

Black Movies, TV News Briefs

Ben Vereen Named "Entertainer Of The Year"

By Jesse H. Walker

"Big Blue Marble" spokesperson Melba Moore took time out from her Broadway hit, "Timbuktu" to entertain at reception held by Committee To Re-elect Senator Carl McCall, held at Lincoln Center in the Vivian Beaumont Theatre prorenaed.

For the second consecutive year, as part of the Con Edison-City University of New York cultural and recreational programs, the Con Edison Community Relations department co-sponsored the Langston Hughes Choral Reading Festival produced by the City College of New York English Department.

First Artists-Warner Bros.' "A Piece of the Action" and CBS' "The Jeffersons" were the big winners at the 11th annual multimedia Image Awards held for the first time under the co-sponsorship of the NAACP and its Beverly Hills-Hollywood branch. Ben Vereen was named Entertainer of the Year in the affair held at the Century Plaza Hotel. But complaints by Don Cornelius about a permanent TV blackout on the affair were weakened by one daily reporter who wrote "a comedy of errors would most aptly describe the awards evening as the event stumbled along with little direction."

History Quiz: Were there any black filmmakers during the early days of silent films: "Oscar Micheaux was the first to complete a feature-length film, "The Homesteader," based on his experiences as a frontiersman in South Dakota. He was not however, the first black to make a feature film. The first was Booker T. Washington's secretary, Emmet Scott. He made a film protesting and refuting D. W. Griffith's "Birth of a Nation," which portrayed the black during the Reconstruction as corrupt and lawless. Scott ran out of money and had to seek white backers who insisted on changes." From "Black Culture Quiz," published by The Sperry & Hutchinson Co., 330 Madison Ave., NYC 10017.

Singer Nancy Wilson, now hospitalized with serious injuries after an auto she was driving collided with roadside equipment in Los Angeles, was scheduled to appear with the Duke Ellington Orchestra to highlight the opening day of the 65th annual convention of the National Dental Association on July 30 in Washington, D.C. Only last week Miss Wilson thrilled a widely enthusiastic SRO crowd at her annual NYC appearance at Avery Fisher Hall. And L.A. Mayor Thomas Bradley had proclaimed it "Nancy Wilson Week," honoring her 25th anniversary in show business.

Carol Tillery Banks, also known as Carol O'Neal, wife of actor Ron O'Neal, had the role of "Cousin Angie," in "Love Is Not Enough," the dramatic program development project

starring Bernie Casey and seen last week on NBC-TV.

Red Randolph, whose Shalimar by Randolph was once a famous Harlem night spot, has plans to open a downtown place on West 46th Street come September. He has bought the whole building and will be able to cater to private parties and the like.

Saxman Harold Ousley is really pleasing the crowds at Jock's Place at Seventh Avenue and 138th Street these weekends. And equally satisfying is the singing of Sandi Russell.



Nancy Wilson
...Hospitalized
Marie Bryant, the choreographer who once sang with the Duke Ellington Band died



Melba Moore
... "Timbuktu" star
May 23 at USC-County Medical Center in Los Angeles following a long illness. She

helped choreo the nitery acts of Leslie Uggams and Wayne Newton and worked with Pearl Bailey in the stage version of "Hello Dolly."

A "Salute to Women in Jazz" will be offered June 26-29 in the Casa Blanca 2, a club at Broadway and 52nd Street, which once was the site of the famed Birdland jazz club. More than 30 women jazz artists have already been scheduled for the event, among them Patti Brown, Sue Evans, Janice Robinson, Carol Sloan, Maxine Sullivan, Sheila Jordan, JoAnn Brackeen and Stella Marrs.

COMING JULY 4

CAROLINA JAM 3

—Featuring—

- ★ George Duke
"Dukey Stick" new hit single
- ★ Sun
Album "Sun Burn" New Single "Sun is Here"
- ★ Cameo
Album "We All Know Who We Are" - single "It's Serious"
- ★ Kool & The Gang
single "Superchick"
- ★ Mother's Finest
Mother's Finest will debut it's newest album at the Carolina Jam. The album will be released soon after the Jam on the 4th.

Over 20,000 people attended last year. It's an open air concert in a large, green, grassy field.

Metrolina Fairgrounds

On Highway 21 North

Time: Gates Open 12 Noon

— Tickets —

\$8 In Advance

\$10 At The Door

Tickets Outlets:

Musicland - Tryon Mall	National Hat Shop
Top Bananna Records	The Soul Shack
Stereo Village - Freedom Village	

Mother's Finest