

Black Movies, TV News Briefs

# Clevon Little To Star In NBC Special

In Hollywood, Clevon Little has been cast to star in the upcoming First Artists Pictures comedy TV pilot, "Uptown Saturday Night," for NBC-TV. Also signed for starring roles in the pilot are Adam Wade, Starletta DuPois, Julius Harris, Mel Stewart, Don Bexley and Dee Dee Bridgewater.



Esther Rolle ... "Good Times" star

ator at WVON Chicago. Until Jan. 1, Jones also will serve as 20th Century-Fox's midwest promotion chief, based in Chicago.

CBS-TV may bring James Earl Jones to the screen next season in "Paris," in which the actor plays a police captain for the Los Angeles Police Department. And John Amos might return in "Onward and Upward", as a freshman con-

gressman.

Baseball's Frank Robinson, who managed Rochester last summer after starting the year as a coach of the Baltimore Orioles, has been offered a job by Baltimore's WMAR-TV, to act as an analyst during the 52 televised Orioles games. He would also do a five-minute pre-game show and possibly other projects outside of baseball for the station.

In Hollywood, O.J. Simpson Enterprises, the LA-based business organization of the San Francisco pro football star, has formed Orenthal productions, with Daniel S. Mark as executive in charge. Mark and Simpson claim an upcoming production slate in excess of \$10 million, pegged initially to fulfilling commitments involved in Simpson's recent five-year ticket with NBC-TV. Orenthal is O.J.'s first name.

"Good Times" is reported

having bad times in the TV ratings and CBS is not happy at all with the show that features the return of Esther Rolle this season.

The World Institute of Black Communications gave its first CEBA (Communications Excellence to Black Audiences) Awards at a \$150-plate dinner last week in the jam-packed Grand Ballroom of the New York Hilton. Actor Brock Peters was emcee and award presenter over the long night as awards went to 39 companies and their ad agencies.

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"The Wiz" is a wiz of a success at the box office and with the critics Universal Pictures reports some \$50,000 in advance group sales, representing about 20,000 tickets have already been racked up for the film in NYC, mostly at two Manhattan Houses, Loews' Astor Plaza and Tower East.

"The Wild Geese", the hit film about a bunch of mercenaries rescuing the president of a Central African country is to open in the U.S. on Nov. 10 in some 350-500 film houses. A special preview is being at NYC's Loews State 1 Theatre on Nov. 9 with two showings. Film stars Richard Burton, Roger Moore, Richard Harris, Hardy Druger, Stewart Granger, and the two South African actors, Winston Ntshona and John Kani.

E. Rodney Jones has been named national radio relations director for 20th Century-Fox Records. He formerly was program and music direc-

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