

Black Movies, TV News Briefs

Billy Dee Williams To Start In 2-Hour TV Special

by Jesse H. Walker
Special to the Post

With the gift by The New York Bank For Savings of the five-story commercial Kenwood Building to the Studio Museum in Harlem, things are already looking up on West 125th Street. Mary Schmidt Campbell, director of the museum, has revealed an \$800,000 HUD loan has been approved to rehabilitate the building. And this week Con Edison hosted a reception for the museum, to help it launch a fund-raising drive. Bank Senior Vice President David Means, a Harlem native, noted at the deed-signing ceremony that the bank's gift represented "a meaningful cultural event that will bring the street back," meaning declining West 125th Street.

Clarence Muse, the venerable actor who died in a California hospital just one day short of his 90th birthday, can be currently seen in his last film, "The Black Stallion" which was shown at the New York Film Festival and has now opened publicly. Muse, who was a graduate lawyer, a songwriter ("When It's Sleepy Time Down South"), and a native of Baltimore, Md., appeared in "Hearts of Dixie," the second talking movie ever made, and in 218 other movies over 50 years. He last was in NYC in 1976 when he was making a personal appearance for "Car Wash," a Universal film.

"321 Contact," the science magazine published by Children's Television Workshop has in its November edition a feature on TV science shows and interviews with real scientists on whether kids should believe or not believe what they see on the screen in their favorite shows. One of the worst things on science fiction shows on TV says a famous science writer is "not only don't they show people the right way things work; sometimes they teach things that just aren't true."

James Baldwin, who was a boy preacher at 14, returned to the pulpit at 55 last week in Washington, D. C. when he was the guest speaker at the 11 a.m. Sunday service at the Peoples Congregational United Church of Christ. Church was packed inside and outside.

Powell Lindsay, who once ran the Negro Drama Group out of NYC back in the 40's and 50's was back in town for a brief visit. He's now a resident of Ann Arbor, Mich. where he has been running the Suitcase Theatre, a group of high school students who have toured Europe for the past nine years. The Suitcase Theatre story "Of a Dream Long Deferred" was inspired by Langston Hughes who conceived

another Suitcase Theatre with Powell Lindsay in 1937 in Harlem.

NBC-TV has a miniseries coming up later this season, "The Sophisticated Gent" that is winding up shooting this week in Los Angeles. With a script by Melvin Van Peebles from John A. Williams' novel, "The Junior Bachelor Society," the film stars Albert Hall, Paul Winfield, Ron O'Neal, Raymond St. Jacques, Rosalyn Cash, Janet DuBois and Dick Anthony Williams.

On Sunday, Dec. 16, Billy Dee Williams will be seen starred with Maria Schell in "Christmas Lilies of the Field," a two-hour TV sequel to the 1963 feature film that won Sidney Poitier his Oscar.

Jane White, daughter of the late NAACP exec Walter White and a Broadway and TV actress in her own right, opens in San Francisco on



Billy Dee Williams

...Famed actor

Nov. 9 in a premiere of an autobiographical musical, "Jane White, Who?" She co-authored with Joe Masteroff.

Maya Angelou's "And Still I Rise," with music by Lalo Schiffrin, will be presented by Rosetta LeNoire's AMAS Repertory Theatre, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday through

Nov. 4.

The Fellas hold their Annual Tennis and Disco Party on Saturday, Nov. 3, at the Tiger Racquet club in Secaucus, New Jersey and it is a benefit for their scholarship fund.

"Roots," will be repeated beginning Nov. 5 on the ABC-Network in nine 90-minute episodes on the "4:30 Movie" time spot. Ben Vereen will introduce each episode.

Something new is being added to "The Jeffersons" on CBS-TV with son Lionel (played by Michael Evans) and daughter-in-law Jenny (Berlinda Tolbert) presenting George (Sherman Hemsley) with his first grandchild.

Director Michael Schultz has been named by the National Endowment for the Arts to the advisory committee of filmmakers and industry representatives to assist promoting the exhibiting of short films from

independent producers in commercial theatres.

In its September issue, the Black Theatre Alliance Newsletter presented photos and short biogs of all members of its newly expanded board of directors for the term 1979-81. To show the growth of BTA, in 1969 there were seven members, all located in NYC. Today there are over 70 theatre and dance companies around the country and two theatre groups from Canada who complete the membership.

In Paris, the "Theatre Noir," a black cultural ensemble began activities in the Menilmontant quarter. France's first such center for the expression of Black culture, according to Benjamin Jules-Rosette, a West Indian actor who has been living and working in France for many years.

In Harlem, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Theatre is presenting the Creative Dance Theatre and Mel Frasier Production and Associates in a fashion show and disco cocktail sip on Nov. 29 at the new Cotton Club on West 125th Street. Proceeds go to the MLK Theatre Youth Scholarship Fund. Board members include Billy Reed, Grace Killens, Melvin Frasier, Rasco Smith, Pat Layne, Leola Tucker, Lateefah Jabbaar, Jean Booker and Harold Huntley.

YWCA Has Its

First Full-Time

PR Director

Charlotte's YWCA has its first full-time Public Relations Director.

She's Molen Clemmer Roberts, a former vice president and director of Marketing and Communications with Diener and Associates, Inc. Research Triangle Park, N. C. and has served as coordinator of the student publications at Lock Haven State College in Pennsylvania.

Mrs. Roberts, 34, currently serves as a reporter for the newsletter of the Greater Carolinas Chapter of the Red Cross; she is a member of Women in Communications, the Charlotte Public Relations Society and the American Association of University Women.

After earning a B.A. in history from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Mrs. Roberts continued her studies and received an M.A. degree in Higher Education also from UNC-CH. She additionally was taught piano and music composition at the Peabody Conservatory of Music in Baltimore, Maryland.

Librarians Hear Nikki Giovanni

By Eileen Hanson
Special To The Post

"Books are the most important invention of mankind," according to poet Nikki Giovanni, speaking in Charlotte Oct. 19 to the N.C. Librarian's Association. "You can take the book with you anywhere, anytime. You don't need a truck to haul it or electricity to plug it in."

But for Ms. Giovanni, books are also tools of social change, and she challenged her audience of 800 school city librarians to be more concerned about the child who reads the books, than the cleanliness of the books themselves.

"A child can't learn if her eyes and teeth hurt," she said, advocating a national health care plan.

"Schools are closing for lack of money, children are being turned away, yet we pay out money every day for bombs," she continued. Teachers should fight for themselves too. "It's wrong to get a 6 per cent raise when inflation is 13.5 per cent. Teachers aren't valued enough in our society." Ms. Giovanni, 36, is a native of Knoxville, Tenn., a graduate of Fisk University, and now lives in Ohio with her 10-year old son, Tommy. She remembered her own childhood, growing up in a segregated school that no longer exists.

"It was segregated and that was wrong. But it was small and people cared about you," she said, and then added that it is impossible to teach more than 15 children at a time.

"Minority children are a very precious resource and we are not going to get damaged by integration," said Giovanni. The battle for literacy is vital because "when people can no longer be articulate, they become violent. When people don't talk they



POET NIKKI GIOVANNI

...Challenges audience here

kill each other.

In the last 10 years Giovanni has published 13 books of poetry, mostly about being a black woman in the United States and about children.

She serves on the President's Commission for the International Year of the Child, and was chosen one of the top 10 American women of

influence.

Although she is a slight and unassuming person, her books have been the subject of controversy for their boldness.

"There are people who want to ban my books, to roll the clock back, she said. "We are not afraid of books. Books can't hurt people."

Woodlawn Road Will Be Closed

The Division of Highways of the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) will close I-77 southbound lane exit ramp leading to Woodlawn Road (US-521) in Charlotte to through traffic for approximately five days according to Division Engineer David B. Roberts.

The road, located near the

intersection of NC-49 and I-77, will be closed from October 22 to October 26.

The temporary closing will allow NCDOT

maintenance crews to repair the pavement and the curb and gutter on the ramp.

Traffic will be detoured to NC-49 then to US-521.