

# Roots producer has big task

By BRUCE SMITH  
Associated Press Writer

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP)— Producer Mark Wolper knows he has a heavy responsibility as he films *Queen*, a successor to the phenomenally successful television miniseries *Roots*.

*Roots* was watched by an estimated 130 million people and inspired a generation to search for their ancestors. So *Queen*, the last installment of the late Alex Haley's family saga, must be more than just another miniseries, Wolper said.

"It puts a lot of weight on our shoulders. It is very important for us to do this for Alex Haley and to do this right," he said. "This story is the completion. It is the coming full circle of the Alex Haley family." Crews began three months of filming on *Queen* in Charleston this week. The six-hour miniseries will be aired on CBS next season.

*Roots* chronicled the history of the mother's side of Haley's family. *Queen* focuses on the life of his paternal grandmother, the half-white, half-black slave Queen.

The Pulitzer Prize-winning Haley died of a heart attack in February at age 70. The book on which *Queen* is based has not yet been published.

Halle Berry plays the title role. Danny Glover, Martin Sheen, Ann Margaret, and Ossie Davis also will appear.

Wolper knows the new production will be compared to *Roots*.

"But it is a completely different story from the same man's life that is either going to stand on its own or not based on the drama in it," he said.

His father, David L. Wolper, co-produced both the

12-hour *Roots* which aired in 1977 and a 14-hour sequel broadcast two years later.

He is executive producer on *Queen* along with Bernard Sofronski.

The younger Wolper admits some recent miniseries haven't met with much success.

"It is difficult to find the proper material for something as expansive as a miniseries. It needs to be a multi-generational drama of epic proportions," he said.

"Certainly following Alex Haley's family back more than fulfills that obligation," he said.

All the filming on *Queen* will be done in South Carolina although scenes will depict action in a half dozen Southern cities.

The three-month shooting schedule is "a little longer than most miniseries. But we're trying to make it better than most miniseries," Wolper said.

Wolper produced "North and South," another Civil War era epic that was filmed in Charleston seven years ago. He said that had a lot to do with the decision to return to the city.

"It was a combination of the locations and my knowledge of how helpful this community is in term of filming," he said.

Some people did object to *North and South* as sand was poured on the streets of the Battery to recreate 1860s Charleston. Some residents stuck yellow bumper stickers on their cars and fences reading *Enough!*

Wolper doesn't expect any problems this time. Many interior scenes will be filmed on sets built in a vacant warehouse.

The schedule also calls for shooting exterior scenes at Boone Hall Plantation, Middleton Place Plantation and in several business areas.

# Kross-inspired style

DALLAS (AP) — Wearing a baseball cap backwards is only the start of the new teen fad of Kross-dressing.

The rap duo Kris Kross perfected the total look by putting everything on backwards.

The rap group Another Bad Creation is known for so-called "mental dressing," wearing clothing inside out with labels and tags in full view.

But Kris Kross members Kris Smith and Kris Kelly, both 13, wear their clothes back-to-front on the cover of the album *Totally Krossed Out*.

They've popularized "Kross-dressing" with the video for their hit song *Jump* and in appearances on *In Living Color* and *Arsenio Hall*.

Young people are just trying to get noticed," said Jasmund Anderson, a Lincoln High School junior spotted wearing his overalls backside-front.

"Style. Fad." says Sir Edward Miller, a junior at Lincoln. "Just like bell bottoms."

The going-when-your-coming look of Kris Kross is raising the eyebrows of some teachers.

Franklin Middle School Principal Glenda Lassiter said she has seen only one Kross-dressed student at her Dallas school but didn't recognize him on the fashion vanguard.

"I advised him I felt he was distracting," Lassiter said. "I thought he was just doing it to be silly. He's a cutup."

Yale Elementary School in suburban Richardson had a recent rumbling of reverse-dressing among fourth-graders, principal John Phillips said.

"The teachers nipped it in the bud," he said.

Lincoln mathematics teacher Derrick Hopkins doesn't permit the style in his classroom but said it's OK outside the school.

"Here, it's because we're training them to go into the real world," Hopkins said. "I try to make them look at this as a work place."

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Pictured are (seated front) Alderman Nelson Malloy, (front row, l-r) Rev. Carlton Eversley, Rev. John Mendez, Larry Little, Earline Parmon, Virginia Newell; (back row, l-r) Larry Womble, Warren Oldham, Walter Marshall, John Holleman, Rev. James Fulwood

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