

Eartha Kitt Is Here To Stay?

"I am here" says Eartha Kitt in the June issue of ESSENCE magazine. "I survived while the people who contrived against me are either dead or gone. In 1968 I was an international star. Then it all fell apart." Eartha was banished from her own country and all because she dared to speak out against its political policies.

According to Eartha, it was the now legendary Lady Bird luncheon, along with other LBJ machinations that torpedoed her career. For a time, from 1952 till the early sixties Ms. Kitt was a star, but as the country and its people went through changes, Eartha, artistically, did not. By 1968, Americans had simply grown bored with her thing.

Currently starring in "Timbuktu" on Broadway, Ms. Kitt is once again the Star, although in her own mind she always was. She speaks of herself in the same breath with Marilyn Monroe, Judy Garland and James Dean and says, "I am the last of the great international stars.

There was Josephine Baker, Marlene Dietrich and me. We belonged to the world. I still do They say I am a great artist - that there is nobody quite like me and yes, I do believe that!"

Eartha Kitt has suffered greatly in her lifetime. Her childhood was filled with rejection, pain, unexpressed rage and resentment. She was but a child when her mother's family physically threw her out because she was "yella." Eartha says, "Black people always denied me love First as a child because I wasn't Black enough and then as an adult for the same reason Today if someone sees me as not Black enough, it is their problem and not mine. She denies the rumor that she dated white men exclusively, but exclaims "So what if I did? It's nobody's business I don't see people as Black or White. I see them as human beings I belong to no one race but to all!"

Throughout her life Eartha Kitt has not found safety with the men she has known and loved. Today Eartha says, "I will not deal - not anymore - with a man who cannot see beyond my image I would like to be loved but I am not afraid to be alone as I am not lonely.

Her marriage in 1960 to Korean veteran Bill McDonald ended in divorce five years later, when her daughter Kitt was four. "She was the reason I married" says Eartha. "She makes it all worth-



ACTRESS EARTHA KITT
...With Timbuktu co-star

while I've sown my seed well. My life is a lesson to Kitt in how to weather the storm I survived my childhood, my lovers, my banishment,

two presidents and a war. Eartha Kitt will always survive. She is here and intends to stay here, because here is where she belongs.

WBTV To Air "The Tony Awards"

The immediacy and vitality of live theater, which has long attracted aspiring performers and audiences alike, will be saluted on "Footlights! The 1978 Tony Awards Show," the 32nd annual presentation of the American Theatre Wing's Antoinette Perry (Tony) Awards, to be broadcast live, Sunday, June 4, at 9:30 p.m. from the Shubert Theatre in New York on WBTV, Channel 3.

Appearing on the special will be Edward Asner, Carol Channing, Bonnie Franklin, Julie Harris, Bob Hope, Linda Lavin, Jack Lemmon, Hal Linden, Lauren Bacall, Dick Van Patten, Robert Guillaume, Gene Kelly and Liza Minnelli.

In a series of videotaped sequences, Bonnie Franklin,

who stars in "One Day at a Time" on the Network, will dramatize the various effects-making the "rounds" of casting offices, auditions, etc.-that young performers undertake to become part of the exciting world of theater. The experiences will duplicate Miss Franklin's own early days, when, as a youthful actress-singer, she arrived in New York City brimming with dreams of a theatrical career. The dreams were soon realized, culminating in her Tony Award-nominated performance in the musical "Applause."

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