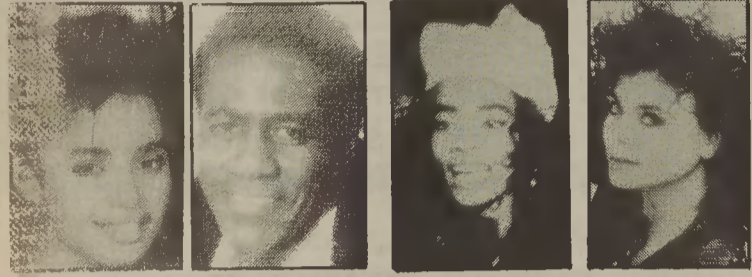


BEHIND THE SCENES

with Lisa Collins



Bonet Green Watley Abdul

Pryor Puffs Up Film Profile: Richard Pryor seems to have had a change of heart toward the press. In fact, not only was he on hand for interviews to promote his latest movie, "See No Evil, Hear No Evil", but he appeared to open up. Of course, no one was surprised. With his recent string of box office failures, Pryor is looking for exposure and doing everything within his power to insure that his most recent film release, teaming him once again with Gene Wilder, is a success. Said Pryor: "I have to do good work". However, industry sources say that the upcoming "Harlem Nights" and teaming Pryor with comedian-superstar Eddie Murphy is more likely to be the vehicle to turn things around for Pryor. Pryor, in fact, scratched plans for a concert tour, to begin work on the movie which is due to be released sometime around Thanksgiving.

It's Nobody's Business But... Reports are that the latest run-in between heavyweight champion Mike Tyson and ex-wife Robin Givens at the Beverly Hills party of a top entertainment lawyer, was for a change, without fanfare. In fact, word is Givens abruptly left the party when she walked in the room to find two lovelies on the lap of her ex-hubby.

Lisa Bonet Heads Home: Don't be surprised to see Lisa Bonet back at home on "The Cosby Show" full time, next season. And while, NBC officially has nothing to say on the matter, sources close to the show, indicate it's a sure bet. Meanwhile, Bonet's musician-husband, 24-year old Lenny Kravitz, expects a mid-summer release for his debut LP, "Let Love Rule"....**Speaking of the Cosby Show,** believe it or not, it served as inspiration to the creators of the Fox-TV Network's most popular and highly controversial show, "Married With Children." Said co-creator, Mike Woye, who is black, "I'd look at the show and everybody was always so happy. You say to yourself, 'where are these people? I've never been in a house like this. Doesn't anyone speak for the man who doesn't have this?' It was then that he co-creator Ron Levin decided to show the other side. "Now, with our show--you watch the Bundy's--you look at the horrors of their life and then you look at your wife and kids and say--"we don't have it so bad."

Abdul & Watley Go Head To Head For Top Spot: Heavy rotation to radio air play has propelled "Forever Your Girl" by Paula Abdul to No. 1 on the nation's pop charts, surpassing Jody Watley's "Real Love." And while Watley tends to have the lead in sales, Abdul is emerging as a major new artist of 1989, with back-to-back smash singles for her third and fourth releases from the "Forever Your Girl" album. Ironically enough, the album's first two singles failed to reach the top 40.

Short Takes: Run D.M.C. has added a new twist to Ray Parker's famed "Ghostbuster's" theme which is being released in conjunction with the opening of "Ghostbusters II", which is set for June 16...Gladys Knight has been tapped to do the theme song to the new James Bond thriller--"License To Kill"...Aretha Franklin is opening an art gallery in Detroit...Sugar Ray Leonard is joining the nation's jet set with his purchase of a home in the posh skiing resort of Aspen, Colorado.

Is Al Green Returning To Secular Music? No, was the word from Green backstage at this year's Grammy Awards, but some industry sources are reporting that a restless Green, who defected from secular music in favor of a career in gospel music, misses the spotlight. His latest LP, "I Get Joy", features a cut ("As Long As We're Together") that was remixed and produced by none other than Al B. Sure! In fact, A&M is playing down the spiritual while beefing up its marketing efforts on this LP. **Next week: Find out where Al Green is coming from.**

Comedy Zone Opens Second Location

The Comedy Zone proudly announces the June 6th opening of its second Charlotte location at 5317 East Independence Blvd., in the Independence Promenade Shopping Center behind T.G.I.Fridays.

The Comedy Zone is the largest comedy club chain in the country with 74 clubs from Maryland to Florida and from the Atlantic to the Mississippi. Plans are underway to open clubs in Jamaica, Aruba, Memphis, Phoenix, San Diego and San Francisco. Brad Greenberg, president of The Comedy Zone, says, "The new club will be one of the five largest, full-time comedy clubs in the country and will be state-of-the-art specifically designed for comedy."

The Comedy Zone will feature five-star headliners, beginning with Todd Yohn, who recently appeared on Showtime and was the headliner for the original Comedy Zone location New Year's Eve," says Greenberg. "Many of our middle acts receive top billing elsewhere." Upcoming superstars will include "The Smothers Brothers" Pat Paulson, "Night Court's" Marsha War-

field "A Different World's" Sinbad, Bob Saget, Shirley "What's Happening" Hemphill, Willie Tyler & Lester, James Gregory and Hypnotist Mike Harvey just to name a few. Greenberg says, "If you've seen them on Carson, Letterman, HBO, or Showtime, you'll see them live at The Comedy Zone." The comedians will be performing Tuesday through Sunday at 8:30 p.m. with additional shows Friday and Saturday at 10:45 p.m.

Inside The Comedy Zone you will find Arnie's Comic Cafe. Headlining for Arnie's will be the best in specialty sandwiches, personal pizzas, and homemade desserts. The cafe also will display part of the largest collection of original comic strip art in the state of North Carolina. Every Tuesday night, in conjunction with national comedians, The Comedy Zone will present The Comedy Zone All-Stars, entertainers trying to break into the national comedy scene. The All-Stars will conduct workshops on a weekly basis covering the basic aspects of stand-up and improvisational techniques.

View 100 Years Of Black Art

"African-American Artists 1880-1987" Opens To The Public At The Afro Center June 3

"Social and political events of the past 150 years have exerted a powerful influence on the emergence of African-American art as a distinct form of expression."

Germaine Juneau
Project Director
Smithsonian Institution
Traveling Exhibition Service

On June 3 "African-American Artists 1880-1987: Selections from the Evans-Tibbs Collection" will open for the general public at Charlotte's Afro-American Cultural Center. This exhibit of 71 drawings, oil paintings and watercolors will provide for many the first opportunity to see a collection of rarely seen works by the master black artists of the 19th and 20th centuries.

Included are works by Edward Bannister, Jacob Lawrence, Romare Bearden, Alma Thomas, Lois Mailou Jones and Grafton Tyler Brown.

The exhibition is organized by the Evans-Tibbs Collection and the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES). The Afro Center is the only site in the southeast region scheduled to receive the exhibit which SITES is traveling nationally through April 1992.

"This is an exhibit that will impress and astound those of us of African-American descent. But most importantly, this exhibit of 100 years of black art

will provide the viewing public with the opportunity to realize how rich and diverse African-American culture has been and is," says Vanessa Greene, executive director of the Afro-American Cultural Center.

In preparation for this major exhibit, the Afro Center closed for the week of May 22 - 27. The Center's building is being repainted and the grounds are being spruced up.

A preview reception for members of the Afro Center will be held Friday, June 2 from 6:30 to 9 p.m.

Visitors from throughout the southeast region are expected to see "African-American Artists 1880-1987" while it is on view at the Center through July 16. Clubs, churches, and organizations are encouraged to call the Center to schedule tours during the exhibition.

Exhibition Description

African-American artistic expression flourished following Reconstruction. Black artists created traditions that have continued to influence directions in black art. This exhibition, which includes works from the 1880s to the 1980's, takes a revealing look at these traditions.

Prior to the abolition of slavery and the Reconstruction of southern states, many black artists and craftspeople were slaves. A limited number of free



The Red Star, 1970. Raymond Saunders

northern blacks trained as artists, but most were obligated to fulfill other demands. The enactment of the 13th Amendment

gave former slaves the choice of how to spend their time. More Afro-Americans now had the leisure to experiment artistically.

Understandably, some of the first nationally recognized artists were from free northern backgrounds. Edward Mitchell Bannister, a painter influenced by the Barbizon school, was one of the first black artists to be recognized by the American art establishment. In the late 1800's, William A. Harper and William E. Scott hoped to develop their talent and careers by study abroad with the established expatriate painter Henry O. Tanner.

The Negro Renaissance of the 1920's brought African-Americans and their art to the attention of a wider American public. Aaron Douglas, Richmond Barthe, and others working in an African-American stylistic vocabulary defined a context for black art.

Later, the Urban League, the Federal Works Progress Administration programs, the Harmon Foundation and other assistance groups, as well as the emerging private sector galleries played an important role in encouraging the work of blacks. The civil rights climate and the evolution of Modernism also shaped this legacy.

The exhibition maps the course of African-American visual artistic achievement. It also addresses the complex stylistic associations as broad as the Minimalism and Africoba movements of the 1970's.

The Evans-Tibbs Collection

The primary purpose of the Evans-Tibbs Collection remains that of referencing and exhibiting works of art by African-American artists of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Nestled in the heart of the Shaw district, this rare gem of artistic excellence presents an important and growing collection of quality work by African-American artists."

David C. Driskell
Professor of Art
University of Maryland,
College Park

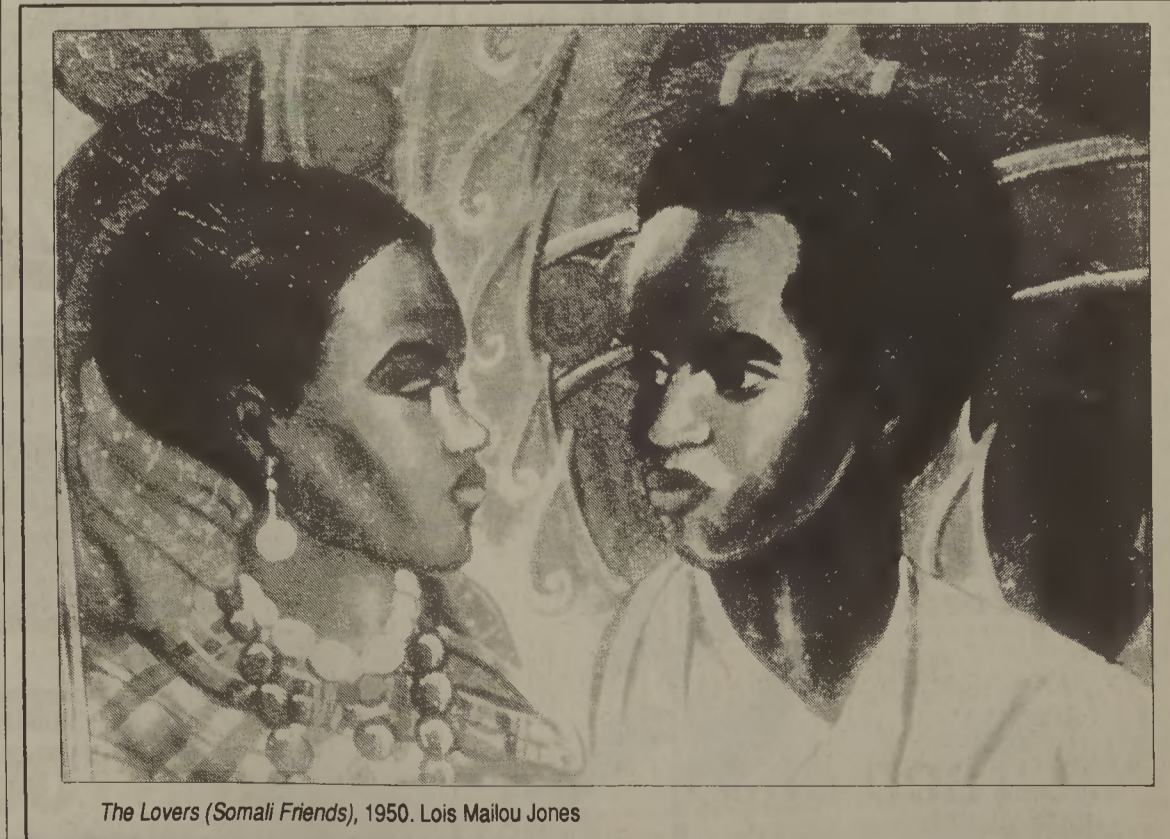
The Evans-Tibbs Collection is located in a national historic townhouse in Washington D.C. that also contains a 6,000 volume library. Originally owned by Lillian Evans Tibbs --- a black American opera star of the 1920's known internationally as Madame Evanti --- the residence became a haven for artists, activists and intellectuals.

Madame Evanti's grandson, Thurlow Evans Tibbs Jr. has preserved her legacy by establishing the art collection and producing videos and other other public history documents about his grandmother and other black American artists.

Persons interested in viewing "African-American Artists 1880-1987: Selections from the Evans-Tibbs Collection" should contact the Afro Center at (704) 374-1565.



Aspiration, 1936. Aaron Douglas



The Lovers (Somali Friends), 1950. Lois Mailou Jones