

News Brief

O.J. Simpson, whose role as a priest in Carlo Ponti's "Cassandra Crossing" has been expanded several times, says he'll play one more year of football and then concentrate on his acting career. The movie's co-stars are Sophia Loren, Burt Lancaster, Richard Harris and Ava Gardner. Meanwhile, O.J. is the cover photo on the electric Company Magazine's Sports Special for April and May.

The "must see" film of 1976

"Ernest In Love"

To Be Staged

At Queens

"Ernest In Love," a rollicking Victorian musical farce based on Oscar Wilde's "The Importance of Being Ernest," begins a four-performance engagement in Suzanne Little Auditorium at Queens College on April 22.

Performances will begin at 8 p.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings and a Sunday matinee will be presented at 2:30.

Directed by drama instructor Jane Hadley, the production features students Moira Quinn of Charlotte; Martha Groseclose of Eden; Libby McNeill of Fayetteville; Linda Smalley of Charlotte; Denny Haller of Pulaski, Va.; and Suzanne Brice of Spartanburg, S.C.

Other performers include Dave Durham, Jack Grande, Bill Crymes and Rick Helms of Charlotte and Bill Devereux of Mt. Holly. A mixed chorus completes the cast.

General admission is \$2, and tickets will be available at the door.

Bandstand's

Guest performers

The Supremes, French songstress Michel Polnareff and ventriloquist Willie Tyler and his puppet, Lester, join host Dick Clark on the ABC Television Network's "American Bandstand," Saturday, April 17 from 12:20 to 1:30 p.m.

is Warner Bros. "All the President's Men," starring Robert Redford and Dustin Hoffman. The D.C. premiere benefitted The Fund for Investigative Journalism, a private foundation formed to subsidize investigative reporters, of whom many are free-lancers not personally able to cover the costs of their work.

Jazzman Lionell Hampton has been named director of special events for President Ford's election campaign. He's a lifelong Republican. Hamp will be given nationwide campaign responsibilities among entertainment, civic, fraternal and social groups.

Billy Wilson, who has a Tony nomination for his choreography in "Bubbling Brown Sugar" and who also staged the new Broadway hit, is doing the same for the black version of "Guys and Dolls" now trying out in Philadelphia. Also from "Bubbling Brown Sugar" are musical supervisor-arranger Danny Holgate, music director-choral arranger Howard Roberts and costume designer Bernard Johnson.

A jazz concert tour of eight cities included Ella Fitzgerald, Count Basie, Oscar Peterson and Joe Pass. It opens in San Francisco on April 30 and concludes June 10 in Washington.

Gladys Blair, sister of Lofen Mitchell (he wrote the book for "Bubbling Brown Sugar") will write "The Mahalia Jackson Story."

Billy Dee Williams now doing the stage production of "I Have A Dream" in Washington, due to open a seven-day engagement at the Fox Theatre in Atlanta on April 27. He's also being mentioned for "The Scott Joplin Story," a TV picture of the Ragtime composer to be filmed by Motown for NBC-TV for next season as a two-hour show.

The Cleavon Little-starrer "Blazing Saddles," in a second nation-wide release, has jumped to third place in the "50 Top-Grossing Films" for the week.

Irene Cara, the pretty youngster who has the title role in the Warner Bros. release, "Sparkle" wants to set the record straight on her age.



SOUL TRAIN PRODUCER DON CORNELIUS

...Chatting with guest Ossie Davis

Soul Train To Feature Wilson

A trio of talents are scheduled this weekend on Soul Train. Appearing with The Supremes, the most popular female group on the musical scene, are singer Al Wilson and Ossie Davis, noted actor.

Susay Green, the newest addition to The Supremes, joins the world-renowned group on "Let My Heart Do The Walking." "Don't Let the Tears Drop Bother You" and "You Are What I've Been Missing In My Life," all from their latest Motown album.

Al Wilson revives memories with his smash hit from a few seasons back, "Show and Tell," then, in his earthy style, renders his current success, "I've Got A Feeling (We'll Be Seeing Each Other Again)." "Show and Tell," which sold over two million copies, was named by Cashbox magazine as the number one single of the year.

In a cameo appearance, Ossie Davis shows scenes from

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his new movie, "Countdown At Kusini," which is premiering across the country. Soul Train, produced by Don

Cornelius, is sponsored by Johnson Products Co., manufacturers of cosmetics and hair care products for Blacks.

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