

LISA COLLINS

Behind the Scenes



The fast track: The surprising and resounding success of "Waiting to Exhale," which grossed \$65 million in box office revenues for Fox, has propelled author Terry McMillan onto the fast track with Hollywood studio



Winfrey

execs, a great many of whom are now looking to snag the screen rights to her new novel, "How Stella Got Her Groove Back."

Despite several offers in the seven figure range from suitors like Disney (who reportedly wanted the project for Oprah Winfrey), it looks like McMillan will stick with Fox in what sources are reporting as a deal in the \$2 million range. The book centers on a black divorcee who, while her kid takes an extended visit with his dad, travels to Jamaica and falls in love with a younger man. Studio execs feel the project can again tap the audience that made "Exhale" so successful.

In other Hollywood news, actor/filmmaker Bill Duke has been set to direct Laurence Fishburne in "Hoodlums" the story of the battle between notorious mobster Dutch Schultz and a famed black mobster, Bumpy Johnson, over control of the numbers racket in 1930s Harlem.

Wesley Snipes recently became the second major African American star to bow out of the forthcoming action pic, "Sandblast" (Eddie Murphy is the first). Seems producers can't ink the "right second star." Snipes jumped ship as the production schedule was once again pushed back. Word is that they will recast the role.

On the home front: \$4.9 million is the price tag that Keenen Ivory Wayans has placed on his Brentwood home. The 37-year old actor/writer and filmmaker bought the house back in 1992 and reportedly did a great deal of the finishing work and carpentry on his own. The house, which sits on about seven acres and offers spectacular city views, also features four bedrooms in just under 8,000 square feet, a tennis court and a pool...Meanwhile, Denzel Washington and his wife

Pauletta are looking to stretch out. The famed couple recently purchased two lots from



Washington

Disney Chairman Michael Eisner for \$6.5 million in an area overlooking Beverly Hills. The Washingtons and their brood of four children plan to erect a house on the massive site by next spring.

Finally, it seems singer/musician Ray Parker Jr. has decided to abandon Los Angeles altogether. Word is Parker, who recently sold his Beverly Hills home for \$1 million, has been living in Mammoth Mountain (an area known for skiing) for some time now.

On the boob tube: One of ABC's newest sitcoms, "Buddies," whose cast includes Richard Roundtree and Dave Chappelle, is not getting a warm reception from TV audiences and word is its run could be short-lived. The sitcom centers on two young filmmakers - one white and one black (Chappelle) - whose parents (Roundtree) oppose their sons' business arrangement.

"Living Single" creator and exec producer Yvette Lee Bowser recently inked a new three-year deal that includes the development of two pilots for next season. The first is a CBS comedy for Rocky Carroll (of "Rock" fame) and the second is a sitcom for Fox that will star "Fresh Prince" co-star Karyn Parson. Bowser is one of a very few African American female show-runners.

By the way: An L.A. jury has awarded "The Jeffersons" star Sherman Hemsley \$2.8 million upon their decision that a film distributor had indeed cheated him out of profits due from "Ghost Fever," a 1987 movie in which he starred. While the movie went bust at the box office, it generated sizable revenues in video rentals and cable...April 16 is the date set for the domestic release of Lionel Richie's "Louder than Words." The project marks Richie's first release since the 1992 compilation, "Back to the Front" and for the occasion Mercury is planning a full-scale media blitz to reacquire Richie with the marketplace and pave the way for sales. Also in the works is a summer concert tour...Meanwhile, RCA is prepping SWV's sophomore project, "New Beginning" for release in April.

Test Drive.....

Acura's CL is a solid offering

Continued from page 3B



Acura 2.2CL

gets a bit raspy near its red-line. Off-line acceleration is adequate with the five-speed, marginal with the automatic.

Not to worry. A 3.0 V6 CL debuts in October. The engine is all-aluminum, with a 60 degree V shape instead of the traditional 90 degrees. Power output has not been determined, but an engineer told me the goal is 200 hp with at least 200 pounds-feet of torque.

A brief test drive of a prototype proved eventful. Available only with an automatic, the car's take was great. Steering was heavier than the four-

cylinder's, but nicely so. The engine felt stout with plenty of growl at the bottom end.

The CL's best attribute is its intended reasonable price. A base CL will cost approximately \$22,000, stretching to \$24,000 for the premium four-cylinder. The top-dog V6 premium should be \$27,000.

A six-speed Legend Coupe GS is more than \$40,000. True, this is a smaller car, but the price reduction may help draw flocks of folk to Acura dealerships.

This coupe isn't as sexy as the Legend it replaces, but it can stand on its own.

THE AMERICAN DREAM
Owning a Home, Growing a Business

The Self-Help Credit Union is working in Charlotte to create more opportunities for You!

Harold R. Carrillo
Commercial Loan Officer

SELF-HELP
Credit Union

500 E. Morehead Street
Suite 205
Charlotte, NC 28202
(704)376-6778

CAR AUDIOMASTERS
Specialists in car audio, window tinting, cruise control and neon effects.

We Carry Python Car Alarms by D.E.I.

- Remote engine start
- Power door locks
- Parking light flash relay
- Dometlight supervision output

TOP 100 INSTALLERS 4 YEARS STRAIGHT!

605G N. Polk St. Pineville, NC 28134
(704)889-5995

2 Blocks South of 485 on S. Blvd.

The Driving Force Of The 90's!

PAYLESS CAR RENTAL

"The Best Kept Secret In The Businesses."

"An African American Owned Company"

Ray Shelton
"District Manager"

ANNOUNCING Special Weekend Rates Starting at \$17.00 per day FREE miles

Located At The Charlotte Airport
Call For Special WEEKEND RATES
(704)359-4640

4204 Rental Car Rd. • Charlotte, N.C. 28208
This Rate doesn't include Gas/Tax.CDW

FORD'S USED TIRES

NEW TIRES NEW TIRES NEW TIRES NEW TIRES

3401 Tuckaseegee Rd. Charlotte, NC 28208 (704)393-1109

1222 Central Ave. Charlotte, NC 28204 (704)377-0870

FOOD LION **Extra Low Prices ...And More!** **Always Fresh Always Quality Always Guaranteed**

Save 75¢ On Kellogg's Cereals* Shelf Price reflects the 75¢ Off Sale

.99¢ 2 Liter Sprite, Dt. Sprite, Classic, Dt. Coke, CF Dt. Coke

\$1.79 6/20oz. NR Sprite, Dt. Sprite, Coke Classic, Dt. Coke, CF Dt. Coke

\$1.99 20 Oz. Post Raisin Bran Reg. \$3.35 17.2 Oz. Nabisco Spoon Size Shredded Wheat Reg. \$3.15

\$1.99 Nissin Family 12 Pack/ 3 Oz. Beef Or Chicken Top Ramen Noodle Soup

\$1.99 13 Oz. Regular/12 Oz. Lite/ French Roast/ Colombian Supreme/ 11.5 Oz. Italian Espresso Roast Maxwell House Bag Coffee

2/\$8 6 Roll Brawny Paper Towels

\$11.99 85 Load Tide Ultra Powder Detergent

\$1.49 USDA Choice Beef "Boneless" Full Cut Round Steak

\$1.69 St. Patrick's Day Special Corn Beef Brisket

29¢ Fresh Green Cabbage

\$1.99 Your Choice - Fresh Lean Pork Boneless Sirloin Chops/ Boneless Sirloin Roast...

\$2.49 Grade A Fresh Jumbo Pack Boneless Skinless Chicken Breast

\$1.39 Red Ripe Strawberries

99¢ Tasty Yellow Onions

FREE! Buy One, Get One Our Special Touch Party Rolls

\$4.59 Honey Smoked, Smoked, Browned & Oven Roasted Butterball Turkey Breast

Prices in this ad good Wed., March 13 thru Tues., March 19, 1996. We reserve the right to limit quantities.

MVP CUSTOMER Save Even More With These MVP Items

KEN'S RANCH DRESSING 8 Oz. \$1.19	RAGU SPAGHETTI SAUCE 30 Oz. Tomato/ Onion/Garlic 2/\$2.40	ULTRA PUREX DETERGENT 18 Load \$1.99	LOUIS RICH CHICKEN BREAST 6 Oz. \$1.99
-----------------------------------	---	--------------------------------------	--