



The Outspoken
**CRAIG
WILSON**

From Hollywood

What is a really big event in Hollywood? Let me tell you about one I attended with columnist **Valentin Singleton**, who served as co-host and commentator. Hailed as "A Salute to **Biddy Mason** (one of the founders of Los Angeles' first black church, the First A.M.E.) and **Black Leaders**," the afternoon featured top political, entertainment and business personalities modeling furs, jewels and clothes from their own wardrobes. Opening the show was **Ethyl Bradley**, wife of Los Angeles Mayor **Tom Bradley**, wearing one of her Paris originals, and A.M.E. Bishop **H.H. Brookins**, wearing the outfit he wore to Africa as an official representative of the United States to the Rhodesian presidential inauguration. Millionaire **Burney McCaney** wore an African original, with gold and diamond jewels, while tossing silk and velvet pillows (from her new pillow factory) to the audience. Television's **Isabelle Sanford** and **Roxie Roker** (*The Jeffersons*) modeled together after **Linda Hopkins** received an ovation for her mini-gospel concert, with the Rev. **Chip Murray** of First A.M.E. holding the mike for her.



VALENTIN SINGLETON

ISABELLE SANFORD

BEN VEREEN

Ben Vereen missed his cue to model because he was working late and actress **Dea St. LaMont** arrived late because a lunatic had been caught smashing car windows in the garage of her luxury security building. All the windows of Dea's silver Cadillac Seville were broken.

Celebrity hair stylist **LaMar White**'s appointment book reads like a who's who of entertainment and it is not unusual for White to pack up and take off to curl the tresses of the **Jones Girls**, **Aretha Franklin**, **Lynn Moody** and many others of Hollywood's glamorous stars.

The Negro Ensemble Company of New York City can add another feather to their cap with the **Samm-Art Williams** production of *Home*. The successful play has been filling the St. Marks Playhouse for many months and will soon take off for Broadway led by original cast members **Charles Brown**, **L. Scoot Caldwell** and **Michele Shay**.

Ken Prymus has left the Broadway cast of *Ain't Misbehavin'* to join the Hollywood road company for a few weeks while **Ken Page** polishes his cabaret act. Prymus is best known for his work as the Cowardly Lion in the stage version of *The Wiz* and joins long time friends **Debra Byrd**, **Nell Carter**, **Andre De Shields** and **Jackie Lowe** in the road version.

Rumor has it that former Casablanca Records and Filmworks president **Nell Bogart** is now renting the Beverly Hills home of singer **Diana Ross** while she is on tour.

Glodine White was beaming with pride the other day when her husband, **Dr. Barry White**, received another honorary award from the Recording Arts and Science Program of the University of California at Los Angeles. Barry continues to give unselfishly of his time and talent to inner-city youth programs.

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Eckstine, Warwick To Co-Chair Black Music Month

The 1980 June Black Music Month Celebration is off to an excellent start with the announcement of **Dionne Warwick** and **Billy Eckstine** as Co-Chairpeople for the Black Music Month Committee. The Black Music Month Celebration will be an international commemoration of Black Music's history, artistry and many sounds.

"It is my pleasure to be Co-Chairperson of the 1980 Black Music Month Celebration with **Dionne Warwick**, a young lady that I like very much, both as a lady

"Pinocchio" Is

Children Theatre

Play

"Pinocchio," the tale of a puppet who becomes a boy after a series of adventures, will be presented May 9-11 and 16-18 at the Children's Theatre.

Performances will be at 7:30 on Fridays, 1 and 3 on Saturdays, and 3 on Sundays. Tickets will be available at the door for \$1.75.

Directed by **Libby McNeill** and **Graham Smith**, the cast includes two marionettes-Pinocchio and PUNCHINELLO.

Charlotte youths in the cast are as follows: **Mike Mulvaney**, **Phillip Constable**, **Paul Barrett**, **Joyce Porter**, **Amy Hadley**, **Elizabeth Smith**, **Helen Moore**, **Paige Johnston**, **Craig Wolf**, **Elise Hermann**, **Betsy Cashwell**, **Mindy Asrael** and **Jonathan Carter**.

and a great young talent."

The BMA is one of the closest endeavors to my heart, because I think it is a long overdue organization for a cause that has been plagiarized since the beginning. It is time that we make the world aware that what they have been singing, playing and dancing to in their happy moments has been created mostly by Black Music," expressed Eckstine.

Commented Warwick, "I am honored and flattered that I have been asked to serve as Co-Chairperson of the Black Music Month Committee with **Billy Eckstine**. Black Music is not only our heritage, but one of America's greatest natural resources. I feel that it is of major importance that a general awareness of Black Music be brought to the American public. I am proud that I can participate in bringing this natural resource to the public."

To increase the public's awareness and general observance Black Music special programs have been designed, including the BMA's

Second Annual Conference, to be held June 26-30 in Washington, D.C.; exhibits and special events in schools, universities, libraries and museums; total media involvement and the entertainment industry's participation.

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