

Black Movies, TV News Briefs

Diana Ross Gets Jump On Frank Sinatra?

by Jesse H. Walker
Special To The Post

Diana Ross got the jump on Frank Sinatra. Diana is at Radio City Music Hall Oct. 5-11. Sinatra is there Oct. 14-22. Lines are already at the Music Hall for fans seeking tickets.



Diana Ross

Morgan Freeman returns to his regular role as Easy Reader, the hip-talking compulsive word consumer when Children's Television Workshop begins "The Electric Company" back for its eighth season beginning Oct. 16. But Freeman has been busy all year. He was honored for his portrayal of Zeke in "Mighty Gents," in which he appeared first at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. and later on Broadway. He received The Clarence Durwent award, the Drama Desk award and was nominated for a Tony for his performance. He also completed a TV film, "Role of Thunder, Hear My Cry," and "Charlie Smith and the Fritter Tree" for educational TV.

N.Y. Yankees George Stenbrenner wasn't in Boston for the first game of that recent crucial series. He was at the Kickoff Reception for the 1978 Grambling-Morgan State Football Classic (Sept. 23) of which the Yankees and New York Urban League are co-sponsors. The Yankee owner wouldn't speak, however. He left that to Cedric Tallant, Yankee general manager. NYUL's Herbert Morris announced that "Big Blue Marble" spokesperson Melba Moore will be a special honoree at the game. The 1978 Whitney M. Young, Jr. Memorial Award will go to Fritz Pollard who became an All-American in 1916 while leading Brown University to a winning season.

Cal Ramsey, "Voice of the Knicks" was the emcee—as usual—at the recent 28th Annual Awards Night for the division winners of the Rucker Memorial. ITT Summer Bas-

With "Company"

Little Theatre Opens New Season

The Little Theatre of Charlotte opens this season with "Company," Stephen Sondheim's award winning musical that takes a rueful look at marriage through the cautious eyes of a bachelor, played by Tony Kish.

Opening night, Wednesday, September 20 marked the first time the Little Theatre has extended its season to include Wednesday and Sunday performances. "An exciting and very gratifying increase in membership resulting in over-low audiences" was the reason for extending the season according to artistic director, Gene Kusterer.

The cast of "Company" is rich in newcomers to Charlotte as well as seasoned performers such as Pat Heiss, who signs Sondheim's satirical "Ladies Who Lunch."

ketball Tournament, held in Columbia U's Ferris Hall. he told the youngsters about the Knicks acquiring Marvin Webster and their hopes for a NBC championship. Another speaker was Walter Dukes, onetime Knicks and Piston star. Some 300 youngsters received trophies, out of 1,200 who participated in the city sports landmark which is backed by a \$50,000 yearly ITT grant.

For oldtimers, the Chick Webb orchestra, including three of the original sidemen with whom Ella Fitzgerald got her start in the late 1920's, has been revived for an engagement at Michael's Pub, 211 East 55th Street. The band's arrangements have been scaled down for the current group's six musicians, who include Eddie Barefield on clarinet and saxophone; Dick Vance on trumpet and Beverly Peer on bass, from the original Webb band. Also, there is Panama Francis on drums, Norm Tierney on alto sax and Jim Simmons on piano. Carol Sloane is singing the original Ella numbers.

George Faison, who already has credits on Broadway for "The Wiz" is the director and choreographer for the upcoming Broadway musical, "A Broadway Musical" which will do a pre-Broadway run at the Reverside Church, starting Oct. 10.

Donald McKayle has done the choreography for the new show Rita Moreno is drawing

raves for at the Scandal's in Hollywood. Critics call his work "among the best seen outside of Las Vegas."

"Timbuktu" is now on the road with the first stop in Detroit. The only one of its original stars still in it is Eartha Kitt.

Count Basie says a LA firm wrongfully distributed his records and illegally used his name, and he's out to right the wrong with a \$5 million lawsuit. Basie's action says he recorded an album—with such classics as "One O'Clock Jump" and "Be-bop Blues"—for Pablo Records, but the album emerged under the label of Festival Records Distributing Co.

Roy Campanella, the baseball Hall of Famer, recently had a "Day" at Shea Stadium. Now he's due for a "Night" at the New York Hilton when the Harlem Branch YMCA honors him at its Second Annual Testimonial Dinner on Sept. 21. Tickets are going fast for the \$100-plus affair.

Not too much written about him, but John Lucas, who plays with the Houston Rockets, teamed with Renee Richards in the recent U.S. Open Tennis Tournament at the Louis Armstrong Stadium. They bowed in the quarter finals. Lucas has been playing with the New Orleans Nets of the World Team Tennis. He was second leading assist man

in the NBA last season.

First return of boxing to Harlem on Sept. 8 at Vincent's

Place brought out a standing-out crowd. Next matches are scheduled for Sept. 20 and Sept. 29.

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