

ENTERTAINMENT



Ashford & Simpson team up with Ronnie Dyson to provide the entertainment on Soul Train this weekend.

Now known for their performing talents as well as their ability to create and produce best-selling songs for over a decade, Ashford & Simpson sing their latest compositions appearing on the album *Send It*, the title song, "Don't Cost You Nothing" and "By Way of Love Express."

Since joining forces in the mid-60's when they scored their first hit, "Let's Go Get Stoned," for Ray Charles, this husband and wife team have written and arranged for many leading vocalists.

Ronnie Dyson, whose powerful voice belies his youthful appearance, holds forth on "Don't Be Afraid" and "Sarah Smile," two of his recent recordings.

Discovered in a talent contest at the age of five, Dyson received his first professional opportunity at seventeen when he joined the Broadway production, "Hair." He has appeared in the film "Putney Swope" and made numerous appearances on the Merv Griffin television show.

Soul Train is produced by Don Cernelius and sponsored by Johnson Products Co., Inc., largest black manufacturer of hair care products and toiletries in the nation.

RONNIE DYSON

AGVA AWARDS

The 8,000 members of AGVA (American Guild of Variety Artists) have selected Barbra Streisand, Shirley MacLaine, Totie Fields, Donny & Marie Osmond, and Shields & Yarnell among winners of the eighth annual "AVGA ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR AWARDS," honoring outstanding entertainers.

"Georgie" statuettes will be presented to winners on the "AVGA ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR AWARDS" 90-minute variety special hosted by Jackie Gleason, January 18, 9:30-11 p.m.

The winners, certified by the American Arbitration Association, which received and counted AGVA member's votes, are as follows: Comedy Star of the Year (Male), Steve Martin; Comedy Star of the Year (Female), Totie Fields; Singing Star of the Year (Male), Engelbert Humperdinck; Singing Star of the Year (Female), Barbra Streisand; Song and Dance Star of the Year, Shirley MacLaine; Vocal Team of the Year, Donny & Marie Osmond; Novelty Act of the Year, Shields & Yarnell; Instrumental Act of the Year, Chicago; Country Star of the Year, Dolly Parton; Animal Act of the Year, Fred, The Bird; Rising Stars of the Year, Shields & Yarnell.

At a later date AGVA will reveal the identity of the entertainer whom AGVA members have voted "The Entertainer of the Year." Also to be announced at a later date will be the recipient of this year's "Golden Award," named by a select committee.

AGVA is the largest union of entertainers. It annually honors performers in all fields of entertainment, non-members as well as members.

The "Georgie" statuette, presented to winners, is named for the late showman George M. Cohan.

Although some other organizations which confer awards keep the identities of winners secret until the presentation ceremonies, AGVA notifies its winners in advance of

the presentations.

The television special celebrating the presentation of awards to winners will be taped at Caesars Palace, Las Vegas, on Jan. 8.

The "AGVA ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR AWARDS" TV special is being produced by Saul Ilson for Sullivan Productions, directed by Jeff Margolis. Tony Jordan is associate producer. Executive producer is Bob Precht. Music director is Bob Rosario. Writers are Martin A. Ragaway and Saul Ilson.

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