

Oprah Winfrey takes her act to Vegas TV

DALLAS—The official Oprah Winfrey biography says she "has come to offer viewers something they don't see very often on national television: a genuine person."

The birthdate is Jan. 29, 1954. The photos are in her press kit, so let's keep it that way, huh?

Oprah explains why someone who has "little if any regard for pretension" (bio-speak) has decided to disallow any picture-taking during interviews. It only took one bad experience, she says: "You couldn't tell if I was really mongoloid or if I had just been let out from the mental institution. Because I AM so expressive, I end up with all these pictures where I really look deformed."

Oprah has said no to a lot of picture-taking lately. Dallas is the 11th stop on a 13-city promotional tour for "The Oprah Winfrey Show."

Everyone seems to know all about Oprah Winfrey. Her talk show hasn't even been seen outside of Chicago yet, but most are aware that she obliterated Phil Donahue in the ratings and sent him packing to New York.

She has made one movie, "The Color Purple," and received an Oscar nomination for her portrayal of Sofia. In October, she'll be featured in "Native Son," the theatrical film adaptation of Richard Wright's classic novel.

Oprah is holding forth in a state of recline in a TV station conference room. "Do you mind if I put my feet up?" she asked, pledging to psyche herself to do a "fresh" interview.

"I have never talked more about myself than I have in the last 10 days, because I don't take myself that seriously, you know. This has been like therapy for me," she says.

She has been in television for 13 years, beginning at WTVF-TV in Nashville as a reporter-anchor. In 1976 she moved to WJZ-TV in Baltimore, where she eventually got the opportunity to host the station's "People Are Talking" program. Oprah arrived in Chicago, at WLS-TV, in January 1984.

Her assignment was to revive the "AM Chicago" program, which was trudging along in the ratings opposite "Donahue." It took her only a few months to put "Donahue" on the run, get an extra half-hour of air

time and have "AM Chicago" renamed in her honor. Thanks, Phil.

"One of the reasons I have so much respect for Donahue," she says, "is that he has already proven that women are more interested in issues and concerned about things that affect their lives than they are about how to make a perfect stuffed cabbage, or the latest ways to apply mascara."

In September, Oprah goes national, in 130 television markets covering 90 percent of the country.

Her show will appear locally at 3 p.m. weekdays on KTNV, TV-13.

"I'm getting all this 'Donahue' hype stuff," Oprah says, noting that she'll be on opposite him in only one-third of the cities (including Las Vegas) carrying her syndicated show.

"To be honest with you, I wish that I was competing against him. I feel more comfortable being on at 9 in the morning. I don't feel as comfortable being on in the afternoon. I've beaten him in Chicago, and people are no different in Houston, Dallas, Sacramento, Birmingham."

"I was told not to go to Chicago because I'd be picketed, bombed and blown out of the city, 'cause it's the most racist place in the country. Now people in Cicero (a Chicago suburb) say, 'You can't move to my neighborhood, but I love you Ofrey.'"

"I like this one -- 'What's this means for black women?' I'm gonna have to mull that one over," she says. "What DOES this mean? Somebody asked me that in Philadelphia. I say, 'What do you think it means? Do you think it means anything?'"

It means, she is told, that she'll be a black talk show host as long as her ratings are high. Oprah laughs, but is serious later when asked about her decision to act in two movies that very much concern the black experience

MEDIA REVIEW ROWE

The Joys and Rewards of Fatherhood (For fathers, fathers to be, and mothers, too)

A review of Fatherhood by Bill Cosby (Garden City, New York: Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1986)--Hardcover--\$14.95.

In Fatherhood, the reader gets a double treat: a delicious taste of Bill Cosby's wit and wisdom and Dr. Alvin F. Poussaint's Introduction and Afterword in which he delves into his wealth of experience as a well-known Black psychiatrist to analyze Cosby's book in the broader context of parenthood in general. In Dr. Poussaint's words, "Bill Cosby makes fatherhood come alive. He takes us on a comedic yet insightful journey through which most men, who elect to participate actively in the great spiritual and psychological adventure of parenting, must pass."

Fatherhood, then, is must reading for fathers, those who plan to become fathers, and those who want to learn more about their own fathers.

Fatherhood is a book for women, too, who want to better understand the men (fathers and husbands) in their own lives.

in America.

"It's coincidental," she says. "I intend to do other roles that have nothing to do with being black. But I think it's important to do work that is representative of good black literature. If you're going to do a black role, you might as well do a classic black novel, as opposed to playing a pimp or a prostitute. But I don't intend to do all black roles. I would like to do something for comedic relief or something sexy."

Her talk show, she says, is a reward for years of covering "a cockatoo's birthday party or a wasp's nest at a woman's house" during her stints at Nashville and Baltimore stations.

Those who can't handle the heat of certain topics are warned to either change the channel or shut up.



Bill Cosby

Fatherhood is a book for children who want to see themselves as only a real father can see them and as they seldom see themselves.

Bill Cosby's largess in being willing to share many of his own fatherhood experiences should encourage men -- especially

See FATHER, Page 13

From PAGE 8

announcement...Dr. Billy Taylor and saxational Grover Washington are among the 220 Americans set to represent the U.S. at a "Town Meeting" on U.S. and Soviet relations comes mid-Sept...Patti LaBelle's first dramatic no-singing role will come out of the script of the NBC-TV made for TeeVee flick, "Unnatural Causes." ...Maxwell House Coffee executives who are enchanted with the way Lena Horne sips her Sanka, and Ray Charles' songs wakeup Maxwell House total coffee drinkers, has reached out for Ossie Davis to spokesperson its College Fair press confabs. He mellowed the media for that brews first ever Historically Black

Colleges Fair in NYC recently....Fizzy Qwick, the Motown looker, is quoted as whispering to pals that she "hates the kind of fella who leaves the price tag on an expensive gift that was marked down for clearance by the cashier, who left the original price tag intact... Figures released in London by the Charities Aid Foundation credits Band Aid with generating \$84,326,000 in donations. That's 56,500,000 pounds English if my count is correct and is tops for the year in Britton according to their own words. The charity was inspired by Bob Geldof in '84 in response to the African famine. Based on announcement abroad, it will shut down come Christmas ...STAY LOOSE...Billy Rowe is a syndicated columnist.

NEW TOWN Las Vegas, Nev. LAVERN AND CASINO

600 W. Jackson 647-3995 Open 24 Hours
Corner "F" & Jackson Free Drink Coupon For Players

Look Out! WE Are Here!

"The Sounds the Way You Like It"

The STEREO BAND

Every Weekend - Fri., Sat., Sun.
11 p.m. until

**THURSDAY THRU SUNDAY
TALENT NIGHTS**

Different Contests Nightly Different Prizes Every Night

*Our success depends upon how well
we satisfy you*

NELLIS (702) 649-4200

FURNITURE

Harold L. Johnson 2666 Las Vegas Blvd North
USAF SMS Retired North Las Vegas, Nev. 89030