

Weekend



A Model of Success

Iman, one of the world's best-known models, has remained at the top of her profession for the past eight years. Contrary to popular myth, however, she was not discovered while herding cattle in Somalia; Iman was spotted while a student at the University of Nairobi. She'll be featured in a March "Ebony" magazine profile on the world's top black models.

Hollywood Today

Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame induction ceremony memorable

By VINCENT TUBBS
Syndicated Columnist

One of the most unique events during Black History Month was the 11th annual induction ceremony of the Black Filmmakers Hall Of Fame, held Sunday, Feb. 26 in Oakland, Calif.

Awards in the name of venerated black film pioneer Oscar Micheaux were bestowed upon Richard Pryor, Billy Dee Williams, dancer Carmen Delavallade, and Jennifer Beale, the college student plucked from obscurity to make "Flashdance" one of '83's biggest hits.

What's so unique? Well, the affair was not simply a recitation of what the recipients have done, or the presentation of a trophy like so many other events involving public and entertainment figures. The Hall of Fame ceremony climaxes a year of cultural, community and film-related activities that include special showings for senior citizen, mini-festivals of old, valuable black movies, workshops for youngsters, an international film competition, previews and a symposium on black involvement in the film industry conducted at the University of California at Berkeley.

As in the Academy Awards, film clips from each inductee's qualifying work were right up there on a big screen for everyone to see. The inductees' prints go into cement, copies of their movies into BFHF archives, their personal memorabilia into repositories to which future generations will have access and their names go into Hall of Fame history alongside those of Paul Robeson, Clarence Muse, Rex Ingram, Josephine Baker, Ethel Waters, "Bojangles" Robinson, Frank Silvera, Beah Richards, Sidney Poitier, Juanita Moore, Brock Peters, Harry Belafonte, Diahann Carroll, Benny Carter, the Nicholas Brothers, Stepin Fetchit, William Marshall, and Cicely Tyson among nearly 100 stalwarts inducted in past years, many of whom return year after year to welcome the new members.

SPEAKING OF DEALS: There's word that Kris Keiser, long an associate with Sidney Poitier's Verdon Productions, has "something going" with Walt

Disney Studios, where traditionally conservative executives are apparently "born again" as a result of NAACP negotiations...

And talented Dorian Harewood is set to star as both the legendary athlete Jesse Owens and smooth-voiced entertainer Nat King Cole in upcoming movies, doing his own running and singing.

According to *Variety*, the industry bible, the recreation of Owens' triumphs in the 1936 Berlin Olympics will be filmed in Dallas, and, when Dorian sang an impromptu sample for him, famed Hollywood columnist Army Archerd labeled the King Cole mimicry "perfect."...

Ben Vereen is coming up in a "Webster" recurring role, along with Diahann Carroll, who will be doing the same in "Dynasty" next season....

Mr. T, who is hotter and more controversial than anyone else in the NBC hit, "The A-Team," is reported to have just picked up a neat \$600,000 personal royalty check from the sales of three million toy dolls looking like him....

Fans of Ernie Hudson, who co-stars with Dan Aykroyd in the upcoming \$40 million-dollar feature film, "Ghostbusters," can hardly wait to see if Ernie becomes another sales-potential merchandising toy in his ghost world regalia....

MONEY TALK that will boggle your hard-working mind: Michael Jackson's "Thriller" video tape has sold 20 million units worldwide at \$29.95 each and could very well win an Oscar for "Best Short Subject of the Year." Promoter Don King, who is master-minding the projected world tour of the re-united Jacksons, says the tour could gross \$100 million in the USA, plus another \$100 million in Europe and Japan.

And that was a \$250,000 party at New York City's Museum of National History for the soft-spoken Jackson (with Brooke Shields on his elbow) the other night when his impact on the world went into the "Guinness Book of Records."

WANT YOUR CHANCE? Well, Canadian producer Jewison, who has made such films as the Oscar-winning "In the Heat of the Night," and the

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Musical Notes

'Tap Dance Kid' appears in Jackson commercials

Alfonso Ribeiro, the star of Broadway's "The Tap Dance Kid," teams his rhythmic talents with those of The Jacksons in one of the two soon-to-be-released Pepsi-Cola commercials.

The 4-foot-seven, 12-year-old sensation joined veteran director Bob Giraldi, the six Jackson brothers and Tony Award-winning choreographer Michael Peters on a closed set at Burbank Studios in Los Angeles last month to film the much-publicized spots.

Ribeiro's shining performances in the "Tap Dance Kid" won him the coveted Pepsi-Cola role, which was originally cast for an even younger child. Ribeiro's father Michael recalls that when he told Alfonso that he was the choice of the Pepsi creative team, "He went through the roof from the first floor."

"I couldn't believe I would be working with The Jacksons and my idol, Michael," Alfonso said. "It was a dream come true."

In the commercial, Ribeiro and 11 of his friends "break-dance" with the six Jackson brothers in a series of complex

steps choreographed by Michael Peters.

Ribeiro won the part of "The Tap Dance Kid" in a nationwide audition of 1,500 performers. While his role on Broadway has exposed him to the New York audience, he hopes that his co-starring part in the new Pepsi-Cola commercials will tune in America to his talents.

More Thrills

"Thriller," the seventh single from Michael Jackson's "Thriller" LP, crashed into *Billboard's* Top 10 at No. 7 with a bullet only two weeks after its official release. Once again, Jackson has broken his own record. In the 1984 Bantam paperback edition of the "Guinness Book of World Records," he is cited as the first and only performer to have six singles from the same LP reach the Top 10.

The previous record was four singles, held jointly by Michael ("Off The Wall") and the Fleetwood Mac ("Rumours").



Sugahh

Sugahh, composed of winners of last year's Budweiser Showdown national talent hunt program, has released its first single on the Polygram Records label titled "Heart of the Matter." As the national winners of the Budweiser Showdown, the group's members earned a Polygram con-

tract and will be featured in a national Budweiser commercial. The nine members of Sugahh are (front row, left to right) Brenda Orso, Robin Rader, Ava Zetina and Brenda White, and (back row, left to right) Barbara Marino, Latesa Alexander, Celia Morales, Dottie Mitchell and Gayle Lloyd.

Ask Yolonda

She needs to learn positive lessons from her negative childhood

By YOLONDA GAYLES
Syndicated Columnist

Dear Yolonda: I'm a 17-year-old female with a serious problem. I live in a home for unwed mothers. When I got pregnant, my mother put me out. She threw me out because of my baby, forgetting (or ignoring) the fact that she was only 14 when I was born. Funny, isn't it?

My mother never really loved me. Now I think I know why. One of my cousins recently pointed out to me that part of the problem is that my mother and I look so much alike. She's jealous of me because I'm

a younger version of her.

My mother and I don't talk anymore, but the last time we did we had an argument to beat it all. I told her that all of my life she made me pay for her mistakes. When I was younger, she'd call me names for the least little



Yolonda

things. She would slap me for little or no reason. My mother called me out of my name so often, I asked her if she remembered the name she had given me at birth.

Today, when I see a mother and daughter with a good relationship, I get jealous. I can't help it. I hate the fact that I don't have anyone to have a good relationship with except the counselors here. They are all trying to help me but there are 15 other girls here with the same problem. They can't help everyone all the time.

In a way, I'm glad to be away from my mother, but in another way it hurts me to be "out-her" by

myself. I would like to stop allowing my mother's put-downs to me hurt so, but truthfully, I can't seem to stop the pain. I learned nothing but hatred and jealousy from my childhood.

Please help. Any advice?

Madeline

Dear Madeline: Yes. Actually, your childhood taught you more than you think. You learned child-raising techniques that breed hatred instead of love.

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