

Entertainment



BILLIE ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

BROADWAY IS ONEWAY IN THE WHITE DIRECTION

NY CITY: -After a self imposed survey in the late eighties, Actors' Equity discovered, that by any stretch of the imagination, Broadway is a one-way street in the "white direction." Would you believe that 90% of all the actors and actresses plying their trades on the legitimate stages of the "Great White Way" were just that, white. In a move to balance the book of democracy, Actors' Equity formed and funded a division to oversee "Non Traditional Casting." Its function is to insist that casting be done without conscious regard of racial color or ethnic background. After continued coat-tail tugging by a majority of its ethnic, mostly African-American members, Equity took on director-choreographer Jerome Robbins and Bernard Jacobs of the powerful Shubert organization. The subject, their seeming open disregard of the purpose of "Non Traditional Casting" for the Tony Award winning 62 dancers' musical, "Jerome Robbins' Broadway." At the time of the initial meeting there was just one African-American female swing dancer aboard in this conglomerate of former Robbins' musicals which raised

questions when it won last season's "Best Musical" Award. There are several Hispanic and Asians aboard the extravaganza in question.

OPINION: -Writing his opinion in the Equity house organ, member Bernard Marsh said: "The ever present and never ceasing cancer of racism and prejudice is evident in the disproportionate hiring practices of many of the current and recently defunct theatrical productions on B'way and across the nation which perpetuate the systematic exclusion of the African American actor."

NEWS NOTES: -On the Hollywood side the West Coast NAACP has set its sights on the hiring practices of the total entertainment industry on the West Coast. Hollywood is its number one priority. Sandra Evers-Manley of the Beverly-Hills/Hollywood Branch reported that more than eighty complaints have been lodged, and that's a record, charging discrimination... TeeVee critics are not rushing to lodge their accolades at the doorway of the highly tube talented Oprah Winfrey's "Brewster Place." Our feeling is that it is a good place to lodge your eyes and embrace your most kindred spirit...The Louis

Armstrong estate must be in clover. The late immortal's sound-alikes are his stand-ins in current advertising campaigns for Hershey Foods refrigerated pudding, Cadbury, Schweppes, Canada Dry ginger ale and Nabisco Foods' milk bone tartar control dog biscuits to recall a few. It all came together when Satchmo's special jazz sould awakened "Good Morning Vietnam." Ron Hawkins, the Chgo based celebrity imitator does the bulk of "Pops" imitations. Oscar Cohen, whom the late George Glaser saved from the streets, and now heads his Associated Booking Agency, controls the Louis Armstrong Foundation which benefits from the fees generated by the growing surge of the great trumpeteer in the commercial advertising arena...The continued glamorous Edna Mae Holly Robinson isn't finding it easy to sell her book on her years with the immortal ring gladiator because she refuses to write smutty. However her tough draft is eye-opening and clogged with revealing facts from her "Years With Sugar Ray Robinson."

END NOTES: -Officials of the University of Minnesota are in the hunt to flunk the culprits responsible for dispatching racist letters to



Oprah Winfrey

13 Asian American faculty members...On the side of the divine sex, Professor Derrick Bell, Harvard Law School publicly announced he will take an unpaid leave of absence as a protest against the lack of a tenured Black woman on the school's faculty. He is the first member of his race to win tenure in this Ivy League institution's Law School. His leave is scheduled to begin at the end of the current academic year. A body of law students at Harvard, known

as the Coalition for Civil Rights has also been protesting the absence of minority, female, homosexual, or handicapped professors on the faculty. Keith O. Boykin of that group said that Professor Bell's action will galvanize students...Virginia's historic governor, L. Douglas Wilder, minced no words against double digit tuition increases at his state's public colleges. At a luncheon meeting with a group of public colleges' chief executives, he told them to get their house in or-



Douglas Wilder

der before thinking about raising the cost of attending their institutions...A 6-yr legal hassle, involving a cadre of African and Hispanic alumni ended in their favor.

Now they will attain what was sought a dozen years ago. Their association will receive all the rights and privileges accorded all such recognized Baruch College groups, included, but not limited to become incorporated using the college's name and access to official quarters. The group had sued the college for alleged racial discrimination in '84. The case was dismissed and was on appeal when the settlement was reached...STAY LOOSE...BILLY ROWE IS A SYNDICATED COLUMNIST.

'ROCK THE HOUSE',

High Energy Music Special Featuring Young MC and Kid 'N Play To Be Telecast May 14

Some of the hottest performers in rap music including 1989 Grammy-winner Young MC (Best Rap Artist) and Kid 'N Play, who starred in the recent hit movie "House Party," will headline NBC's high energy dance music special "Rock The House," to be telecast on Monday, May 14 from 8-8:30 p.m.

DJ Romeo Rich and his sidekicks Mecca Dyas and Lisa Kellogg host the show.

Choreographed dance numbers performed by the Dance Possey will be featured including dances to such hit songs as "Pump Up the Jam" by Technotronic, "All Around the World" by Lisa Stansfield, "Heartbeat" by Seduction and "Somebody For Me" by Heavy D.

Young MC (aka Marvin Young) will perform his latest single "I Come Off," from his platinum album "Stone Cold Rhymin'."

Kid 'N Play (Christopher Reid, Christopher Martin and DJ Mark Eastmond), who starred in the popular movie "House Party," will perform their chart toppers "Fun House" from their album of the same name, and "Rollin' with Kid 'N Play." The New York based team will have their own Saturday morning animated comedy series this fall on NBC.

Eight-time Emmy winner



Young MC

Don Mischer ("Motown 25, Yesterday, Today and Forever," "Motown Returns to the Apollo," Dance in America") is the producer and director of the dance/musical special. Emmy nominee Bernie Brillstein ("Buffalo Bill"), executive producer of NBC's "Alf," and Brad Grey are the executive producers. Richard Gibbs (The Tracey Ullman Show, "The Simpson") is the musical director. Otis

Sallid ("Showtime at the Apollo," "Fame") is the choreographer of the program from Don Mischer Productions and Brillstein Productions, Inc.

The Dance Possey dancers are: Bryant Baldwin, Nadine Grycan, Raymond G. Del Barrio, Judy Kim (Jaxx), Edgar L. Godineaux, Jr., Renee J. King, Jimmy Locust, Sharon Owens, Jocelyn Peden and Aydiee Vaughn.

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