

BILLIE ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

PRYOR TO RICHARD H'WOOD WAS SOUL-LESS

N'YORK CITY — He seems to have gotten the message if not religion, so that Richard Pryor is an active example of that fact. "Everything happens for the best." Though the pre-torched Pryor was regarded as a comic genius, his public and private antics pointed to ultimate disaster. Since a miraculous escape from "The fires of Hell," everything is coming up roses.

His latest picture, a "do it yourself" film fare, "Bustin Loose," is the most serious comedy ever made, not from the stand point of story or intent, but by the bold step he took as producer in recruiting the crew.

Among its key executives is a high concentration of Afro-Americans on a decision making level. And it is a first for a crew working through a major studio, in this case Universal.

As producer Richard leads the top ten list. Director Oz Scott is third-listed and Lonnie Elder III for his adaptation is slotted fifth. In the sixth slot Pryor got his second spot as the write hand behind the story. William Greaves, better known as a producer-director, is named in the seventh spot as Executive Producer. Other Afros among the 100 odd off camera technicians are Roberta Flack, who composed and sang the original music, Unit Production Mgrs. Charles C. Washburn and Michael Schultz, who, it was rumored, was called in to direct the re-shooting of certain scenes. Even Richard Pryor Jr., got a piece of the action as a production assistant.

For the now Richard Pryor is the hottest film property on the H'wood horizon. "Stir Crazy" which Sidney Poitier directed for Columbia, is generating big box office bucks at home and abroad. It has topped the million dollar mark in London and was just short of the 200Gs mark opening in Hong Kong. The super comic has a full flick agenda for '82. Included is a \$7 million budget for a screen version of the life and influence on music of Charlie Parker. Also there's some \$12 million for a remake of "Le Jouet," a 1976 French flick to be retitled "The Joy." This is in conjunction with another reteam with Gene Wilder for another wild comedy for Columbia.

Aside from Pryor, who is getting close to the top of the list of big screen favorites and tiny teener Gary Coleman, its a different stroke for soul children in the real world of reel make believe. But of over 100 flicks being camera-ed in H'wood and on location, only a few known performers are cast listed. James Earl Jones, Ruby Dee, Louis Gossett, Jr., Juanita Moore, and Cleavon Little whose "Blazing Saddles" is back on the top 50 film grossing list after the umpteenth re-run of this Western film classic.

TIME FOR CHANGE — The legendary Apollo Theatre hoping for re-organization under Chapter 11 of the U.S. Code would do well to turn itself into a legitimate theatre. Then there would be a place for plays like "Incent Black." The ill-fated Black cast production starring Melba Moore, had a short, money losing run on B'way speaking more Afro than white words...Retired N.Y.P.D. Sgt. Jim-

my Holt is cudding a marvelous idea. He feels that the 369th Vets would attract greater attention if the theme of its annual up Fifth Ave. parade focused on modern day martyrs. In mind are such immortals as Medger Evans, John F. Kennedy, Robert F. Kennedy, Mrs. Martin Luther King, Sr., as well as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., just to name a few...The ladies are whispering about an alleged Lena Horne romance. The "Golden Aged" one are flocking in to see her show with penetrating eyes to see whether she had a face lift. They get that little stomach fall when they discover that face, curves and movements are all real natural Horne, and what they see is what she owns. "The Lady and her music" are still the talk of the town. In a full page N.Y. Times Sunday ad B'way's bias came through the bold type. Out of 15 quotes not one member of the Black Press was listed despite the fact that their reviews were spiced with profound and prideful adjectives... "La Vie En Rose," the event shaped to honor Rose Morgan, June 22nd, is being fashioned into quite an affair. It sports a "who's who" committee, with Clairol and Johnson Products the

listed sponsors.

POTPOURRI: — Officials of the Republic of Sierra Leone have launched a determined drive to get back \$3.5 million which was "ripped off" that country by an Afro-American in an abortive rice scam...John Johnson told friends that Jesse Jackson's face on Ebony's last cover was the fastest sellout in the mag's history...Paul Winfield whose talents deserves more pic work than he gets, has landed a major role in "White Dog"...Beverly Brown, Louis' widow, had to face another sadness with the loss of her mother last week...For Dr. Mike Holloman, and former wife Charlotte, it's "our daughter the lawyer." Their Charlotte was one of those handed a law degree down in D.C...Bunny and Virginia Brooker said they can stop the run on the bank. Their son David got his degree from that expensive Boston College, and has found a job in Beantown that pays 4 times as much as we made at his age...Harry Belafonte is off for a long and lucrative tour of Australia...That very special Tribute to Mary Lou Williams set for Town Hall is attracting super attention with her passing..STAY LOOSE.

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**'Sportspage On
KUNV Now Reset**

"Sportspage," KUNV-91. 5 FM's 30 minute segment of sports news, has changed its time span from part of Newsmagazine (an hour of news, sports and features heard on KUNV starting at 2:00 P.M.) to a separate show at 11:30 A.M. on Monday and Friday each week.

There will still be eight minutes of sports on the Newsmagazine show each day of the week.

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