

Filmmaker backs own feature film

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not, everyone can try out for a role.

"This is a call for everybody, anyone who wants to get started because I'm just getting started," he said.

Just don't expect to get paid. Since the budget is coming straight out of Price's pocket and he doesn't have a distribution deal, landing a role won't be like landing a role in a Hollywood production.

When the film is finished, he plans to have a showing at the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center.

Code Red aims high with indy music label

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which is more likely to play artists outside the mainstream. "Black colleges and universities showed me a lot of love," he said.

Red is putting every ounce of his energy into music. Right now, it's his only source of income.

"That's why I'm so hungry

for it," says Red, who plans on resuming his education. "It's hard not having a diploma," he said, joking that one is required just to work in fast food.

"If you don't work, you don't eat," he said, "and if you don't grind, you don't shine."

On the Net
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'Barbed Wire' latest project for versatile actor, producer

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tee your work will be admitted into a film festival. Your work has to be up to par," says Thompson.

Thompson is more than just a movie writer. He is an actor and coach who has credits in "Eddie," "Moesha," "The Steve Harvey Show," and "The Bernie Mac Show." Thompson's career goal is to produce films in North Carolina.

"Realistically you can pursue a career in North Carolina," said Thompson. "We have the same accommodations that are in L.A. A lot of people do not realize in the mid '90s North Carolina was No. 3 in the nation in filmmaking behind LA and New York."

Thompson is associated with Book Pals through the Screen Actors Guild, where he goes to schools and reads

books to children in animated voices. Thompson also teaches kids at the YMCA about acting techniques and shows them pictures of celebrities he has worked with.

"The kids are fascinated," he said.

Rhonetta basking in infamy

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Johnson said though she didn't make it on "Idol," she's still on her way to fame (or infamy depending on how you look at it).

"I didn't expect it to explode like this," she said in a telephone interview. "Two guys want to sign me to their label and there's talk about me doing a reality TV show."

What would the Rhonetta show be like?

"Just me keeping it real. I think the people would like that," she said.

What does Rhonetta think of her appearance on "Idol?"

"I feel like I got out of hand, but I was telling the truth and Paula, she pushed the wrong buttons. I don't feel bad about what I said to her," Johnson said, adding that she would not apologize to Abdul. (In other words, Paula still better bow down.) Johnson has seen both

sides of fame. The authors of her unofficial web site posted Johnson's mug shots from the Mecklenburg County Jail and her charges, which include DWI, larceny, communicating threats and resisting a public officer. Her last arrest, according to the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's web site, was last November, just a few months before her "Idol" audition.

"I definitely feel like my privacy was invaded. They didn't have any business doing that and they are making money off me," she said. And if anyone is going to do that, it's going to be Ms. Johnson.

She's also come across friends and family (and Fox "Edge" viewers) who aren't happy with her new found fame.

"They hatin'. All of them hatin'," she said. "My sister said 'I saw you on TV looking crazy.'"

Johnson said people misunderstand her. "I'm a very nice person," she said.

But does she have what it takes to make it?

"If I knew that, I wouldn't be at Fox Charlotte," Sartin

said. "I'd be up there with Paula, Randy and Simon. But stranger things have happened."

Stranger than Johnson? Well, Old Dirty Bastard was successful before his death.

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Temptations

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among these 15 songs. This is aimed squarely at Temptations fans, but even those not so familiar with the group know these songs. Anyone who likes good music should like this collection.

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