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Embassy Home Entertainment's Release of the Emperor Jones **Celebrates Black History Month**

Home Month Embassy Entertainment will release Emperor Jones. accompained by the Academy Award winning documentary, Paul Robeson: Tribute To An Artist, on videocassette February 18, 1987

The Emperor Jones, the film adaptation of the Eugene O'Neill drama, stars Paul Robeson in his first and perhaps finest role as young Brutus Jones: a man who through ambition, cunning and trickery, has been catapulted from lowly porter to mighty Emperor of a His Caribbean island. sudden introduction to power makes him forget his depressed past, and he becomes a cruel, egotistical tyrant who struts about, exploiting, cheating and cheating torturing, he wakes one morning to find his palace deserted, with the threatening beat of tomtoms in the dist ice. Gathering what he can of his riches; the Emperor flees for the coast to seek sanctuary in another land, but loses his way in the jungle. Aimlessly wandering, he bursts into the camp of his natives and is dispatched with a silver

Paul Robeson: Tribute To An Artist is a timeless tribute

In honor of Black History to a man's talent and dignity. a tribute to one of the greatest artists America has ever known. Sidney Poitier's narration underscores rare

from the theater, the concert stage and the movie studios and is dedicated to restoring Robeson's name to its rightful place in the history of



Paul Robeson as the Emperor Jones

and never before seen footage of Robeson in the United States and abroad. This compelling documentary highlights of includes

Written and Directed by Saul J. Turell, Paul Robeson: Tribute To An Artist won the Academy Award for Best Robeson's accomplishments Short Documentary of 1979.

Carroll, Damone may tie knot

Longtime lovers Vic Damone and Diahann Carroll will probably tie the marital knot Saturday in Atlantic City after completing their joint gig at the Golden Nugget Casino-Hotel, the New York

Wednesday.

"We're anything," said a Carroll spokesman, "because they've been getting married for several years now, and it never comes off." Offered a Damone aide: "They've told us not to talk about it, so there it is." However, the newspaper reported a steady stream of the singers' friends heading eastward. Damone, 58, and Carroll, 51, are both thrice-married.



Making History:

A Producer's Struggle to Document a Movement

foresaw that the civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, make great 'Would television." At the time, he was a young participant in what he likes to call "the remarkable human drama that was the civil rights movement." Today, he is an independent television and film producer chronicling the

historic social struggle.

EYES ON THE PRIZE:
AMERICA'S CIVIL RIGHTS YEARS, 1954-1965, is a tribute to Hampton's prescience and professional perseverance. The six-part series premieres on PBS Wednesday, January 21 at 9pm (check local listings), but Hampton's work on it really began that day in Selma some 20 years

"Good history captures much more than chronology," Hampton says. "The rights movement changed the way many Americans thought. portion we capture in the series is like a pebble dropped in the ocean; the ripples are much of what has happened in American life since 1965.

In 1968, Hampton founded Blackside, Inc., now one of the oldest minority-owned television and film production companies in the country. Blackside has produced some 40 commercial, industrial, educational and documentary programs over the years, including Kinfolks and Voices of a Divided City. But a series documenting all sides of the civil rights movement has always been one of Hampton's long-range

Finally making EYES ON THE PRIZE, he says, echoed the diversity of the movement itself. Substantial grants PBS and the from Public Coropration for Broadcasting he allows

THE PRIZE parallels the makeup of the movementpeople who see this as their history and want to have it told.

The demographic diversity of people united by this commitment, Hampton adds, is manifest in the production staff as well.

Series senior producer Judith Vecchione, fresh from award-winning work on the WGBH-produced Frontline and Vietnam: A Television History series, was first on board. She and Hampton hired the other staff, carefully selecting people skilled in television who also production represented a cultural crosssection of the movement they were to chronicle.

Blackside then set up 'civil rights school' for the staff, a two-week intensive education in civil rights history and scholarship held i the summer of 1985. Movement participants and scholars provided intellectual overview as well as personal perspectives that served as a backdrop for framing the series, since the programs are composed entirely of historical film footage and contemporary interviews with participants.

'We're telling personal stories in a historical context," says Vecchione, who produced the first two EYES programs. "This is my history--it's the history of all of us and it's history that could only have happened in America. The basic message is American -- that democracy is an idea that

Orlando Bagwell, producer of the third and fifth program of EYES ON THE PRIZE, concurs. "My parents went were through the struggles of "but integration when I was

there were also people growing up in Baltimore. The holding house parties and leaders of the movement twisting arms across the were my heroes, even country to raise money. The though they were only a few coalition behind EYES ON older than I. Suddenly, I'm part of it with them, helping to keep these stories alive.

> Callie Crossley and James A. DeVinney, who together produced the fourth and sixth programs, also was themselves in the history. DeVinney recalls his 1960 to 1966 stint as a cameraman on the local news at WPTA and WANE in Fort Wayne, Indiana. "Now I'm holding in my hands the same film I saw then on the monitor. I feel I'm making contribution to my children and their children.

Crossley, who in 1966 was one of 19 black students who integrated Central High School in Memphis, Tennessee, underscores the responsibility of helping to create the landmark document series on the civil rights movement. not so long ago that black students could not be with white educated students," she says. understand the pain of intergrating a school--I lived through it and benefited from it. The most important thing I've done so far in my career is to help document this history, so people will remember the struggle and value the rewards."

Adds Hampton, "This is history that happened to all Americans, not just to a few, and we feel priviledged to be recounting it.'

EYES ON THE PRIZE is produced by Blackside, Inc., and is presented on PBS by WGBH Boston. funding for EYE ON THE PRIZE is provided by public television stations, Public Corporation for Broadcasting. the Ford Foundation. Lotus **Development Corporation and** the Lilly Endowment.



