

ENTERTAINMENT

Ebony Etchings, etc.

"TOP OF THE ETCHINGS..."

On April 4th, 1993, the 25th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, a number of recording artists, singers, musicians and Civil Rights movement veterans gathered in Memphis for a very special concert. Before a crowd of 5,000 at the Mason Temple, where Dr. King delivered his final "Mountain Top" speech, the aforementioned group led the gathering in a stirring evening of music, remembrance and recommitment to the ideals of the Civil Rights movement.

The spirit of that evening which was captured on tape and converted into an album that's now appropriately titled "March On", celebrates the riches of American gospel and popular music that has historically blended its spirit with that of the ever present Civil Rights struggle.

Some of the participating artists included Patti Austin, Yolanda Adams, Daryl Coley, Will Downing, Cleve Francis, Claude McKnight, Wendy Moten, Kelli Williams, Vanessa Williams, Ollie Woodson, Cynthia Wilson-Felder and spokesperson for the museum, Cybill Shepard. They were joined by

the National Civil Rights Museum 25th Anniversary Mass Choir, a 200-voice volunteer ensemble put together especially for this concert.

The musical seed for this Warner Bros/Reprise Records "March On" album was planted with the 1988 composition of "All I Want To Be Is Understood" in which writer/producer Michael O'Hara, Denise Rich and Mary Unobsky expressed their feelings on racism in America. Their composition of concern became the theme song for the museum, and was sung by Melba Moore at its opening in September 1991. The National Civil Rights Museum's search for a sponsor to assist them in the production of an album, eventually led museum principals to Jim Ed Norman, Nashville President of Warner Bros Records, who is well known throughout the industry for his social activism. These early discussions about an album project led to involvement by Warner Bros/Reprise Records in 1992, and on January 15th, 1993, Dr. King's birthday, plans for the album project were unveiled.

Far from being a timepiece "March On," is viewed as "a liv-

ing rededication to a struggle that is as important now as it has ever been."

The concert which served as the centerpiece for "March On" was the culmination of a special weekend of activities organized by the National Civil Rights Museum and designed as "a National 25th-Anniversary Tribute To The Life, The Man & The Movement." Aside from the musical tribute, this special gathering also featured a two-day symposium at which academicians and civil rights activists presented papers on the state of human rights.

Five songs, recorded live at the "March On" concert were matched with seven studio songs for this album that provides a cross-section of material important to the movement. Unity songs that originated in the church and became the emotional glue of the movement, like "We Shall Overcome," "Lift Every Voice And Sing," "Hold On," and "Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Around," are included. There's also vocal statements from pop songs like Curtis Mayfield's "People Get Ready" and Donny Hathaway's "Somebody We'll All Be Free," included with a number of new songs including "The Dream" and "Martin," plus "All I Want To Be Is Understood."

This musical tribute album is being released on August 28th to coincide with the 30th anniversary of the 1963 Civil rights

march on Washington that concluded with Dr. King's "I Have A Dream" speech. Four and a half years later, Dr. King was tragically assassinated on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, the present home of The National Civil Rights Museum.

All artists involved have donated their royalties from the sale of this album to the National Civil Rights Museum to assist their efforts to raise the social consciousness of our nation. You can assist the overall efforts of

these artists and the National Civil Rights Museum by placing your order for a copy of "March On," at your favorite record store today!!

TINSEL TOWN TOPICS.....

"Five Guys Named Moe" currently running at the Doolittle Theater in Tinseltown through September 29, is the talk of the town amongst theater goers.

Ditto for Mickey Stevenson's fantastic musical stage play "Sang Sista' Sang" currently playing to sell outs nightly at the El Rey Theater in Beverly Hills

with Patricia Hodges, J'ai, B'Anca, Stefani Spruill and Tanya Montgomery starring in the roles of legendary divas Bessie Smith, Billie Holiday, Dinah Washington, Josephine Baker and Mahalia Jackson. This songsatinal and electrifying stage play is written and co-produced by Stevenson a former Motown Vice President with singer songwriter Smokey Robinson, another founding Motown alumnus...and that's Hollywood this time!! Until the next time Lanier.

WESLEY SNIPES CREDITS HIS MOTHER WITH KEEPING HIM OUT OF TROUBLE

New York — crediting his mother with keeping him motivated and out of trouble when he was young, actor Wesley Snipes said he feels an obligation to try to help other young people do the same.

"I feared the wrath of Marian," Snipes said of his mother in an interview to be published this Sunday in PARADE. "My mom was no joke. She still isn't. Whenever I got into a fight, she'd catch me in the stairwell, before I got into the dean's office. Sometimes she never said a word — I'd just hear the whoosh of her hand. Man, she had me locked up."

Mrs. Snipes worked as a teacher's aide in every South Bronx school Snipes and his younger sister, Brigitte, attended. And when Snipes began hanging out at the local pool hall and staying out later and later, she packed up the family and moved them to her hometown of Orlando, Florida.

"I was miserable," Snipes said. "If I could have walked back to New York, I would have." Instead he got involved in acting and won a scholarship to the State University of New York at Purchase, which is noted for its theater arts program.

Snipes has tried to share the better life he has found for himself. When his film, "Passenger

Actor Hopes to Do the Same for Other 'Hot-Headed' Kids



WESLEY SNIPES

57," was shot in Orlando, he went back to his alma mater, Jones High School, to talk to the students. "It was one of the highlights of my life so far," he said. "I was able to offer these kids parts as extras in my movie, to motivate the kids who hadn't had their right buttons pressed yet. I told them whoever's grades improved the most and the academic elite could all be in the film. We had 25 kids in the carnival scene."

Snipes also visited several high schools in Los Angeles after last year's riots. "I don't see it as a biggie," he said. "I see it as an obligation to those kids who pay \$7.50 to see me. They're the root of my success. I told them it's illogical to burn their own things. But I also told them I understand their anger. I used to be hot-headed. I had little patience and would jump the gun, say the wrong thing and find myself in fights."

Snipes, who is divorced and the father of a four-year-old son, said he is determined not to make the same mistake his father, who left when Snipes was two, did. "I absolutely make it a point to see him whenever I can," he said of his son, Jelani. "And when we're together, I always make sure he understands that, although he's little and I'm big, I respect him."

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