

"NOTES OF THE WEEK..."

Whereas rumors might have been flying with a lotta guessing going on, the truth is -- some of the soul powers around the country have gotten together and formed a new record label. The idea being that their combined strengths and contacts can make things happen bigger and better...right on.

While making the rounds of the recording industry and reporting the news, we find that the game of musical chairs is still going on. The latest switch came in the firing of OTIS SMITH at Motown, where he had begun to warm the seat of his new position following his leaving his post at ABC Records several months ago.

Speaking of the parting of the ways -- SIDNEY MILLER and RONNIE GRANGER have come to just that in their association and operation of Black Radio Exclusive Magazine.

Congratulations in order to WILLIAM CRAIN who's been set by DAVID L. WOLPER to direct the second segment of "Roots: The Second Hundred Years," which starts shooting on April (18). In case you're not familiar with the name WILLIAM CRAIN, his past credits include "Blackula," "Dr. Black and Mr. Hyde," plus segments of "Mod Squad," "Starky and Hutch," and "The Rookie."

The bright lights of

EBONY ETCHINGS, ETC. HOLLYWOOD

warren lanier



Eddie Kendricks

Broadway are getting ready to shine on playwright RICHARD WESLEY's latest, "The Mighty Gents," that's due for a run at the Ambassador Theatre starting April (13), with DORIAN HAREWOOD in the leading role.

Several months ago our we-told-you-so department predicted that "Timbuktu" the latest GEOFF FRY HOLDER musical production would be a Broadway smash. In spite of the mixed reactions and reviews by the critics, "Timbuktu" opened with

a healthy \$300,000 advance. Additionally, theatregoers, especially Blacks, are flocking to see EARTHA KITT, MELBA MOORE, GILBERT PRICE, and IRA HAWKINS (who replaced WILLIAM MARSHALL) in the lead role of this fantastic musical spin-off of "Kismet" that we now predict will run longer than "The Wiz."

If everything goes right the play "Don't Call Me Man" currently packing them in at Memory Lane Supper Club under the direction of D'URVILLE



MARTIN will be opening at Chicago's Playboy Club sometimes in April.

"HOLLYWOOD HOTLINE..."

Under the productive guidance and genius of DON DAVIS, Columbia recording artist JOHNNIE TAYLOR has completed his new album "Ever Ready," that's set for release on March (30). In the meantime the single "Don't Call Me Man" from

Johnnie's new album is catching on fast, and should have the 'disco lady wailer' back on top in nothing flat. Speaking of JOHNNIE TAYLOR, his effervescent popularity with his millions of fans and followers has brought about the establishing of a JOHNNIE TAYLOR INTERNATIONAL FAN CLUB, and should this news strike your fancy, you can get more information on the matter by contacting JOHNNIE TAYLOR JR. of the JOHNNIE TAYLOR INTERNATIONAL FAN CLUB-c/o Tag Enterprises - 731 RL Thornton Freeway - Dallas, Texas 75203 - (214) 941-3333.

Long time no hear from actress MAE MERCER will be seen playing the role of the mother-in-law in the ABC-TVviewer of "Cindy" that airs Friday March (24).

Lovely LENA HORNE and talented CLIFTON DAVIS have been paired to star in the new musical version of Rodgers and Hart's "Pal Joey '48," opening at the Ahmanson Theatre under the joint auspices of the Center Theatre Group and the Los Angeles Civic Light Opera. MICHAEL KIDD will direct the production and THOMPSON will stage the choreography.

LERROY GOMEZ the Cape Cod born saxophonist who left the states to tour Europe with LOLA FALANA and TAVARES a couple of years ago, and remained to become one of the biggest International musical figures vis his recording of "Santa Esperada" an album that has sold well over 4-million copies, returned to the states and signed a management contract with Backstage Management in Hollywood.

Are you ready for this?? FRED WILLIAMSON has been offered a fabulous sum of money by a European film maker to star in the production of "The Quest Between The Stars," in which he'll be wearing specially designed Flash Gordon type uniforms being made by one of Italy's leading designers. The outer space thriller is being shot in Sadania, Italy, and will star lovely CRIPPY YOCCARD and WILLIAM BERGER. Being the businessman that he is, Fred has also landed the United States and Canadian film

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Inglehart Stars In Movie

James Inglehart stars in the Cosa Nueva Production as a man bent on revenge when his drug-dealing buddies leave him for dead in the South Pacific, take over a crime syndicate in Los Angeles, and threaten his widow and son.

Co-starred as the buddies are Carmen Argenziano and Leon Isaac Luscius Jayne Kennedy stars as his wife and Roberto Gonzales, an Asian Olympic karate champion, guest stars in one of the most brutal karate and sword fights ever filmed. The bloody and sometimes gruesome fight scenes between Inglehart and underworld figures were staged by two of Hollywood's top special effects men Steve Karkus, who did the effects for "Easy Rider," and Harry Woolman, "Bonnie and Clyde" and "The Godfather Part II."

"Death Force" was produced by Robert E. Waters and directed by Cirio Santiago Roberto Gonzales, 1974 black belt Olympic Champion of Asia. Iglehart was not skilled however, in the ancient art of fighting with a Samurai sword -- the weapon he uses to destroy the leaders of the criminal syndicate. Before filming began on "DEATH FORCE," Jim spent six months of intense training to master the art of the Samurai sword. He became so skilled that producer Waters used real swords in the filming -- a decision he almost regretted when Jim sustained a deep cut on his back during one of the scenes. A warm, gentle man in contrast to his violent role, Iglehart was born September 12, 1949, in Waco, Texas, and lived in California during most of his formative years. His first major film break came in 1972 when producer Russ Meyer signed him to co-star in 20th Century - Fox's "Beyond the Valley of the Dolls."



JAMES IGLEHART in "Death Force."

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AMONG FAMOUS PEOPLE who triumphed in spite of hearing troubles were composers Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Ludwig van Beethoven.

Many experts feel that almost every famous person has had some handicap that impelled him to become successful. Demosthenes, for example, not only overcame his speech defect, but developed great eloquence. Today, many youngsters are doing the same thing by overcoming their handicaps and turning their troubles into success.



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Gospel Selections:

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- The Brooklyn Are Stars -- "Our Greatest Hits"
- Rev. M.L. King -- "I Have A Dream"
- Walter Hawkins And The Love Center Choir
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