

BEHIND THE SCENES

with Lisa Collins



Madonna Al B. Sure! Morgan Freeman Sidney Poitier

Arraignment Scheduled For Al B. Sure: On March 22, Warner Bros Record's heartthrob Al B. Sure is scheduled to be arraigned on charges that he raped 23-year old Monique Edwards. Sure, (whose real name is Albert Brown), and his bodyguard, Solomon Miller were both arrested on February 26 and charged with rape. The pair were released after posting \$15,000 bail each, according to West Hollywood Sheriff's station officials. Edwards, a pre-med student, is the sister of actor Stoney Jackson, co-star of "The Insiders" and "The White Shadow". Jackson reportedly summoned the police when Edwards returned to his Los Angeles home "crying and half-dressed." An attorney for the 23-year old, pre-med student, has said that aside from criminal charges, she will file a civil suit. A third party, Geffen recording artist, Chris Williams, was also named. (Williams' debut LP is slated for release this month). Meanwhile, Warner Bros has had no comment, referring all calls to Sure's attorney. Hometown friends of Sure's in Mount Vernon, New York, are shocked. "There's no way--that's not Al at all," said one. "He's not violent. He's just not that kind of guy." On the other hand, a source close to Edwards--Travis Clark, executive producer of "A Man Called Hawk", was outraged. "Black women have been raped enough in this society. This is not about money, it's about integrity and principle."...As it stands, it appears the court will determine what really happened that night. In a related incident, Stoney Jackson reportedly went after Sure with a pipe, during a performance at a Los Angeles Comedy Club. Jackson, who had to be restrained, had no comment.

Who's That Guy: Amidst the controversy surrounding Madonna's so-called blasphemous "Like A Prayer" video is an upcoming, black actor you're sure to be seeing a lot more of. Preferring to be known simply as "Leon", the 26-year old New York City native portrays the black saint that Madonna kisses. Standing 6'3", Leon has stood out in films like "Colors", "The Flamingo Kid", and "All The Right Moves", and most recently ABC-TV's four-hour presentation of "The Women of Brewster Place". In it, he plays Robin Givens' lover, and while Leon's been cast in all types of roles, it his portrayal of lover to those like Madonna and Givens that is sure to get the most mileage. During the filming of "Brewster's Place", Tyson and Givens were very much together, with Tyson on the set every day, with the exception of the day of the scheduled love scene with Leon and Robin. "Fortunately for me, it was the one day he wasn't there. I remember him telling me that he had been reading my role at home with her, and I replied to him, I just hope I do as well as you do with her, and we both laughed."

Sidney Poitier Honored: The American Museum of the Moving Image recently honored Sidney Poitier with a black-tie gala in New York. The 62-year old actor-director was quoted as saying, "It does me good to know that there are people who feel that my work has encouraged them to do this...I rather like it. Because the bulk of my life and my work is certainly behind me." Speaking of Poitier, he was Warner Bros' first choice to portray the controversial Principal Joe Clark in "Lean On Me", but turned it down (reportedly telling the studio that he didn't believe in Clark's politics). Bill Cosby and Eddie Murphy were approached, but had other commitments. Danny Glover was also considered, but the film's writer fought for Freeman who'd won an academy award nomination for his work in "Street Smart". With the raves he is getting for his portrayal of Clark, Freeman may just win a second academy award nomination. **Short Takes:**

Kim Field's current heartthrob is the eldest son of Rev. Jesse Jackson...and this columnist extends heartfelt sympathies to veteran actor Brock Peters on the passing of his wife, Didi, after a long bout with cancer...**Next week:** As earlier promised, El DeBarge talks candidly about his career and the recent drug scandal that rocked his family.

Hollywood's On Its Way To Sixth Street In Charlotte

CHARLOTTE - The first annual Hollywood On Sixth, a film and fun festival created to spotlight publicly/privately funded buildings along Sixth Street, premieres at 11:30 a.m., Saturday, April 1, in uptown Charlotte.

The festival will feature free films, videos and commercials produced in North Carolina, mimes, jugglers, strolling street musicians, celebrity look-alikes, balloons, T-shirts, posters, art exhibits, delicious foods and theme park characters. Film industry notables will provide exhibits and lectures.

"There's something for everyone," says Hollywood On Sixth Chairman Mary Jackson. "It's a family festival that's thoroughly entertaining while showcasing some uptown buildings that deserve our attention."

Hollywood On Sixth focuses on the Hollywood-themed grand opening of the Charlotte Apparel Center. The festival will be

the only time the entire center will be open to the general public.

Other publicly funded buildings along Sixth Street between Church and College will provide entertainment, Hollywood-style, while allowing visitors to see first-hand the successful public and private partnership in this area. These include Cityfair, the new Library, Spirit Square, The Dunhill Hotel, Discovery Place, The Days Hotel, The Thistle Restaurant and many others.

Retailers and commercial outlets in the area will feature interactive exhibits as well as entertainment.

The festival runs from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Hollywood On Sixth is sponsored by the Central Charlotte Association/Charlotte Chamber, the Charlotte Uptown Development Corporation, the City of Charlotte and WSOC-TV.



THE CAST: (Back row) Lynn Hamilton and Pat Crowley; (middle row) Taurean Blacque and Joan Pringle, Gail Ramsey and Andrew Masset and Kelly Rutherford; (bottom row) Sharon Brown, Kristoff St. John and Nancy Sorel.

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GENERATIONS

New Soap Centers On Two Families: One Black, One White

"Generations," a contemporary daytime drama set in Chicago, centers on the relationships of two families - one white, the Whitmores; one black, the Marshalls - whose lives have been linked for several generations.

Vowing to overcome her humble beginnings, Ruth grows into a savvy and enterprising woman. Her strength and determination to improve her position in life fuels the ambitions of her husband, Henry (Blacque). With the help of their long time friend Rebecca Whitmore, an attorney, Henry was able to finance his own business, Marshall's Ice Cream. With five stores, he now provides a prosperous life for his family and Vivian, who lives with them. Their three children are Chantal (Brown), a lawyer; Jacquelyn Marshall Rhymes, a homemaker and mother; and Adam Marshall (St. John), a college student.

Rebecca Whitmore, who was heiress to her father's fortune, suffered an enormous financial and emotional setback when her ex-husband, Peter, squandered her inheritance without her knowledge. As a divorced mother forced to make it on her own, she earned a law degree and works at a prestigious law firm. Her daughter, Laura, has been married many years to successful advertising executive Trevor McCallum (Masset) and has three children, the oldest being Monique (Sorel), a college

student. Rebecca's other children are J.D. Whitmore (role to be cast), a once successful rock star who struggles to make a comeback, and Stephante (Rutherford) -- nicknamed Sam -- also a college student.

The series stars: Anthony Adabbo ("Loving"), Jonelle Allen ("Two Gentlemen of Verona"), Taurean Blacque (who was nominated for a 1982 Emmy for "Hill Street Blues"), Sharon Brown ("Dreamgirls"), Pat Crowley ("Dynasty"), George Deloy ("Days Of Our Lives"), Rick Flitts ("The Hanol Hilton"), Lynn Hamilton ("Sanford and Son"), Andrew Masset ("Days Of Our Lives"), Joan Pringle ("The White Shadow"), Gail Ramsey ("General Hospital"), Barbara Rhoades ("You Again"), Kelly Rutherford ("Loving"), Nancy Sorel ("One Life To Live") and Kristoff St. John ("Charlie and Company").

Two time Emmy nominee Sally Sussman ("The Young and the Restless") is the creator, executive producer and head writer. Three time Emmy winner Ruby Vejar ("The Young and the Restless") is the co-executive producer and will direct multiple episodes. "Generations" is an Old Forest Hill Production in association with NBC Productions.

The link between the Marshall and the Whitmore families extends back three generations to

when Vivian Potter (Hamilton) (Pringle), lived in the Whitmore mansion. Vivian worked as housekeeper and nanny for Re-

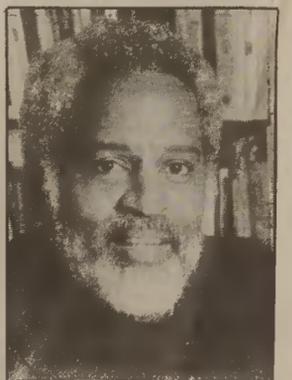
becca Whitmore (Crowley) and her daughters Laura (Ramsey) and Sam (Rutherford), and son J.D.

Noted Sociologist Consults On Series

"The framework of these two families of distinctly separate races provides a rich fabric for exploring both personal and social relationships," says Dr. Troy Duster, special consultant to "Generations."

A professor of sociology at the University of California, Berkeley, Duster emphasizes that "Generations" is more than a metaphor. "It represents what's happening in America now. As a nation, we encourage and support upward mobility. My specific role as a consultant is to provide a contemporary perspective and to add texture from my field when the three main story components -- race relations, social mobility and family relations -- intersect."

Duster feels that a shift in social and economic status, such as that portrayed in the "Generations" time span, can alter the nature of relations between the races: "While many blacks, for instance, are still economically insecure, a sizable portion of the black population, no longer in menial labor, re-



Duster

lates to whites as equals. Frequently, the blacks have even higher social and economic status. In "Generations," the two sets of families stay in contact during this gradual change in status and that makes for some interesting dramatic tension."