

# ENTERTAINMENT

## *Ebony Etchings, etc.*

### "ABET, DOING GOOD IN THE INDUSTRY HOOD..."

The Alliance of Black Entertainment Technicians (ABET) will be presenting their 6th Annual Entertainment Industry Networking Brunch, Sunday March 20th, at the Airport Marriott Hotel. Their theme this year is "Unity and Support. Part Four."

The aims and goals of this industry organization that was founded by Ms. Shirley Moore in 1987, is to promote, aid and assist Black Technicians in the Motion Picture and Entertainment Industry. Since it's inception, ABET has increased awareness, visibility and opportunities for African American industry technicians through a number of trademark programs. Those programs highlight and focus on the following:

Jobs - through a Resource directory Job Bank, a 24 hour job lead and referral service (over 500 jobs through ABET's Job Bank since 1987).

Youth Program/Career Days/

Workshops & Lectures - L.A. City Summer Youth Program Workshop (6-8 weeks workshop) "Introduction to the Entertainment Industry" to Business and Community. ABET is also a Community Service Program Agency.

Education/U.C.L.A. Extension - Education and training for it's members by way of extended courses. ABET also provides on-the-job training and shooting on a variety of independent productions.

Recognition Awards & Honors - An annual awards ceremony honoring members of the industry with ABET's Pioneer Awards.

The Board of Directors of ABET is comprised of Frank Smith, Jr., Pat Tobin, Neema Barnett, James Burks, Bette Smith, John Singleton, Nate Long, Paul Clark, Larry Bryant and Steven Temple.

This year's 'special guests'

will be: Robert Townsend - producer, actor, director and comedian, Chip Fields - actress drama coach and consultant, Debra Langford - director of television, Gary Watson, Esq. - entertainment attorney, Riley Lyons - Executive Board Member, IATSE Local 44, and Marcus King - manager of television stars Jamie Foxx and Mark Curry.

This year's Networking Brunch will also institute the First ABET Pioneer Awards. The honorees are Joseph "Joe" Wilcots, Director of Photography, a two time Emmy Nominee for "Roots" and "Roots The Next Generation," also the first Black Director of Photography IATSE Local 659, Cheryl Reamey, Set Director, the first black female Set Director in IATSE Local 44, and an Emmy winner for feature films "Gaugin' The Savage" and "Picket Fences," Elisha "Eli" Harris, Gaffer & Set Lighting, "In the Heat of the Night," "Percy & Thunder," "Boyz N The Hood," "The Five Heartbeats," "A Man Called Hawk," "Palmerstown" and "Roots."

During the Brunch, Eastman Kodak and ABET will also salute Oscar and Emmy winners and nominees. Those to be saluted (See *Ebony Etchings*, Page 14)

### FORMER GRANDMOTHER OF THE YEAR CHALLENGES GANGSTA RAPPERS TO CLEAN UP THEIR ACT!!!



61 year old Vivian Smallwood a.k.a. "The Rappin Granny" has joined in on the effort to help clean up the lyrics of gangsta rappers. Vivian, who won the title of Grandmother of the Year in Pasadena in 1988 says that it all came about when she was cleaning up one of her grandkids room. She came across a pile of tapes, and being a well known rapper herself, she decided to see what her competition was like. After only two minute of listening to the tape she could not believe herears. "It blew my mind when I heard what they were rapping about on the tape, calling women all sorts of degrading names, and doing drive by's and 187's (police term for homicide) on their fellow man. These type of rappers are not only disrespecting their girlfriends, they are also disrespecting their mothers and grandmothers as well. And some of these same gangsta rappers may of been raised by their grandmothers in a single parent home." Rappin Granny's manager Tim Greene who's also a Los Angeles radio station personality

at Stevie Wonder owned KJLH-FM (The Rhythm) agrees. "Even radio station KJLH is doing their part by playing only edit versions of certain rap songs." Rappin Granny has much love for all rappers, but wishes that they would only think about what they are rapping about because it could not only influence young kids that they know, but kids all over the world into a life of crime and disrespect. Rapping Granny who's been on many national TV shows and commercials, and has rocked the house at such clubs as The Roxey, The Palace and The Paladium in Hollywood is so serious about the gangsta rap issue that she will challenge any gangsta rapper to the stage to show them that you can still get a large crowd hype without all of that bad language. Granny has also just taped interviews on gangsta rap for CNN News, Inside Edition, and NBC's Today as well as doing a public service announcement for M.A.D.D. (Mothers Against Drunk Driving). For more information on Rappin Granny call (213) 857-7095.

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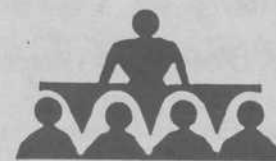
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