

BEHIND THE SCENES

With LISA COLLINS



HALL

Arsenio's Reality Check: "We need to realize -- whether it's the South African apartheid or the smaller apartheid here in America -- how important it is for us to focus on and stop black on black crime. You can't fight an institutionalized racist system when the biggest kill of your troop is yourself." Words more than likely seen as uncharacteristic for Arsenio Hall? But today Hall's getting busy with the promotion of "Bohpa!" a film he financed and executive-produced, and whose stellar cast includes Alfre Woodard and Danny Glover. "Movies like this," Hall says, "remind you and refocus you on the real issues. The script's been around a long time. The rea-

cape." Thus far, the one thing Hall has successfully been able to elude is marriage. But Hall insists that it's not by choice. "I'd love to be married and have kids," he says. "The reason I'm not is because I've taken a selfish approach to this career thing. Then too, one of the other things I have to deal with is that I have to learn how to trust. And that goes beyond relationships to people who you thought were a buddy and find out later that they thought you could get them a record deal. That there was always a goal.



GOLDBERG

Those kinds of things force you to keep the wall up on a lot of levels." For now, Hall says he'd like to do more film--both acting and producing. "And one day," he notes, "if I feel that I can handle it, I'd love to direct. In fact, I hope to live a long life because I've got a lot of stuff to do." Last week, Hall was on hand in Los Angeles for a benefit premiere of the film last week at the Directors Guild Association Theater that drew director Morgan Freeman, stars Danny Glover, Alfre Woodard, and a host of other Hollywood celebrities including Mike Farrell, Shelly Fabares, Sidney Poitier, Will Smith, Michael Ontkean, Bob Guillaume, John Savage, Blair Underwood and Steven Seagal. Guests feasted on black bean salad, Indonesian chicken, pizza and fresh fruit.

President's Choice: Motown took entertainment duties at the Congressional Black Caucus' annual dinner gala with a stellar lineup including Shanice Wilson, Stevie Wonder, Martha Reeves and Boyz II Men. But talk about a tough house. One of the few guests seeming to give the performers any attention was President Bill Clinton. But that's attention enough for Boyz II Men, who perform again for the president on October 30 at the "President's Night At The Ford Theater"



GLOVER

son it hadn't been done is because it's not one of those projects that makes a lot of money. I will lose more money than I will like, but I'll be happy." Hall was strongly moved by the strong message of family against the backdrop of cruel apartheid. Says Hall: "It can make you think about how all of us must deal with racism no matter where we are. (Yes, even Arsenio Hall). It's more a part of my life than entertainment, and because it's not a socio-economically based problem, having money doesn't help you to es-

benefit in Washington, D.C. (Their upcoming album, "Christmas Interpretations" releases on October 5).

Whoopi Gets Classic? Whoopi Goldberg has reportedly been meeting with Warner executives about a remake of the 1957 classic, "A Face In The Crowd." In it, Andy Griffith starred as a country hick transformed into a TV celebrity and crackerbarrel philosopher onscreen but a megalomaniac in his personal life. In the '90s version, Goldberg would star as a wildly popular, contemporary TV talk show hostess. Meanwhile, Goldberg's legal problems seem to be growing. She recently lost a round in court when a judge refused to dismiss the allegations of T. Rex Productions Inc. that Goldberg agreed to star in a project, then abruptly pulled out. A similar case sent actress Kim Basinger to bankruptcy court. The trial was due to begin this week. (Sister Act II is slated for release December 10). **By the way:** Frank Sinatra's upcoming album due mid-October will feature duets with Aretha Franklin, Luther Vandross and Natalie Cole ... **Next week: Hammer's financial troubles.**

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