

Black Movie, TV

News Briefs

Critics across the country are loud in their praise of "Big Blue Marble," the international children's show which ITT is spending \$3 million on for 26 episodes this fall on television. A four-week preview was held last spring for the first worldwide television for children. It was seen on 43 U.S. stations. The series will be seen in the U.S. in 100 markets and go into regular weekly telecasts in other countries in 1975.

"Uptown Saturday Night" finally made it uptown in NYC as the hit comedy opened August 30 in Harlem at the Apollo Theatre. With top live acts hard to come by these days, owner Bobby Schifman says the film will remain in the famous vaude house "as long as it does business."

Black acts are ignoring black clubs and theatres, according to a lead story in the top trade paper last week. Black performers, names that is, are said to be ignoring the black spots that gave them their start and major experience, preferring spots like Las Vegas and Miami Beach. Some of them, can you believe it, don't even want to play in black areas.

"Feeling Good" is the new name of the new television series on health that premieres on public television on November 20. It had been called "Alive and Well," but that had to be dropped because of legal and other problems. The series which goes into production in mid-September, is produced by Children's Television Workshop, but is geared for adults. CTW also produces "Sesame Street" and "The Electric Company."

Al Popwell and Caro Kenyatta play the king fu brothers again in the sequel to "Cleopatra Jones" which is shooting in Hong Kong and starring Tamara Dobson and Stella Stevens.

Warner Bros. has a Big One coming in "The Abdication," a romantic drama inspired by one of the most touching and illuminating episodes in western European history.

It's the story of Queen Christina's abdication from the throne of Sweden in the 17th Century and her conversion to Catholicism and emotional confrontation with Cardinal Azzolino.

A scholarship fund for black

students at Mercer University's Walter F. George School of Law in Macon, Ga. has been named in memory of the late Otis Redding. The fund will provide financial aid to six black students a year assisting them throughout the three years of law school.

William Marshall is starring in another terror drama, this one "Abby" with Terry Carter, Austin Stoker, Carol Speed and Juanita Moore. It's for American International distribution.

Reports abound that indictments may soon be forthcoming in the year-long federal investigation of payola and drugs in the record business. Record companies and disc jocks are apprehensive.

Redd Foxx's motion for a summary judgment in his divorce action against his wife, Betty Jean, was denied by a Las Vegas District judge who turned down Foxx's request for a divorce now and property settlement later. Meanwhile, Foxx had other problems as his contract at the Minnesota State Fair included a clause prohibiting him from using material "not suitable for family entertainment" or face the penalty of forfeiting his salary.

Frank Sinatra, who had a very successful tour of Australia in spite of the press reports, will launch a U.S. tour in October that will include ten appearances in nine cities. He'll be at Madison Square Garden Oct. 12 and 13, and the latter show will be televised live as an ABC special. Other cities include Boston, Buffalo, Philadelphia, Kansas City, Cleveland, Houston and Dallas.

Tragedy struck the movie "The Eiger Sanction" in which Vernetta McGee is starring opposite Clint Eastwood. Shooting in Switzerland, a professional mountain climber and movie crew member was killed by a rock slide as he was climbing the west ridge of Eiger Mountain where he was doing rigging work.

According to United Artists, "Amazing Grace," with Moms Mabley and Slappy White is racking "amazing grosses" in such cities as Atlanta, Pittsburgh, and Memphis.



THE POPULAR JONES
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Johnnie Taylor Will

Appear On Soul Train

Johnnie Taylor, The Joneses and Syreeta visit Soul Train, the nationally televised teen dance show this weekend, sponsored by Johnson Products Company. Don Cornelius is host and executive producer of the popular hour-long show.

Soul Train can be seen locally on Channel 18, WCCB Television station Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock.

Johnnie Taylor is truly a

rare breed of entertainers. He has played all over the country -- from Harlem's Apollo Theatre to Carnegie Hall, from the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum to the very smallest night spot. Like many other performers, Johnnie got his start singing gospel music. He became an overnight sensation after his big hit single, "Who's Making Love." Since that time, his career has constantly been

moving upward. It's exciting to see Johnnie perform and sing as only he can do. He will sing for the Soul Train gang "It Don't Pay To Get Up In The Morning" and "It's September."

Midnight Special To Feature Marvin Gaye

Executive producer Burt Sugarman has scheduled the very special Marvin Gaye "Midnight Special" to air on NBC Friday night. The program featuring the heretofore reclusive artist will air locally on Channel 9, WSOX-TV.

The show will feature footage from a live performance by Gaye at Braves Stadium in Atlanta in early August, as well as an interview with the artist and his parents at their home in Washington, D.C.

Marvin Gaye has a long history of Motown hit records, solo and in duet with some of the label's finest female vocalists. But with the sudden and tragic death of Tammi Terrell following her collapse during a concert with Gaye at William and Mary College, he withdrew from public attention, refusing to appear in public and recording sparingly.

This period in his life ended dramatically with the release of the monumental album, "What's Going On," and it's hit singles, "What's Happening, Brother" and "Save The Children," as well as the title song.

"What's Going On" immediately established Gaye as

a creative force in contemporary music, but he remained away from the stage and granted very few interviews.

Two years later, Gaye embarked on a new period of productivity with the under-rated soundtrack album for the film, "Trouble Man," and followed it shortly with "Let's Get It On," his best-selling celebration of the joys of love. "Let's Get It On" was still

high on the album charts and the single recording of the title track had just passed the three million mark in sales when Motown released "Diana & Marvin," the album that marked the first collaboration of Motown's two brightest stars, Marvin Gaye and Diana Ross.

"The Midnight Special" is produced and directed by Stan Harris.

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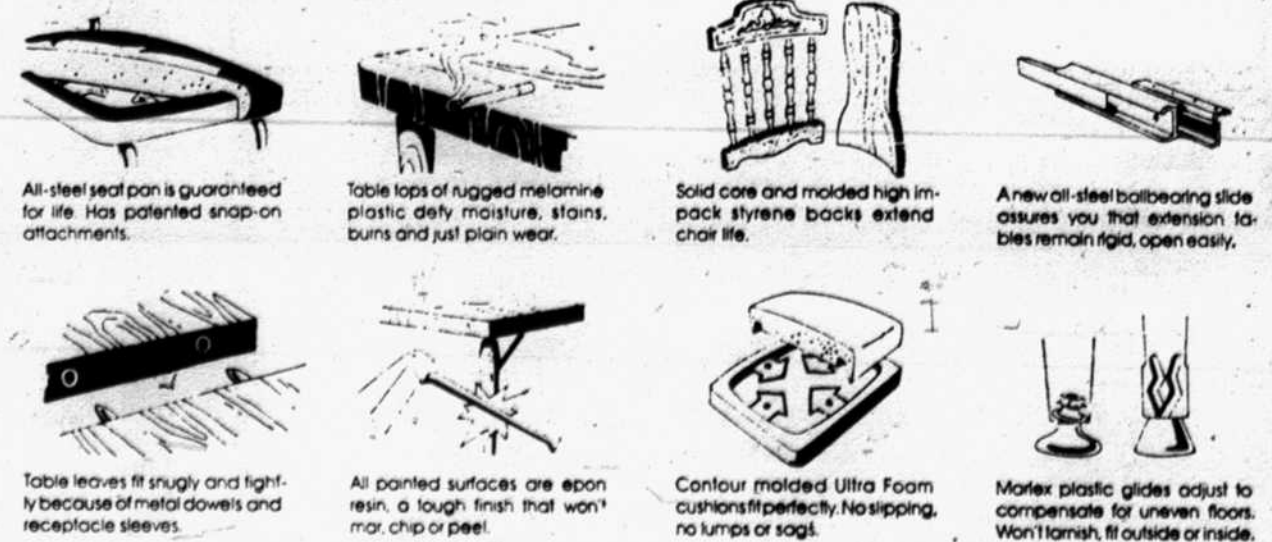
Sophisticated as well as practical. New wrap-over upholstery features soft Tucson expanded supported vinyl. Button tufted chair backs and fronts. Table top of melamine plastic is 36" x 48" and extends to 60" and 72" with leaves. Sturdy Brown 'n Brilliant legs. Chairs have lifetime metal seats and custom contoured Ultra Foam cushions.



Empire by Chromcraft
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The rich patent leather look of washable expanded vinyl. Button tufted chair backs add luxury to this hand some six seater. Oval melamine plastic table top comes in your choice of beautiful woodgrains. Resists scratches, burns and stains. Top is 42" x 48" and expands to 60" and 72" with leaves. Brown 'n Brilliant table legs promise years of sturdy support. Lifetime metal chair seats and custom contoured Ultra Foam cushions.

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Feature
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Sept. 6 Thru Sept. 12

Shows 2ND LEE'S LAST
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5:00 - 6:30 **Smash IS**
8:15 - 10:00 **Week HIS BEST**

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