

Black Movies, TV News Briefs

"The Last Minstrel" Is Fine Musical Treat

by JESSE H. WALKER
Special To The Post

Veteran actress Clarice Taylor, currently on Broadway in "The Wiz" is a frequent visitor to "Sesame Street," the popular program for preschool children. Her latest visit will be broadcast May 26 on the nation's more than 270 Public Broadcasting stations.

Howie Evans, sports columnist for the Amsterdam News and a vet coach in the Rucker Summer Pro League, has been hired by Fordham U. coach Tom Penders as an assistant basketball coach. Former Morris High School star is Maryland State grad and author of "Portrait of a Man," a poem dedicated to Holcombe Rucker, the former Harlem recreation leader for whom the Rucker Memorial Memorial—ITT Summer and Winter Basketball Leagues are named.

Broadway stage shows, already doing a booming business show greater promise this month and next. Due April 11, at the Ambassador, is Richard Wesley's new play, "The Mighty Gents." "Runaways," a two-act musical collage with a mixed cast that has been raved over at the Public Theatre is due to move to the Plymouth on May 6. "Ain't Misbehavin'," the musical tribute to Fats Waller that has been a success at the Manhattan Theatre Club, moves to the Belasco on April 28. And out-of-town reviews say Della Reese in "The Last Minstrel Show" has a fine dramatic musical treat. It's due in Philly on April 11 and due on Broadway on May 7.

The Boys of Yesteryear Biddies and Midgets copped the playoffs in the Rucker Memorial—ITT Winter Basketball League, just completed and will be feted at an Awards Luncheon to be held April 29 at the Kennedy Center on West 134th Street. Over 250 youngsters played on the 16 teams that competed for 20 weeks.

Cab Calloway is starring in "Bubbling Brown Sugar," now playing at the Paper Mill Playhouse in Milburn, N.J.

Cocaine use among Hollywood stars has become so widespread and chronic, according to an article in Medical World News, that one UCLA surgeon reports that he has a half-dozen celebrity patients who have burned holes in their nasal passages with heavy doses of the drug. "These people are heavy, daily users, not just occasional weekend sniffers," said Dr. Vernon D. Gary. The drug, used chronically, is known to dissolve the nasal septum, the cartilage between the nostrils.

LeVar Burton, the young man who played Kunta Kinte in the TV epic "Roots," has been signed to portray Detroit Tiger star centerfielder Ron LeFlore in a two-hour CBS movie called "One In A Million: The Ron LeFlore Story." Most of the filming will be on the loca-

tions where the incredible events of LeFlore's life have taken place, including Michigan State Prison, where the ballplayer spent 38 months behind bars.

SICK LEAVE—Singer Nina Simone collapsed in her London hotel room and was rushed by ambulance to a hospital. It was reported the 43-year-old singer needs plenty of rest. Also in London, soprano Martina Arroyo, who has been plagued by a painful back problem for many years canceled all engagements for the next six weeks to undergo spinal surgery.

New York City's two all-news radio stations are under the direction of two Blacks. Cecil Forster is the general manager of WINS, and Adam Clayton Powell III is director of news for WCBS.

Actress Claudio McNeil, once a nightclub singer, will sing the work of Ethel Waters in the May 9 show at Michael's Pub.

The American Theatre Experiment's revival of "Native Son" continues through April 12 at the Perry Street Theatre.

This seems the year for Marla Gibbs of "The Jeffersons"

to bust-out. The gal who plays Florence the Maid had a cover story in the April 6 issue of Jet and has a feature story on her career and life in the latest edition of Now Magazine.

"Roots" people continue to make waves. Leslie Uggams, Louis Gossett, Jr. and Olivia Cole are all signed for "Backstairs at the White House," an eight-hour mini-series due to NBC-TV next season. It's a behind-the-scenes look from Taft to Eisenhower and based on the 1961 book of Lillian Rogers Parks, the White House maid.



Al Green has sold over 30 million records, earning eight gold singles, three platinum singles, seven gold albums and four platinum albums. The Belle Album marks Al's emergence as a producer. The LP, which was recorded and produced by Al in his own \$400,000 Memphis studio, features Al backing himself on guitar.

Pastor E. C. Cannon

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