

Players, New Men's Magazine Conducts Search for Black Talent

It's been long overdue and now it's here, a first rate, quality Playboy-type men's magazine for the black market. Announcement was made by Players International Publications of Los Angeles of a super slick all-black men's magazine to be introduced on the newsstands October 9 at \$1 per copy. The name is "Players".

The publisher is the same that brought Robert Beck (Iceberg Slim) to prominence through its book publishing division, Holloway House Publishing Company. Other divisions of the firm publish mankind, a quality history magazine, "Vertex", a successful new science fiction magazine, and a quality book series, "Mankind's Great Adventures of History".

"Players", however, is to be the big budget, major editorial package of the house with lavish use of full color, quality production and stock. The publisher is conducting a search for black talent throughout the world — writers, photographers, artists, models. Talent often submerged because of the lack of opportunity but equal to

the best creative talent in the world. There will be some surprising discovery on the pages of "Players" magazine with content by blacks for blacks. Interviews, articles, fiction and humor dealing with subjects of interest to a young, modern black audience, men ages 18 to 35. Features will include coverage of fashion, food, liquor, travel, automobiles, music, theatre, cinema, literature, and sports. And beautiful girls, the loveliest in the world.

The editor is a beautiful girl herself, Wanda Coleman. Black and beautiful and an exciting talent as a writer in her own right, now at the helm of the most important new publication to be introduced in America in over a decade. When asked "What's a nice girl like you doing editing a men's magazine?", she replies with a sly smile, "Who knows better what men want!"

So if you are an undiscovered, or even discovered, talent and want to become involved, contact Wanda Coleman at Players International Publications, 8060, Melrose Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90046.

Columbia's 'Siddhartha' Cast to Feature India's Leading Actors

Two of India's greatest actors, Shashi Kapoor and the beautiful Simi Garewal, will be seen by Western moviegoers in the upcoming Columbia Pictures release, "Siddhartha," produced, directed and written for the screen by young American film-maker Conrad Rooks.

Based on the poetic novel, published in 1922 and now a best-seller, by German Nobel Prize-winner Hermann Hesse, "Siddhartha" was filmed entirely on location in India.

Kapoor, who plays the title role, became well-known in the West for his performances in "Shakespeare Wallah," "Bombay Talkie" and "Pretty Polly," with Hayley Mills. He is probably the only Indian film star with a substantial following outside his native land.

Miss Garewal, who plays the sensual courtesan, Kamala, was starred in Satyajit Ray's "Days and Nights in the Forest," has

22 motion pictures and a half-dozen awards to her credit. She is in great demand by Indian directors, with contracts extending through 1976.

"Siddhartha" is the disarmingly simple story, set in the India of 25 centuries ago and cast in the form of an allegory, of a young Brahmin named Siddhartha whose search for a meaningful way of life—from the age of 18 to his death as an old man takes him through various experiences until he attains the oneness and harmony with himself.

Producer Rooks whose film is the fulfillment of a 16-year ambition, is a widely-read student of Indian literature. He has made some 25 trips to India since he was 19 and had little difficulty choosing locations for "Siddhartha". His first feature film, "Chappaque," won the Silver Lion at the 1966 Venice Film Festival.

Highlights Of The Entertainment World



Tamara Dobson

Tamara is Something New in "Cleopatra Jones"

Tamara is not tomorrow—she's today! She's a liberated woman. And she's all woman. She's for real.

Tamara is Tamara Dobson, the six-foot, two-inch beauty from Baltimore who makes her movie debut in the starring role of "Cleopatra Jones" in the

Warner Bros. production of the film by the same name.

The film premieres in New York City on July 4 at the DeMille Theatre and 34th Street Theatre. It opens July and early August in other major cities across country.

Tamara is not one of those pretty-faced, submissive, stereotyped black sex objects who have been fed steadily to the movie-going public in this new era of black films.

She's something new.

Producer Bill Tennant and Co-producer Max Julien are betting Tamara will be the first Black heroine to come out of the continuing genre of movie that "Cleopatra Jones" represents. Julien, known for his role in "The Mack", co-authored the screenplay along with Tennant and Sheldon Keller.

From a fashion model, earning top fees of

\$75-an-hour, \$500-a-day, to starring in her first movie is a big jump for any young girl. But those who have watched Tamara work, she moved as easily into the ranks of Hollywood as she did when she moved into the ranks of New York's top models, in spite of

her exceptional height.

"I towered over girls who were 5-7 and 5-8," she says recalling her modelling days, "so I mostly worked alone."

And while she towers over all the others in the cast of "Cleopatra Jones," Tamara definitely does not work alone. Her capable co-stars include

Bernie Casey, — no midget he; the lovely Brenda Sykes, Antonio Fargas and the versatile actress Shelly Winters as "Mommy."

Tamara plays a special agent in the international war against dope, but she has her own private vendetta going against the pushers who operate in the ghettos. Her most ruthless enemy is Shelly Winters of a ring that includes Antonio Fargas in the role of Doodlebug, the owner of a night club where his girlfriend, Brenda Sykes is the singing star.

Miss Sykes, who has appeared in six major movies, including "Skin Game," "Black Gunn," and "The Liberation of L.B. Jones," makes her singing debut in "Cleopatra Jones."

In the film, Bernie Casey, Miss Dobson's love-life, is the head of the headquarters of an anti-drug movement in the ghetto and Miss Dobson is lured back from Turkey, where she has just supervised the spectacular napalm burning of an opium poppy field by a phoney "bust" at Casey's anti-drug place.

It's a battle between Miss Winters' group and Miss Dobson and Casey's group and it continues up to a spine-chilling climax before Cleopatra wins and leaves on a new and equally dangerous assignment.

Tamara Dobson lives up to her role as "Cleopatra." She's a liberated woman. But, she's a woman. And how!

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King Floyd

King Floyd Continues To Be A "Blockbuster"

Every now and then, a new singer explodes on the music scene with a force of a blockbuster. Whether it's the freshness of his performing sound or the novelty of his writing style, something clicks and literally millions of people dig it.

King Floyd is one such artist, as attested by the great success of his first Chimneyville single "Groove Me" which sold over two million copies. Now, King demonstrates conclusively that he is not just a flash in the pan through his new album on

Atco Records, "Think About It."

Floyd resides in New Orleans and makes his music in Jackson, Mississippi. The combination has been a key to the success of his Macon sound.

King Floyd, indeed, is a blockbuster. But it didn't happen to him overnight. Born on February 13, the Aquarian first began singing in a high school talent show then "dropped it for awhile" before entering the service where he sang "ballads and R&B, everything."

In 1963, James Brown caught the King who was singing in a local cafe. That same year, King Floyd was signed to Brown's "Try Me" Record Company, though no songs were released. He then signed a recording contract with Capitol Records after "splitting from Brown" and though several singles were released, no albums were placed on the market. Not to be discouraged, Floyd left Capitol and went to Mercury-Pulsar. Despite doing an album for that company, the LP was not released on its

Walt Disney Music Company Sets New Record Releases

BURBANK . . . Music from four outstanding Disney films will be available on Disneyland/Vista Records albums as the movies themselves go into theatrical release.

Leading the tune-fest parade is a newly-jacketed Vista Records original cast sound track album of "Mary Poppins," STER-5005. Co-billing of "The Aristocats" and "Song of the South" this summer is covered by six Disneyland Records albums.

From the sound track of the studio's Christmas release, "Robin Hood," will come five records including storytellers with read-along books.

label. Instead, when "Groove Me" became a smash, Motown Records released the disc under the title "A Man In Love" on their V.I.P. label.

Between that period of time, and the recording of "Groove Me," Floyd kept himself busy on stage on writing and arranging songs for other artists, including the late Jayne Mansfield. After "Groove Me," which Floyd wrote on lunch hours and during coffee breaks in a factory job, became a hit, Floyd moved from New Orleans to Los Angeles, where he was to reside for the next five years.

But L.A. proved not to be the same stimulant for Floyd musically, so he returned to New Orleans. "It turned out to be the best move."

Having played all over the country and such shows as "American Bandstand" and "Soul Train," Floyd believes his next venture in entertainment will be motion pictures. "What are people on stage but actors, anyway? The transition to acting should be easier than if I was coming off the streets from another occupation."

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to be filled. The background, experience and skills required.

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