

# Entertainment

## Library Film Series Honors Black History

February is Black History Month, and in observance of this special time set aside to recognize achievements and contributions by Afro-Americans, the West Las Vegas Library is presenting a series of four video-cassette films featuring Black actors. Your ticket of admission to the films, provided by Ebony and Ivory Video, is your library card. As seating is limited, pre-registration is requested for the Saturday, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. showtimes to be held on February 4, 11, 18 and 25.

The February 4 feature showcases the talents of comedian Richard Pryor, starring in "The Toy," as an expensive plaything for a poor, little rich boy. Complimenting Pryor's antics are Jackie Gleason as the wealthy father, Ned

Beatty as the "weasel" and Wilfrid Hyde-White as the staunch butler. Gleason won in a billiards match.

The February 11 film, "Black Like Me," finds Roscoe Lee Browne, Clifton James and James Whitmore starring in the dramatic story of a man who chemically changes the color of his skin to pose as a Black man in the South.

"Buck and the Preacher," scheduled for February 18, pairs Harry Belafonte and Sidney Poitier as a duo of escaped slaves heading West away from villain Cameron Mitchell. Ruby Dee provides the romantic interest in Poitier's first directional effort.

Closing the series on February 25 is the colorful, extravagantly produced film version of the

hit Broadway musical, "The Wiz." Based on "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz" by Frank Baum, the film version of "The Wiz" stars Diana Ross as Dorothy, Michael Jackson as the Scarecrow, Nipsey Russell as the Tinman and Ted Ross as the Lion. Also starring are Richard Pryor, Lena Horne and Mabel King.

## Commodores Big Hit at Sahara

**SAHARA STARS** — Motown recording stars, The Commodores, perform their great hits and new songs twice nightly, 8 p.m. and 12 midnight cocktail shows, thru Sunday in the Congo Showroom of the Sahara Hotel & Casino. Call 737-2424 for Congo Showroom reservations and enjoy a great evening of music.

## "AFRIKIAN ODYSSEY: THE LIBERIAN YEARS" Displayed At Reed Whipple

A Brown Man and His Arts, the prose, poetry and paintings of Beni Casselle, will be displayed at the Reed Whipple Cultural Center Art Gallery, Feb. 5 thru Mar. 9. The Opening Reception will be Sunday, Feb. 5 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Beni Casselle was born on the second floor of his father's mortuary in Philadelphia, Pa., on the 13th of July, 1929. He grew up in a middle-class, upper-value setting among the classic DuBois Philadelphia study types. After attending Philadelphia public schools and graduating from a finishing school in North Carolina (Palmer Memorial Institute), he enlisted in the U.S. Army.

Beni chose Southern California for both residence and art school training under the G.I. Bill. After a prolific start



to his art career as a member of "The Seekers" art group in Los Angeles area, Beni's creative outflow as put on a backburner when he relocated to the Windy City and began seriously pursuing a career in marketing.

When the Casselle family decided they had enough snow, wind, and bitter cold, Las Vegas was selected as a new home base. It is in the hot, bleak Mojave Desert that Beni has returned to his creative inclinations — full time. Like the cactus whose lonely beauty he has learned to admire, he flourishes in the uncompromising splendor of the desert. Since 1973 Beni has been writing and painting with a renewed sense of vigor and vision.

Finding only a single school of art technique unacceptable, Beni has explored various modes of his expressionistic attempts. He is very serious in his attempts to convey a thought or message to onlookers via his graphics. He hopes to continue to explore all such avenues of interest in the future.

## GRAND OPENING

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## Dorothy Dandridge Honored At WALK

**HOLLYWOOD** — Dorothy Dandridge, one of the most prominent black actresses in motion picture history, has been honored posthumously with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Her star, the 1,774th to be dedicated, was placed between those previously dedicated to Harry Belafonte and Barton MacLane. Mrs. Belafonte and Sidney Poitier accepted the award for Ms. Dandridge during ceremonies Wednesday sponsored by the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce.

Ms. Dandridge, who died in 1965, received an Academy Award nomination in 1954 for best actress in "Carmen Jones." Her last major American film was "Porgy and Bess" in 1959.

Her other film credits included "Lady from Louisiana," "Bahama Passage," "Drums of the Congo," "Ebony Parade" and "The Hit Parade of 1943."

## GALLERY OPENING AT WLV LIBRARY

In celebration of the cultural richness of Afro-Americans, a gallery opening and reception will launch the second annual Art Exhibit in Honor of Black History Month on Wednesday, Feb. 1 from 6-8 p.m. at the West Las Vegas Library, 1402 "D" Street.

Over 30 works by local southern Nevada artists which reflect the history of the Afro-American culture will be on display during the month-long exhibit thru Feb. 29.

The gallery opening and reception will also feature a Black musical retrospective by the well-known Trio Serenata, the Clark County Library District chamber ensemble in-residence, as well as a presentation by aspiring artist Victor J. Banks.

Banks, a contemp-

orary artist who paints surreal visions, will discuss "Art: Yesterday, Today and Forever." As a result of painting lessons throughout his childhood, Banks was able to use early art works to gain admission to the University of Colorado and the Emily Griffin School of Commercial Art. He notes, "I like to keep the human aspect in my art to demonstrate the revolutionary changes that have occurred in our society." In Las Vegas, his work has been exhibited at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Clark County Community College and the Bill Reason Community Center.

The public is invited to attend this free opening and reception in celebration of Black History Month.

**ETHNICITY IN AMERICA CONTEST:** Do you know Black History from yesterday to today? If you are a school-age youngster, ages 10-17, test yourself and you may win a portable AF-FM stereo radio with headset. For further details contact the West Las Vegas Library. The contest will run Feb. 1-15.