

ENTERTAINMENT

SPECIAL TO THE SENTINEL-VOICE

Marilyn McCoo is stepping out on a new career challenge: the Broadway stage



MARILYN MCCOO

is just amazing," she said.

McCoo's dream of performing on Broadway became all too real when a casting director from the show attended a concert she gave at the Carlyle Hotel in New York last summer.

The director went back to Toronto (where the show was at the time) and suggested the producer give McCoo an audition.

"I was nervous and excited," she said but did indeed land the

role replacing Lonette McKee who was with the show for two years. Show Boat won five 1995 Tony Awards, including best revival of a musical and at the Gershwin Theatre the show has repeatedly broken the Broadway box office record for the highest weekly gross in history.

Being on stage was nothing new for McCoo. Over the past ten years she has appeared in numerous shows including "A...My Name is Alice," "Anything Goes," "Dreamgirls" and "Man

of La Mancha" in cities across the country including Miami and Los Angeles and in states like North Carolina and Mississippi.

"I had hoped those shows would lead to a Broadway opportunity, but in any case, I felt that if I was serious about my dream then I needed experience. You don't just walk out onto a Broadway stage," she said. "When I did, I felt relatively confident because of that background."

Not only does McCoo have

a successful career and a promising future on Broadway, she also has a very successful 26-year marriage to husband Billy Davis Jr.

"I tell people all the time that you should try to marry a good person," she says laughing. "We all think that the person that we marry is a good person, right?"

"I think it's important to have a friendship with the person that you're going to be married to. I wished I could say that I knew all (See Marilyn McCoo, Page 14)

Some 28 years after making her professional debut as a singer with the renowned 5th Dimension, Marilyn McCoo is stepping out on a new career challenge: the Broadway stage.

Since September, the beautiful, Grammy-award winning diva has been cast as the tragic Julie La Verne in the revival of the critically-acclaimed "Show Boat."

"It feels great," McCoo said with a big smile. "I always wanted to do Broadway. For the past 10 years, I've been involved in theatrical productions around the country.

"Now to actually end up coming to Broadway in something as successful as Show Boat with all of the names attached to it: Hal Prince, Susan Stroman and Garth Drabinsky,

Montel hits airwaves with new series

NEW YORK — Montel Williams really has his hands full these days. He has a wife and kids he adores; a highly successful talk show, and if that weren't enough, he now also plays a tough-talking science teacher on the new CBS drama *Matt Waters*, which premiered last Wednesday at 9 p.m.

The taping schedule for both of Williams' shows has been nothing short of grueling. Thursdays and Fridays, Williams tapes three talk shows a day. The other five days a week, he can be found at a real high school in Bayonne, New Jersey, where he films his hour-long drama. The only other problem Williams faces; trying to separate Montel Williams, the real-life talk show host, from Matt Waters, the character.

"I want to avoid some things I do naturally that I don't want to have Matt Waters do," says Williams.

Of course, however, Williams and Waters do have a few things in common. After leaving the Navy, Williams spent three years giving motivational speeches at various schools nation-wide before landing his talk show. The fictional character, Waters, on the other hand, has just retired from the Navy SEALS and has

landed a teaching job at a New Jersey school where his mission has become to straighten out kids gone bad — or those that are headed in that direction.

Matt Waters has been four years in the making, according to Williams, and has survived three, count 'em three, network entertainment presidents.

But Williams already has a plan on how he'll manage his time between the two shows should *Waters* (the show was originally titled *The Education of Matt Waters*, but network researchers told Williams the word "education" in a title is a show's kiss of death) be picked up for more episodes beyond its first eight.

"CBS knows I'm contractually obligated to my talk show until at least 1988," says Williams, "and I'm in the process of negotiating an even longer deal."

Williams knows that there's always that possibility the prime-time show may be canceled — more do than survive. "It's my day job," he says of the *Montel Williams Show*, a show he knows he'd be foolish to even think about leaving any time soon. Besides, the talk show is helping teens by exploring sensitive issues, he adds, and "I don't want to stop that. I love that!"

BANKING ON AMERICA®

NO POINTS.

NO FEES.

NO WAIT.

INTRODUCING INSTANT LOAN. NOW YOU CAN GET AN INSTANT HOME EQUITY LOAN DECISION ONLY AT BOFA.

6.97% INTRODUCTORY APR

8.71% STANDARD APR

Americans have always liked short cuts. That's why Bank of America is introducing InstantLoan, the only way to get an instant decision on a Home Equity Loan. All you have to do is pick up the phone, give us a little information and you'll have your answer before you hang up.

And best of all, your Home Equity Loan will have no points, no bank fees and no closing costs. So don't wait to take advantage of it. Because a home equity loan is perfect for everything from remodeling the kitchen to buying a new family car. Simply call 1-800-THE-BoFA for an Instant Loan decision. After all, this short cut can get you and your family some extra time to explore this great country of ours. In your new car, of course. 1-800-THE-BoFA



Bank of America

1-800-THE-BOFA

Home equity line rates as of 12/31/95. The introductory variable 6.97% APR is "discounted" for the first six billing cycles. Beginning in the seventh billing cycle, the standard fully-indexed APR will be based on the index plus a margin of 3.00%. APR can vary monthly. Maximum APR for lines up to 80% LTV is 18%. No points, no fees and no closing costs to open a line of credit, but borrower is responsible for any costs to provide required lien position. Annual fee of \$50 waived first year. The APR on an optional fixed rate loan taken 12/31/95 was 10.44% - 9.44%, depending on amount. Finance charge of \$75 for fixed rate loan terms 5 years or less; 1.5% if loan is over 5 years. Rates for Nevada owner-occupied residences. Adequate property insurance required. Rate discount valid to customers without an existing BoFA home equity line who apply by 2/4/96. InstantLoan decision is available with complete applications on owner-occupied home equity loans and Equity Maximizer® accounts. Properties held in trusts, Manufactured Homes and Equity Maximizer Enhanced products not eligible for InstantLoan. Early closure fee may apply. Program terms and conditions are subject to change without notice. ©1996 Bank of America Nevada. Member FDIC.

