

Entertainment



BILLIE ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

ARSENIO HALL BROADENS HIS TUBE VISIBILITY

N'YORK CITY: - Arsenio Hall's talent has finally lifted him completely out of the shadow of Eddie Murphy, his pal and mentor. The current choice of the young tube eyeballing generation has inked an exclusive feature film and teevee development production deal with Paramount productions. The agreement binds him to marquee top four feature films over the next four years. It also locks him into his late night teevee gab show adding on a sixth year as executive producer. The added plus, under this new agreement is that his company can expand its horizons by developing new writers, directors and actors and use the successful ones in feature projects under the Paramount banner...NBC's owned and operated teevee station in DeeCee is the



Arsenio Hall

production center of the Rev. Jesse Jackson's "Voice of America" syndicated telly program. Seats, in its studio A, have been warmed by the bottoms of guests appearing on "Meet the Press," and Presidents Kennedy and Nixon for the 1960 second Presidential debate. The Jackson show is scheduled for weekly distribution comes September...Paramount has

"canned" another "48 Hours" on its summer agenda. Natch Eddie Murphy and Nick Nolte are principal stars. They were so hepped to the script that major camera shooting was on target and completed ahead of schedule...Sammy Davis, Jr.'s long line lit up like a Christmas tree the past weekend. Cause and concern were stimulated when Elvera Sanchez Davis suddenly took off for the Angel City without informing her close friends and associates. To the person, they embraced conclusion that Sammy Davis, Jr. had taken a turn for the worse. That explained the rush to "Ma Bell" by his vast gallery of east coast friends. From the other end his everloving spouse, Altovise, explained that "Mr. Wonderful" was delighted that his mom "Baby," as she is known affectionately from her



Jesse Jackson

vaudeville days, was reacting on a Mother's desire to be with her baby on Mother's Day, a luxury too many of us can't enjoy...There seems to be no end to Michael Jackson's talents. The gloved one has the total world writing about his designing the mountain and water theme park with "special tricks" and attractions on the grounds of the new Mirage Hotel in Las Vegas at a cost of \$10 - 15 million. A March completion date is set. The 24-Ft. deep Dolphin Lagoon has a Sept. opening date.

NEWS AND COMMENTS: - The play arenas conversation about the city's historic Mayor David Dinkins is all upbeat with special emphasis on the revamping of the city's youth bureau. It's now the Department of Youth Services, and it's mandated to work with some 625 community based organizations. There are 200 employees and its annual budget is \$40 million. In the word, this



David Dinkins

could well be a national model to act on our youth's promise instead of continuing to react on their plight. In Mayor Dinkins's words: "To the degree it succeeds our city's future is bright. To the degree that it does not, there could be trouble ahead."...Donald Trump's grand and decorative Taj Mahal in Atlantic City has proved to be a business boom to Jim Cuffee's "Bullshippers Motel" sitting right in its shadow...The ladies on our block are happy that Oscar winner Denzel Washington backed out of a flick in which he would have an interracial love affair throughout the script co-starred with Michelle Pfeiffer...We received such a warm letter from Jo Thompson we hope a house full of us will turn out for the beautiful one's encore to show biz to establish a journalism scholarship in the memory of her late spouse Albert "Al" Dunmore. Backed by vibes king Lionel Hampton her performance will light up Weill Hall within Carnegie June 15th.

'R'S NEWS: - Marguerite Ross Barnett will relinquish her chancellor's desk at the U. of Missouri at St. Louis and as of Sept. one she will become President of the Univ. of Houston system. She is the first femme and first African American. Patrick Swagert will leave his executive Veep position at Temple U. to take on the presidency of the State U. of N'York in the State Capitol...A bi-racial group of eight NY State Senators from Brooklyn presented a legislative resolution in honor of the Borough's Children's Museum on its 90th birthday and recipients of its first ever Logo Award to Lionel L. Daniels, Sybil Homes and Prof. William Mackey, Jr. We quote, "Luminous individuals who have demonstrated an unyielding dedication to the betterment of the community and the

people who comprise it now."... "Brown Sugar" is coming our way in a 2-hr. docu/music special. United Kingdom's Big Picture Prods., financed by Granada TV has acquired exclusive international distribution rights. Billy Dee Williams is host...The William Grant foundation has enriched Meharry Medical College by \$684,000. It's from the estate of Sallie Hill King...

POTPOURRI: - It seems to me that Stanley Kramer has attached the wrong title to his upcoming flick about the exploits of the African-American soldiers in WW-II. If memory serves me correctly the derogatory title, "Eleanor Roosevelt's Niggers," came about because of her interest and defense of the Tuskegee Airmen. It became their label after she flew with one of the accepted Airforce pilots to their training grounds at Tuskegee. As usual, it appears that this good intention filmmaker is on the same track as many other white producers at the helm of "Black movies" by getting his information from uninformed sources. This effort, particularly with Robert Guillaume on board as executive producer, could create the same impact as Kramer's "Home of the

Brave" and "The Definiton Ones." We suggest he search out the correct people for the right information, in what could be a timely and meaningful screen fare...After much trial and tribulation, "King," an English musical version of the saga of the immortal Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., is on stage in London. Based on the critic's attitude, it should never have happened: It's the brainchild of British composer-conductor Richard Blackford. Maya Angelou also contributed. We understand that the King family did not look with favor upon the production, even after giving it the ok. It seemed it was developed contrary to the original intent. The non-acceptance of the critics has seemingly justified their fears. Here's how one critic summed it up, and we quote, "Rich singing and an insipid book sum up "King," the controversy-dogged musical about Martin Luther King, Jr.'s leadership of the civil rights struggle in America. Its artistic vision is no match for the man himself, or the movement he led...Joe Williams came into N'Rochelle and added new meaning to Napoleon Holmes' Palace, Westchester's number one entertainment complex and nightclub...BILLY ROWE IS A SYNDICATED COLUMNIST.



LEFT TO RIGHT: VANESSA WILLIAMS, ANGELA BASSETT AND VIRGINIA WATSON. Vanessa Williams, Tim Reid ("Frank's 'place") and Alan Rachins "L. A. Law") join Raymond Burr in "Perry Mason: The Case of the Silenced Singer," a World Premiere Movie about a former law student of Mason who is charged with the murder of his wife, a temperamental rock star. It will be telecast on Sunday Night at the Movies May 20.

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