

Wonder Testifies He Wrote Song

LOS ANGELES — Singer-songwriter Stevie Wonder took the witness stand Thursday and testified he began work on the Oscar-winning song "I Just Called To Say I Love You" after a 1976 visit to his mother.

Wonder's claim establishes the creation of the tune one year before songwriter Lloyd Chiate maintains he and collaborator Lee Garrett played Wonder a tape of a song they wrote called "I Just Called To Say."

Chiate claims in his copyright infringement lawsuit that Wonder, who was sued under his true name of Steveland Morris, stole the tune that won a best song Academy Award for the 1984 film "The Woman in Red."

Wonder began testifying only after U.S. District Judge David W. Williams moved the trial to a larger courtroom to accommodate a crush of reporters and spectators who came to see the Grammy-winning entertainer.



Stevie Wonder

Under questioning by Chiate's attorney, Herb Dodell, Wonder said he began thinking about the song on July 16, 1976, while returning from a visit to his mother in the San Fernando Valley to his home at the time, the Regency Hotel.

Wonder said he developed "enough of a working idea for a verse and a chorus" to make a recording of the tune the same day, but "various things changed throughout the years" before the tune was actually completed and used.

Bill Cosby To Headline Opportunity Village's Concert of Love Sunday, March 4

Opportunity Village is proud to announce that the 15th Annual Glenn Smith Concert of Love will be held Sunday, March 4 at the Las Vegas Hilton. Show time is 2:00 p.m. and the doors open at 12:30 p.m.

Joining Glenn will be America's -1 television personality -- superstar comedian Bill Cosby. Also appearing will be Chris Burke who plays Corky Thatcher on the weekly, hour long drama "Life Goes On" on ABC.

The Concert of Love is Opportunity Village's largest fund raiser, with every cent remaining in the community to enrich the lives of the intellectually handicapped.

Reserve the day -- and join Glenn, Bill, Chris and the Las Vegas community in sharing the music, the laughs, and magic of the 15th Annual Concert of Love March 4 in the Las Vegas Hilton's main showroom.

Ticket prices are \$15.00 for balcony seating, \$25.00

for main floor seating, and \$100 and up for reserved seats which include VIP reception.

Spike Lee Sounds Off Against Hollywood

ROCHESTER, N.Y. — Spike Lee, creator of "Do the Right Thing," says he's the only filmmaker criticized for not showing drugs in his movies.

Critics complained that his 1989 film dealing with race relations in New York City was unrealistic because the streets were clean and the characters weren't shown using drugs, Lee told an audience at the University of

"Blacks know a lot about the white world, because we're a minority living in it," he said.

"But whites don't know anything about black culture. What blacks does Steven Spielberg know? Quincy Jones? Michael Jackson? Maybe Prince? They aren't regular black people.

"Hollywood is a closed community and they're out of touch."



Spike Lee

Rochester on Wednesday night.

"Drugs are not the unique domain of black people," Lee said.

Lee said black people have to make their own movies to be in control of their own image.



America's first father, Bill Cosby, stars in a new family comedy, "Ghost Dad." He plays the role of a single parent whose encounter with a supernatural teaches him it's never too late to get in touch with his kids. The film marks the fourth collaboration between Cosby and Academy Award winner Sidney Poitier, who directs the film. The cast also includes Denise Nicholas, Kimberly Russell, Ian Bannan, Salim Grant, Brooke Fontaine and Omar Gooding. The film will be released this coming summer.

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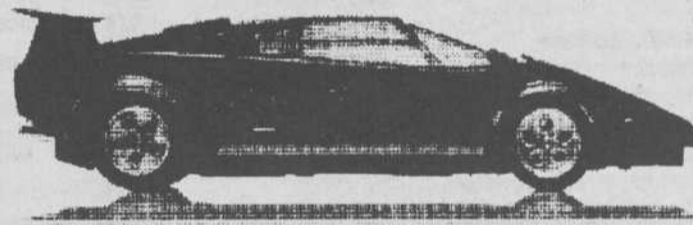


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