

Black Movie, TV News Briefs

Bill Cosby In Rome Shooting NBC-TV Series

By Jesse H. Walker
Special To The Post

The millionth member of ITT's "Big Blue Marble Pen Pal Program" is 13-year-old Rhonda Ward of Webb City, Missouri who was matched with 13-year-old Jorgen Schunck of Copenhagen, Denmark. Since the program started in the summer of 1974, it has processed more than 690,000 domestic and 310,000 foreign requests, including children from more than 25 different countries. Pen Pals write (Dear Pen Pal, Big Blue Marble, P.O. Box 4054, Santa Barbara, Ca. 93103) a letter or card with his or her name, address, sex, age, special interests and type of pen pal desired.

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Arthur Wilson has been appointed cooperative advertising manager for Warner Bros., a top spot for a black in the movie industry. A graduate of Harvard, the Sorbonne and Columbia, Wilson joined Warner Bros.' ad-publicity department in 1968. He was editor of the Warner Bros. 50th year filmography, "The Warner Bros. Golden Anniversary Book" and also directed the national educational campaign on "All the President's Men" for Warner Books.

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Richard Wesley, who wrote the screen plays for "Uptown Saturday Night" and "Let's Do It Again" is one of the five writers presently at work on screenplays for the new presentation of the "Roots: The Second Hundred Years," to begin filming on April 16 and to be shown on ABC-TV during 1979.

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Undisputed star at the White House Reception by the Carters celebrating the reopening of the doors of the historic Ford's Theatre was Eartha Kitt, who drew all that publicity about her first visit to the White House since the celebrated 1968 incident when she criticized President Johnson over the Vietnam war. But the star of the benefit show featuring many stars from the last decade and attended by President and Mrs. Carter was Billy Dee Williams who drew a Carter-led standing ovation for a segment of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have A Dream" speech.

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Business at James Earl Jones' "Paul Robeson" jumped up to 63.3 percent its second week at the Lunt-Fontanne Theatre. But a warning to those who plan to see it: It must vacate this theatre by April 2 because of a commitment to another play. More critics are giving favorable reviews to the one-man show.

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Stephanie Mills, star of the Broadway hit, "The Wiz," and Michael Jackson, who is starring in the movie version, will be honored Feb. 10 at the 39th annual National Urban League Beaux Arts Ball at the Waldorf-Astoria's Grand Ballroom in a "Salute to Youth." Mrs. Andrew Young, wife of the UNC Ambassador is Hono-

rary Chairperson. Tickets are \$40 each. Dress optional.

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Just as NYC Deputy Mayor Basil Paterson was bemoaning the fact that there is only one commercial TV station owned by Blacks in the U.S. before a meeting of the National Association of Media Women, the White House unveiled an energetic program to boost minority ownership in broadcasting and cable TV. In a petition to the FCC, it proposed rule changes in all

areas of license processing so that more broadcast properties and funding prospects are available for minority applicants.

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"Black Body Blues" is the second play by Gus Edwards now playing the St. Marks Playhouse and presented by the Negro Ensemble Company. It goes into repertory with an earlier play, "The Offering."

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While director Geoffrey Hol-

der is rushing his "Timbuktu" to Broadway, his wife, the former dancer Carmen DeLavallade is appearing in Shakespeare's "Othello" off Broadway at the Roundabout Stage One with Earle Hyman in the title role. Hyman has long played this role in Norway—in Norwegian.

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There's a month-long film festival called "Senegal: 15 Years of an African Cinema - 1962-1977" now at the Museum of Modern Art.



Bill Cosby
...New TV series

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