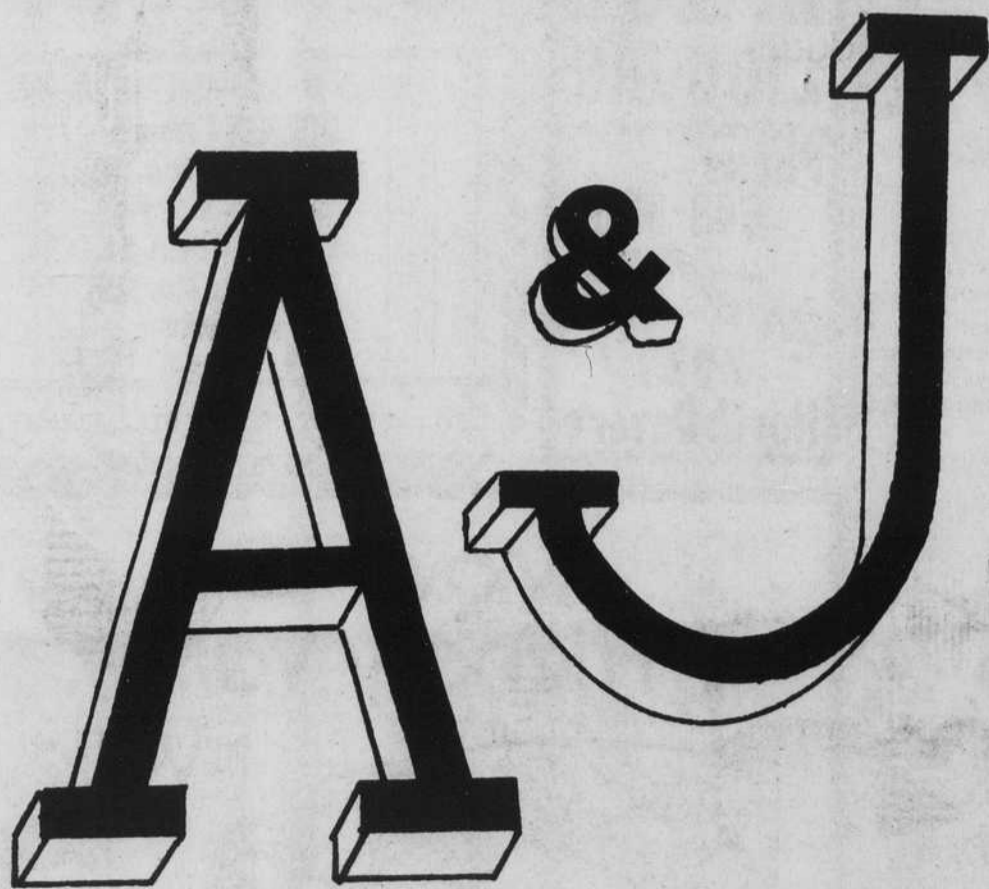


Ron O'Neal (left) and Carl Lee star as cocaine dealers in Warner Brothers' "Super Fly," opening Wednesday, at the Rancho Circle Theatre. Gordon Parks, Jr. directed the Sig Shore Production from a screenplay by Phillip Fenty.

At first glance Warner Brothers' "Super Fly," opening Wednesday, at the Rancho Circle Theatre, might appear to be just another in the line of currently popular black adventure films.

In reality the film is much more than that. True it is a story about blacks told in black terms but there the similarity ends.

"Super Fly" may well be the first ever film that truly expresses the black reality and philosophy. It was written by Phillip Fenty and directed by Gordon Parks, Jr., both black, and perhaps even more importantly, it was made with money supplied entirely by blacks.



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