



Television brought images of Vietnam to American homes during the 60s and 70s. Body counts, Massacres, Heroism, Death. All reported, night after night. Those who survived had their own way of dealing with and sharing the images they remember. One solution, the creation of works of art, comes to television on Thursday, May 30, at 10 p.m. on PBS. "Vietnam: Reflexes and

Reflections" presents a unique look at the war through the brushes, cameras and pens of those who survived. "They get the point of view of the veteran that actually pulled the trigger in the war, the guy that dropped the bomb, the guy that threw the hand grenade during this war," says Kernersville artist and veteran Cleveland Wright, who appears in the 30-minute program.

## Up Close

### Dispute with Prince didn't stop O'Neal

He might have become The Time's lead singer, but he couldn't agree to Prince's financial terms. Today, Alexander O'Neal is stepping into the spotlight with the release of his self-titled debut album on Tabu/CBS Records.

The soulful Scorpio was born Nov. 15, 1953, in Natchez, Miss., but moved to Minneapolis, Minn., with his family in 1975. Over the next few years, O'Neal honed his vocal skills in a succession of popular local bands like The Mystics, Wynd Chymes and Enterprise. His next group, Flyte Tyme, also included such budding musical talents as Jimmy Jam (James Harris III), Terry Lewis and Monte Moir.

Under the often dictatorial direction of Prince, Flyte Tyme evolved into The Time—and went on to strike gold with best-selling hits like "Ice Cream Castles," "The Bird" and "Jungle Love." But O'Neal and Prince didn't see eye to eye on the group's financial arrangements, and just prior to the recording of The Time's first album, Alexander left the band and was replaced by Morris Day.

This turn of events barely slowed down the ambitious young singer. "I went on to form Alexander, a rock and roll band," he recalls. "Can you imagine a black rock and roll band in the Twin Cities, doing Rolling Stones and Def Leppard songs? But I've always felt that black artists created rock and roll: We gave it away, and they took it. If you really listen, you'll realize that the original rock and roll was just speeded-up blues."

Meanwhile, The Time had shifted personnel after their second LP. Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis struck out on their own as

songwriter/producers, racking up an impressive string of chart records with artists like Cherrelle, the S.O.S. Band and Cheryl Lynn.

When Alexander O'Neal signed with Tabu/CBS Records in 1984, Jam and Lewis were the logical choice



Alexander O'Neal: He didn't become the lead singer of The Time, but he went on to become a star in his own right.

of producers for his debut album. Another former Time-mate, Monte Moir, joined in to write and produce three of the album's seven tracks.

"Innocent," O'Neal's first single, shot into the upper reaches of the soul and dance music charts within a few weeks of release. The song also became the basis of O'Neal's first video, shot on location in the down-home setting of Mickey's Diner in St. Paul, Minn. But the album, "Alexander O'Neal," is no one-hit wonder. It's neatly divided into a "dancing side" and "romancing side," the characteristic Jam/Lewis sound is colored with touches of acoustic piano, jazzy sax solos and some storming lead

Please see page B7

## Musical Notes

### Drunk driving video coming

Stevie Wonder's music video, "Don't Drive Drunk" will be distributed nationally by the National Association of Broadcasters. The video, along with public service announcements featuring Wonder and Casey Kasem, will kick off NAB's summer segment of its continuing campaign to combat alcohol and drug abuse.

A news conference with Stevie Wonder was held May 23 to launch the event. Over 1,000 Washington, D.C. high school seniors attended the news conference, held at the Kennedy Center's Eisenhower Theater.

NAB will distribute the video and the public service announcements on two special satellite feeds. The video is being sponsored by the U.S. Department of Transportation in conjunction with the Advertising Council, with additional funding by Chrysler Corp. The director, Bob Giraldi, has won more than 300 major advertising awards and a dozen music video awards.

Columbia recording artist Miles Davis kicked off the release of his new album "You're Under Arrest," at the opening night of the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, headlining two sold-out shows with Wynton Marsalis at the Performing Arts Center.

"You're Under Arrest," Miles' 44th album for Columbia, takes off with his new single version of the Cyndi Lauper hit, "Time After Time." The new album is a major breakthrough, with Michael Jackson's "Human Nature" and D-Train's "Something's On Your Mind," all of which Miles and his group have

been performing on tour since last summer.

This marks the first time since the mid-60s that Miles Davis has recorded "popular" songs by contemporary artists.

The New Orleans fest capped an intense touring period for the man whose last album, "Decoy," won the "Jazz Album of the Year" award in the *Down Beat* year-end poll and earned a Grammy nomination in the "Jazz Fusion" category as well.

After a dramatic behind-closed-door discussion with Wynton Marsalis between sets at the concert, Miles was presented with a proclamation naming him an honorary citizen of New Orleans from the office of Mayor Dutch Morial.

"The Jesse Johnson Revue," the premier album from Jesse Johnson, a former guitarist with The Time, was ranked number one in *Radio and Records*, knocking out Luther Vandross, and in the top five in *Billboard Magazine*.

In only three weeks, the album has sold over 400,000 copies and has been critically acclaimed in such magazines as *Rolling Stone*, *The Record*, *Musician* and *Billboard*. In addition to his outstanding record success, Johnson has a featured single on the movie soundtrack from "The Breakfast Club," an album that's sure to go gold and an upcoming concert tour with the number one pop-singing group, New Edition.

Maze, featuring Frankie Beverly, Patti LaBelle, Teena Marie and The O'Jays will Please see page B7



From singing in bathrooms to singing before the president, Evelyn "Champagne" King has come a long way.

### King headlines Kool City Jam national tour

The effervescent Evelyn "Champagne" King will headline the third edition of the Kool City Jam national tour of 10 cities this summer. Joining the versatile King at various points on the tour will be national recording artists KoKo-Pop, Klymaxx and RJ's Lastest Arrival.

These national stars will be joined by an array of local musical groups as the 1985 Kool City Jam tour crisscrosses the country with one of

the largest free concert tours ever assembled. The Kool City Jam tour is sponsored by the makers of Kool cigarettes, Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp., headquartered in Louisville, Ky.

The Kool City Jam tour debuted in 1983 and met with both audience and critical acclaim immediately. Nearly a million people have witnessed these electrifying outdoor concerts in its short two-year history. The free after-

noon concerts take on a festival flavor in each city, with picnic lunches and lawn chairs creating the open-air theaters for the concerts held in public parks.

The 1985 edition of the Kool City Jam tour starts in Los Angeles, Calif., on June 2, on the campus of the Southwest Los Angeles Community College. Evelyn King and Klymaxx, the six-member, all-female Please see page B9