

Entertainment Briefs

OPRAH WINFREY WANTS TO RETURN TO ACTING

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Oprah Winfrey's been bitten by the acting bug again—and you can thank the desperate housewives. Marc Cherry, creator of the hit ABC show, wrote a "Desperate Housewives" skit for Winfrey's daytime talk show. She got to play several of the roles. Her last acting stint was in the 1998 movie "Beloved," which wasn't a hit in theaters. In retrospect, Winfrey said that should have been on TV. "I thought I was done with my acting days, but I loved being a part of the 'Desperate Housewives' so much that I'm thinking I might do something else soon," Winfrey told reporters Sunday. "You got any ideas?" she asked. "I'm open."

RODMAN RESOLVES DISPUTE OVER MUSIC

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. (AP)—Former NBA star Dennis Rodman said he has resolved a dispute with an industry group that accused him of using copyrighted music without permission at his California restaurant. Rodman has agreed to pay licensing fees back to 2002 and has signed a new agreement with the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, his publicist, Shannon Barr, told the *Los Angeles Times* for Saturday's editions. Rodman said he was unhappy about ASCAP's rule that commercial establishments must pay fees for the use of any of its eight million copyrighted songs and compositions performed live, played on jukeboxes or piped in from radio stations. "We are under new management now, and I have taken every precaution that things like this do not happen again," Rodman said in an e-mail to the *Times*. Rodman's, formerly known as Josh Slocum's, was the only California eatery named in a lawsuit filed by the ASCAP. The suit named restaurants in 15 states. ASCAP represents about 200,000 songwriters and composers who are paid royalties. The agency and Broadcast Music Inc. hold the licensing rights to the majority of popular songs.

MARSALIS TO TAKE UP RESIDENCY IN N.C.

DURHAM, N.C. (AP)—Grammy Award-winning saxophonist Branford Marsalis and the other members of his quartet have agreed to be resident artists for the jazz program at North Carolina Central University. Marsalis, pianist Joey Calderazzo, bassist Eric Revis and drummer Jeff "Tain" Watts will share their expertise and artistry with students four consecutive days a month throughout the spring semester starting Monday, said Ira Wiggins, director of the jazz program. The program has about 35 jazz majors, two big bands, four combos and a vocal ensemble. The students at the historically Black university are excited about the chance to work with Marsalis and his group, Wiggins said. "They know it's a special opportunity," he said. Marsalis was born into a jazz dynasty that includes his pianist-father, Ellis Jr., and brothers Wynton on trumpet, Delfeayo on trombone and Jason on drums. Jason Marsalis is an artist-in-residence at the University of North Carolina in nearby Chapel Hill. Marsalis, who has owned a house in Durham since 2003, has recorded 14 albums that draw upon the influences of hip-hop, Cuban music and German Romantic poetry.

P. DIDDY MAY BE BIDDER FOR THEATER GROUP

LONDON (AP)—Hip-hop mogul Sean "P. Diddy" Combs could be a surprise bidder for part of Andrew Lloyd Webber's theater group, British media reported. Combs' New York-based Bad Boy Worldwide Entertainment Group wouldn't comment on the reports. Lloyd Webber, creator of "Cats," "The Phantom of the Opera" and "Evita," was coy about whether there had been an approach from Combs. Lloyd Webber is sole owner of the Really Useful Group (RUG), a London-based company that manages the rights for his shows and retains 50 percent of the Really Useful Theatres company, which owns 11 theaters throughout London's famed West End entertainment district. Following several media reports on a possible sale of assets, Lloyd Webber's office confirmed last week that he had received an inquiry "in relation to the acquisition of some parts of his businesses." The statement added that the process was "in its formative stages and no decisions have yet been made."

Brooklyn teens win award at Sundance

NEW YORK (AP)—Two teenagers who made a documentary on gun violence in a Brooklyn housing project have won a special award at the Sundance Film Festival.

The festival in Park City, Utah created a special recognition award for "Bullets in the Hood: A Bed-Stuy Story," a 22-minute film by Terrence Fisher, 19, and Daniel Howard, 18. The award was bestowed Saturday.

Fisher and Howard, sponsored by the nonprofit media

company Downtown Community Television Center, set out to show the self-destructive gun culture that had claimed the lives of eight of Fisher's friends.

The filmmakers captured the fallout from the Jan. 24, 2004, fatal police shooting of another teenager, Fisher's close friend Timothy Stansbury, 19. Fisher witnessed the shooting on the roof of the Louis Armstrong Houses project in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section

and turned his fury into inspiration.

"I hope that 'Bullets in the Hood' will help keep the streets safe and teach youth in our community about what's happening on our streets," Fisher said in a statement after receiving the award.

Co-director Jon Alpert, who founded the Downtown Community Television Center, praised the young filmmakers for their grit.

"They basically came

from the projects of Brooklyn and went to the mountains of Utah with a story that everybody needs to know about," he said Sunday in a statement.

Fisher grew up in the Louis Armstrong Houses. Howard grew up in another Brooklyn project.

Oscars

(Continued from Page 7) more roles of substance for minority performers.

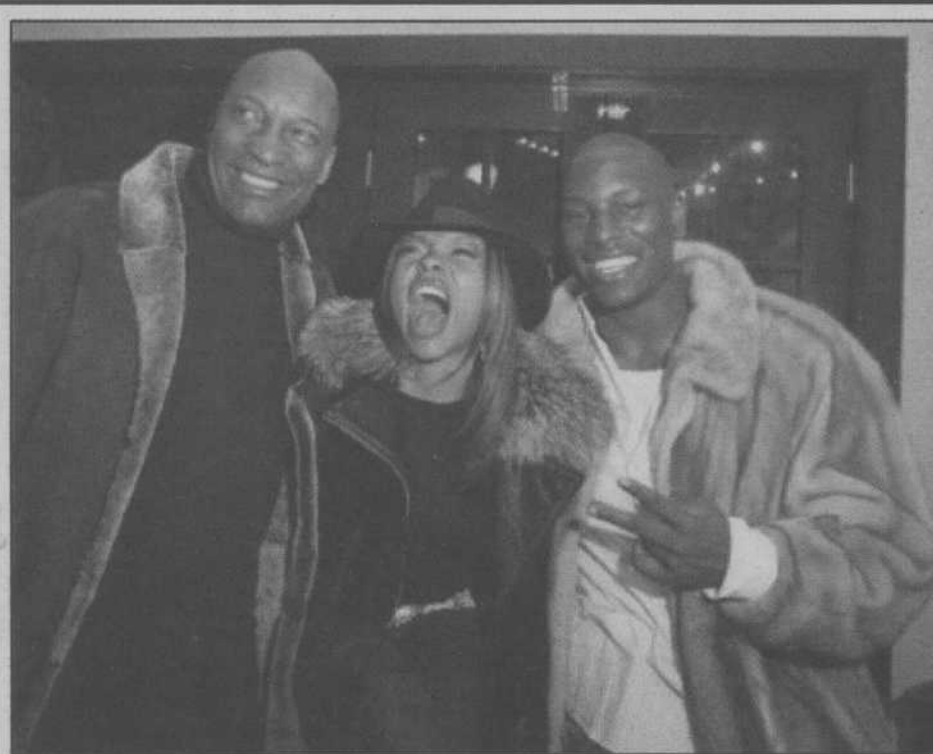
"Halle Berry won like what, two years ago, and look at what she's doing—nothing," Morales said.

Although she became the first Black woman to win a lead acting Oscar just two years ago, Berry's films have struggled critically since the acclaimed "Monster's Ball." Her latest, "Catwoman," for example, is the leading contender for the annual Razzie Awards, an Oscar parody whose slogan is: "Enjoying the best of Hollywood's worst."

"All these nominations are great and they look good, but good for only male African-American actors," Bulluck said.

"We still have issues regarding Latinos, Asians, Native Americans and female actors and not just in front of the camera. We've come a long way from 'Birth of a Nation,' but we need to keep supporting those who haven't broken through."

Kevin Herrera writes for WAVE Newspapers.



TRIPLE THREAT

Grammy Award-winning director John Singleton, who produced the film "Hustle and Flow," poses with one of the stars from the film Taraji Henson, center, and Tyrese Gibson at a party after screening of the film at the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah last month. The film, directed by Craig Brewer, received the American Audience Award in the drama category at the festival. The film is about a pimp suffering a mid-life crisis who, deciding he wants to change his life, tries to become a rapper.

Law Firm of Timothy C. Williams

ATTORNEY AT LAW



TIMOTHY C. WILLIAMS

Timothy Williams is a member of the Nevada & Illinois State Bar, practicing primarily in personal injury cases.

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892-0000

844 E. Sahara Avenue
Las Vegas, Nevada

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