

Can't Touch This? LA Riots: Even Television Stands Back

By Deborah Hastings

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Exactly 34 days elapsed between the Branch Davidian compound fire in Waco, Texas, and the first TV movie about it.

More than 17 months have gone by since Los Angeles set fire to itself during three days of bloody and deadly rioting, and there has been not one TV movie about any of it.

"What gives? Have the networks come down with a delayed sense of propriety? Are they maintaining a respectful distance from the country's worst civil disturbance of the century? Not likely. This real-life subject may be a Hollywood first - too complicated, too controversial and too close to home for even docudrama-obsessed network movie divisions.

Many series, including "L.A. Law," used riot-related themes last season, but nothing has come out in long form, a vehicle that lost no time in depicting Branch Davidian cult leader David Koresh or the ravages of Hurricane Andrew.

Broderson

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fill his position.

Art classes were small when he was a student, Pratt said. "The atmosphere was very relaxed. Broderson encouraged us to discuss our philosophical ideas on art. I can remember working together on the same paintings with Broderson. We would paint on large sheets of wallpaper and were experimenting in the abstract expressionist mode," he said.

"Broderson introduced me to some drawing methods that I still use when I teach today. He also tended to treat students as equals rather than as inferiors, which is something I try to do. I think students do their best work when they are doing what they most believe in and so did Broderson," Pratt said.

In describing Broderson, Pratt said "he was the authentic romantic artist" and "a real presence on campus." "When I left to study in San Francisco I was well prepared by Broderson to appreciate what was going on around me," he added.

Pratt said what most impressed him about Broderson's symbolic figurative paintings, that have been described as disturbing and dreamlike, was Broderson's dedication to their creation.

"Also, his absolute conviction that it was the only work he could do. No matter what direction the art world went, he painted images that represented his world and his concerns," Pratt said.

Indeed, Broderson, himself, has been recorded as commenting: "It is the nature of creativity that the artist must be tormented by doubt and never know with certainty that his work, once born, will continue to live. He must be forever blind. Having said all that, now I tell you I am a painter, and in this pursuit lies my ultimate value, meaning and measure."

The lack of riot product also is evident at film studios, though television now is the traditional medium for reality-based dramas.

The absence of Hollywood interest has confounded and disappointed those peddling movie rights for some of the most famous - and infamous - figures of the 1992 violence.

"Everyone got scared of the story," said attorney Harland Braun, who represented officer Theodore Briseno, one of four police officers charged in the videotaped beating of motorist Rodney King.

"I was surprised when I talked to some agents ... and they were saying that some kind of collective decision had been made back in New York to not touch it right now because it was so controversial," Braun said.

In April, Briseno and rookie Timothy Wind were acquitted of charges that they violated King's civil rights. Sgt. Stacy King and officer Laurence Powell were convicted and each are serving 2 1/2-year prison terms.

Besides being controversial and encompassing contemporary race issues (which television does not like to tackle), the spring riots also present another problem when it comes to neatly packaged TV dramas: There were unresolved issues, such as the trial of two men accused of beating trucker Reginald Denny at the riot's flashpoint.

"Prior to the verdicts, I think there was a very hands-off attitude at the networks," said talent agent Judith Everett, who represents Briseno. "I wish I could say it has changed." Asked why it hadn't, Everett replied, "I think there's a caution. By and large, people in this town are not risk-takers." While some are unhappy with Hollywood's reluctance, others are pleased.

Foremost among the latter group is King's attorney, Milton Grimes. Before Grimes began representing King, the beating victim sold his book and movie rights to an unknown entity called Triple-7 Entertainment.

Thus far, nothing has come from that sale.

"I'm honestly hoping that nothing comes out in terms of books and movies until the trial is over," Grimes said. "I don't like the promotion of movies or books out of this. I don't want it to seem like he's making a lot of money off this."

Koon and former police chief Daryl Gates both had books published amid all the King federal trial hype. Publicist and agent Dan Beck still is trying, however, to make a movie deal - small or big screen - for Koon.

"We've had some interesting discussions," Beck said. "Nothing has jelled yet." Tom Colbert of Industry R&D, a year-old company that distributes a tip sheet for broadcast and print media organizations, said the initial

word on riot projects was "it was such an emotional and trying time that the networks were shying away from anything having to do with it.

"I think it will happen," Colbert said. "Give it a year was the unofficial word."

Did You Know?

(NAPS)—Making fashion trends more affordable is the Requirements company, which takes a seasonless fabric, a mix of Fortel and rayon, and creates the latest fashion silhouettes at popular prices.

Good news about the economy: Of the 341 Fortune 1000 respondents to the second annual purchasing trends survey conducted by *Purchasing* magazine and Sharp Electronics Corporation, 65 percent said they felt this year's economy would be moderately to much better than in 1992.

One of the world's largest producers of faucets, Moen recently developed The Monticello collection of easy to afford, easy to clean, reliable, washerless faucets styled to work with any decor.

A low-calorie, low-fat but highly tasty salad can be made with yogurt, apples, celery, grapes, raisins and Kellogg's All-Bran cereal.



CHILLIN WITH THE DOGS — Recently Chemistry/Mercury records, rap artist Ed O. G., lead rapper of rap group Ed O. G. & Da Bulldogs (the group that brought you "Be A Father To Your Child") chilled with management duo Special K and Teddy Ted (a.k.a. Awesome Two) in Boston on the set of the group's newest video. The first release "Skinny Dip (Got It Goin' On)", is now available from their second album *Roxbury 02119* due for release in January. Pictured left to right are: Special K (Awesome Two Management), Ed O. G. (Ed O. G. & Da Bulldogs), Teddy Ted (Awesome Two Management).