

ABC's 14-Hour Drama

"Roots: The Next Generations" Will Be Seen Eight Nights

"Roots: The Next Generations," the David L. Wolper Production of Alex Haley's eagerly anticipated continuation of the most popular television event of all time, will air on the ABC Television Network over eight nights beginning SUNDAY, FEB. 18, 1979, it was announced today by Anthony D. Thomopoulos, President, ABC Entertainment.

The new 14-hour drama, continuing the triumphant saga of one family's emergence from slavery through the harsh years of Reconstruction and on through author Haley's search for his roots, will be presented Sunday through Friday and conclude on SUNDAY, FEB. 25.

Brandon Stoddard, Senior Vice President of Dramatic Programs, Motion Pictures and Novels for Television, said, "The unprecedented popularity that made 'Roots' an instant and permanent classic proves that Alex Haley's story really reflects much more than one family's experience. Millions of Americans watched and identified with the descendants of Kunta Kinte as they fought for family unity and individual dignity. This continuation of their story is like meeting the children of old and treasured friends.

"ABC was delighted to present David Wolper's production of the original 'Roots.' It is with even greater pride and satisfaction that we now present the conclusion of this remarkable saga.

"Admittedly, we undertook this continuation of 'Roots' with great concern that the quality and breadth of the original would be maintained. In this regard, I am pleased to report that the new production exceeds our expectations and hopes."

"Roots: The Next Generations," based on Haley's original "Roots," his new book,



Alex Haley



Ossie Davis

"My Search for Roots," and additional material provided by the author, follows four more generations of the family descended from Kunta Kinte. Beginning in 1882 with Tom Harvey (son of Chicken George) and his family, the film chronicles the passions and progress of nearly 100 turbulent and emotionally wrenching years of American history, leading up to the emergence of Alex Haley (played by James Earl Jones) and the writing of "Roots."

The cast of "Roots: The Next Generations" boasts a list of stars including (in alphabetical order): George Stanford Brown, Diahann Carroll, Ossie Davis, Ruby Dee, Olivia de Havilland, Ja'net DuBois, Henry Fonda, Al Freeman, Jr., Andy Griffith, Dorian Harewood, Rafer Johnson, James Earl Jones, Avon Long, Claudia McNeill, Carmen McRae, Lynne Moody, Harry Morgan, Greg Morris, Della Reese, Bea Richards, Stan Shaw, Marc Singer and Richard Thomas.

The original "Roots" introduced many exciting newcomers to television--most notably LeVar Burton, who starred as Kunta Kinte--and the new production will continue that tradition, with new stars including Bever-Leigh Banfield, Fay Hauser, Brian Mitchell and Debbi Morgan.

"Roots: The Next Generations" is being produced by Stan Margulies, who served in the same capacity on "Roots," and is again being supervised by executive producer David L. Wolper (winner of 20 Emmys, three Peabody Award and an Oscar).

Ernest Kinoy, who was co-winner (with William Blinn) of an Emmy for writing the first three hours of "Roots," supervised the scripts and wrote the first three screenplays. Other writers are Sydney A. Glass, Thad Mumford and Daniel Wilcox, and John McGreevey.

John Erman, who won a director's Guild Award and an Emmy nomination for his sensitive direction of one hour of the original "Roots," has directed six hours of the continuation. Other directors are Charles S. Dubin (4 hours), George Stanford Brown (who also stars, in "Roots" and in the continuation, as Tom Harvey) and Lloyd Richards.

The original broadcast of "Roots" in 1977, which was seen by an estimated audience of 130 million people, earned a

treasure house of awards--including a record 37 Emmy nominations--and critical judgments such as "it is not only monumental; it is gripping, mind-piercing, soul-searing viewing experience" (Tony LaCamera, Boston Herald-American) and "popular entertainment has...taken a significant step forward" (John O'Connor, New York

Times).

Time magazine, which recently predicted that "Roots: The Next Generations" will "surely justify the (spectacular) advance billing," called the original "No longer just a bestselling book and a boffo TV production, but a social phenomenon, a potentially important bookmark in U.S. race relations."

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Lauch Henry helped find the missing ingredient to educate minority engineers. Money.

Lauchland Henry is a teacher. And a scientist. And an engineer. He's genuinely concerned about other people. And he has expressed some of that concern in his participation with the National Fund for Minority Engineering Students.

The fund is a non-profit organization attempting to increase the number of Blacks, Puerto Ricans, Chicanos, Mexican Americans and American Indians enrolled in engineering schools.

These under-represented minorities constitute a rich untapped resource to help fill the growing need for engineers, a need that is expected to continue through the mid-1980's.

IBM's social leave program enabled Dr. Henry to take a year's leave to assist the fund. And IBM continued to pay him his full salary.

The National Fund for Minority Engineering Students is a very worthwhile program. We think so. Lauchland Henry thinks so. But most important of all, lots of minority engineering students enrolled at colleges and universities all over the country think so.



WBTB Selects

4 Wingate

College Students

Four Wingate College students have been selected by audition to perform in a WBTB, Channel 3, Charlotte television special for the Christmas season. They also performed on a Thanksgiving Day special as members of Unity Singers.

The Wingate students are Lisa Jackson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Jackson of Fayetteville; Anthony Morrison, son of Mrs. Earlie Morrison of Fayetteville; Joseph Few, son of Mr. and Mrs. Horace M. Few of Kissimmee, Fla.; and Keith

Laney, son of Mr. and Mrs. James W. Laney, Jr., of Marion.

The collegians will be members of a 12-voice ensemble performing Anita Kerr's arrangements of "A Christmas Story."

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