

# Performing For Newlyweds Neicy's Most Embarrassing Moment

"There I was with my dresser, running down the corridor," concedes Deniece Williams, whose Thom Bell-produced "It's Gonna Take A Miracle" has just become the biggest pop and R&B hit of her career, "getting ready for what was going to become the most embarrassing moment of my entire life!"

Niecy was in London, performing with Johnny Mathis for Prince Charles. Mathis became so excited that he missed cueing Williams, skipped two of his songs and proceeded with her introduction. "We had only seconds to get on stage and I was still in my dressing room," explains Niecy of the 1978 incident. "Until now, I've never told anyone; only my valet knew."

Williams arrived on stage breathless "and never knew my hair piece was on backwards. I must have been setting a new style for the British public, I guess. Later, backstage, when I realized what had happened, I just died! I suppose I should be grateful that no one seemed to notice; maybe it shows that sometimes we worry too much about little things. But luckily, I was able to fix my hair before meeting the Prince at a reception after the show."

For Niecy, the big success of her new Columbia LP "Niecy" has made life better than ever. "I've just been asked to write some songs for Andy Williams," she glows. "That's a signal of my success, to be writing for someone of his caliber." In August, she'll be appearing at the Sunsplash reggae festival in Jamaica, then head for Europe and Japan before launching a U.S. tour in the fall. Then, copying last year's calendar, she'll spend November in the studio.

"I'm just trying to be in the will of God," she explains of her personal philosophy, "that's what

## Saturday Night Live To Feature Tina Turner

A sizzling duet by superstar rocker Rod Stewart and rhythm & blues' original "lady on fire," Tina Turner, a poignant film by Yoko Ono and an appearance by comedian-juggler Michael Davis are highlights of an edition of NBC-TV's acclaimed "Saturday Night Live," to be rebroadcast July 10 from 11:30 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Stewart, Turner and Davis are joined by the program's repertory company - Robin Duke, Christine Ebersole, Mary Gross, Tim Kazurinsky, Eddie Murphy, Joe Piscopo and Tony Rosato. Brian Doyle-Murray also appears.

-In a sketch that Chicago Sun Times critic Gary Deeb described as "uproarious," Eddie Murphy plays exercise television show host "Little Richard Simmons," who gets his audience to tone up via a medley of his hits, including "Tutti Frutti."

-Deadly clams attack a mystery woman (Ebersole) in "The Clams," a film parody of the Brian DePalma films a la Hitchcock's "The Birds."

-A sister (Gross) admits taking her nun exam via a mail-order Ecumenical College test in "Nuns

# STROBE

by Tim Walter

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works for me. Anytime I've been out of order with Him, then everything else has been chaos. Being a single parent for eight years, managing that, there had to be a source of strength from somewhere. It's my belief that God was on my side."

When you listen to the album, you'll discover that three of the songs have something to do with the telephone, either waiting for the phone to ring or having trouble getting through to a lover. I asked Niecy if there was a reason.

"Well, I didn't realize it when I did the album, only after it came out," she admits, "but in fact, I'm a newlywed and those songs were written last year when I was on the road and dating my husband-to-be. I guess the telephone was pretty important during that period."

Is life hard on the road? "I get bored and lonely a lot," she reveals, "and with my husband working and the boys (Kevin and Ken, ages 9 and 10) in school, it's not possible for them to be with me. So I spend much of my time reading. The boys will probably go with me to Europe and Japan this summer," she adds.

Niecy says that other children carry her special interest, too. "I really respond to my fan mail," she says. If someone writes and asks me to come and lecture at their high school, I make an attempt to do it. I believe God put me in this position for a reason and I want to share the talents that I

have." She notes that she has started to make herself available for fund-raising benefits for orphanages and children's hospitals; "it's something close to my heart."

Having just come from an advance screening of Universal's "E.T.," I asked if that was a movie that would appeal to her sons. "I know they want to see "Rocky III," she says, "but they're spending the summer with their grandparents, I expect they'll worry their grandmother until they see them both. They're big movie buffs."

Niecy isn't into astrology, simply pointing to her Christian faith as all encompassing, "but I just celebrated a June 3 birthday, and people tell me that means I have a split personality (Gemini). Sometimes I feel like five people. I don't like labels, though. I'd rather evaluate people as individuals after I get to know them."

Spielberg's incredible "E.T." grossed \$34 million in the first ten days...special effects buffs will be

intrigued by the high-gore content of John Carpenter's "The Thing" (amusingly gross)...did Polygram miss on Stephanie Mills single "Last Night?" My test pressing of her new LP shows "I Can't Give Back The Love I Feel For You" as possibly the best song she's ever

recorded. The Casablanca labeled album will be in your stores Monday, July 12...national touring company of "Sugar Babies short on entertainment value and why an all-white cast? Eddie Bracken and Mimi Hines are no match for tired burlesque.

## Sedaka To Appear On Guiding Light

Music superstar Neil Sedaka, whose career has spanned three decades and countless hits, and popular recording groups Air Supply, The Waitresses and Quarterflash will be making special guest appearances on the contemporary daytime drama "Guiding Light" during July and August, joining a growing list of musical artists lending their talents to the popular serial.

Sedaka will lead off this new series of guest appearances on the July 13 episode. The Waitresses will be seen later that week (in a special non-singing appearance). Air Supply will appear and perform on the July 30 episode, followed the week of August 9 by Quarterflash.

"Guiding Light," which celebrates its 30th anniversary on June 30, is presented weekdays, 3-4 p.m., on WBTB, Channel 3. The serial received three 1981-82 Daytime Emmy Awards last month, for Outstanding Daytime Drama, Outstanding Writing of a Daytime Drama, and a technical direction

award for a recent remote in Connecticut.

"Guiding Light" inaugurated its series of special musical guests in March with the appearance of singer-songwriter Judy Collins. In subsequent weeks, viewers of the serial have been treated to performances by the B-52's, Ashford and Simpson, Loverboy, Maurice Gibb and the Bee Gees, recent Tony Award winner Jennifer Holliday and Bertie Higgins.

All of the musical guests will be appearing as themselves. Neil Sedaka will stop in at Springfield's top disco, Wired for Sound, to perform two numbers from his vast repertoire of hits, and will also act in dramatic scenes.

The Waitresses, known for their current hits "I Know What Boys Like" and "No Guilt," will be featured in dramatic scenes with series regular Tom Nielsen (series singer-songwriter Floyd Partner) when they turn up as guests characterizing his newfound success as a songwriter.

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- Jerry's Supermarket
- Lebo's
- Payton's Discount Beverage Store
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- Two Guys Discount Beverages
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- Wayne's Supermarkets

On Vacation."  
-Stewart performs "Dance With Me" and "Young Turks," and is joined on stage by Turner in "Hot Legs."

-In "A Few Minutes With Andy Rooney," Andy (Piscopo) offers a brief essay on TV's Morley Safer and Mike Wallace.

-Michael Davis treats the "SNL" audience to his comedic juggling act, in which he employs an ax, a meat cleaver and a hatchet.

-Brian Doyle-Murphy and Gross comment in the Newbreak segment; and film critic Rahim Abdul Muhammad (Murphy) complains about the lack of "brothers" in movies.

-A short film by Yoko Ono depicting portions of her life with John Lennon is shown.

-In "Andy Warhol's TV," a film by Don Munroe, Vincent Fremont and Sue Etkin, Warhol tells a joke about Prince Charles and Lady Diana.

Dick Ebersol is producer of "Saturday Night Live." Dave Wilson directs.