

Black Movies, TV News Briefs

Actor Gene Holliday Suffers Double Disaster

By Jesse H. Walker
Special To The Post

Gene Holliday, a New York native and actor who appeared in "Soap" and is the policeman in "Carter Country" suffered a double disaster when his California home burned down and his 18-month-old baby was burned to death.

The Dance Theatre of Harlem closed its winter season at city center with the raves of the NYC critics. In this current season, going backward in time and probing into the depth of ballet tradition, DTH added to its repertory two germinal works—"Swan Lake, Second Act" and "Paquita". This company has shown to the world that Blacks can do classical ballet. The Dance Theatre of Harlem functions as an educational institution, a community service organization, and a leading dance company. It is a source of community pride and city center was filled nightly during this past run with Blacks in great attendance.

The running squabble of the two factions of the Negro Actors Guild continues (it's over alleged missing funds), with one group headed by Honi Coles and the other by Kenneth A. Roane and Sammy Heyward. The latter group is currently running a membership drive, in spite of the court fight and you don't have to be an actor to join, only interested in the theatre. Frederick O'Neal is president emeritus of NAG.

Pianist Allison Deane of NYC, a graduate of the Manhattan School of Music, was designated national winner (\$2,000) in a field of seven regional winners in piano at the weeklong National Black Music Colloquium and Competition that was held at the Kennedy Center in Washington. The judges declared a tie and the \$2,000 prize in the string-instrument category was

shared by John Clayton, a string bassist from Los Angeles, and Marcus Thompson, a violist and native New Yorker, now on the faculty of MIT.

One of the sad facts of life that came out of the National Black Music Colloquium and Competition, held at Washington's Kennedy Center was that composers depend on performers to have their music heard, and in classical music (unlike pop music and jazz) black composers and instrumental performers both have a low profile. The problem dates back at least to the time of Scott Joplin, who earned wealth and fame writing ragtime and died (some say with grief) trying to get an opera produced. When it was finally staged, more than half a century after his death, that opera, "Tremmonisha," was a smash hit.

Henry Lewis, the black former music director of the New Jersey Symphony, will substitute as conductor of the New York Philharmonic, Feb. 6, 7, 8 and 12, replacing maestro Yuri Temirkanov, conductor of the Leningrad Symphony who is a victim of the recent freeze on most exports from Soviet Russia.

The Census Bureau is inviting federal, state, city and private public information, public relations and public affairs officers to attend a meeting on Feb. 1 at 26 Federal Plaza to outline the plans for the taking of the 1980 Census that starts April 1. And up in Harlem, two meetings, on Feb. 6 and 13, are being co-sponsored by the J. Raymond Jones Democratic Club and Harlem Hospital, to outline the responsibility of each person in the community in an accurate count.

Singer Barbara McNair, whose career stumbled following the murder of her husband, Richard Manzie in their Las Vegas home in 1976 is back working again has

married again, last Dec. 22, to Ben Strahan, a construction engineer.

"Too many people go through life thinking that learning about science means cramming lots of strange facts into your head," says Joan Ganz Cooney, president of Children's Television Workshop. "That's not very interesting, and that's not what science is. It's not what 3-2-1 CONTACT is either." The goal of the new TV series for children, Mrs. Cooney says, is to stimulate children to be more inquisitive about the world around them, both natural and technological.

500 Francs for Melba Moore's Spring and Summer '80' line presents some exciting new silhouettes for women today. All the garments are French-designed but made in New York with an American fit. Melba held champagne receptions this past week in honor of the opening of her new NYC showroom at 498 "Fashion" Avenue, Seventh Avenue to be uninformed. Her line of jeans and sportswear is distinguishable by the peach logo (for Peach Melba) and the signature on the jeans (500 Francs for Melba Moore).

Although guard Janice Thomas and center Althea Gwyn of the New York Stars have been named to the East team for the Women's Professional League All Star Game on Jan. 30 at De Paul University's Alumni Hall in Chicago, coach Dean Meminger will coach the East, and the Stars are leading the East Division with a 17-4 record, and is the best in the league, the NYC team can't draw at home. They average about 1,000 a game and have drawn as few as 300 people to the Garden, while drawing 3,800 when they trounced the Chicago Hustle in Chicago. Low attendance of the New York

Knicks was blamed on a losing team and an all-black team. But the Stars are winning and it's a mixed team of six Blacks and six whites. So, what gives?

The famous tap dancing group, The Copasetics, who recently excited everybody at the Brooklyn Academy of Music with the "Tap Tap Who's There Show" (Nicholas Brothers, the Hoofers, Sandman Sims, Leon Colling, Dizzy Gillespie and Joe Carroll), will appear at the fund-raising buffet and disco party to benefit the Urban Tennis Academy, to be held at Les Mouches Discotheque on Tuesday, Feb. 5. Tappers include Charles Cook, Honi Coles, Bubba-Gaines, Ernest Brown, Buster Brown and Leroy Myers.

Veteran Harlem photography Austin Hansen, retired newsman St. Clair Bourne Sr., and filmmaker St. Clair Bourne, Jr. are looking for a publisher for their "Images of Harlem", a collection of the photos Hansen has made of the community during the many years he has engaged in his profession out of his 135th Street studio.

"The Jeffersons"

A big celebration with all his close friends strikes George as the perfect way to spend his 50th birthday, but everyone seems to have an excuse for turning down his invitation, on "The Jeffersons", Sunday, March 2 at 9:30 p.m. on WBTV, Channel 3.

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