

LISA COLLINS

Behind The Scenes



Behind the Scenes - Jumping The Broom:

In a beautiful star-studded ceremony on the back lawn of their sprawling S a n Fernando Valley home, "Martin" co-star Tisha Campbell tied the knot with longtime boyfriend actor Duane Martin (of "Out All Night" fame) over the weekend. Fellow "Martin" castmate Tichina Arnold served as the matron of honor, while bridesmaids included "Boston Commons" co-star Tasha Smith, r&b teen sensation Brandy Norwood, and Jada Pinkett (who was on crutches from a fall she says she sustained while romping with her four rottweilers). Among the groomsmen were Pinkett's beau Will Smith and Kadeem Hardison, whose longtime girlfriend Chante



SMITH

Moore sang. The very pregnant Moore (who is due in September) was accompanied by Patrice Rushen, who served as musical director. Among the more than 200 guests standing at attention as Campbell walked down the aisle in a gorgeous, draping white satin dress (and then later jumping the broom) were Boyz II Men's Shawn Stockman, fellow "Martin" casters, Carl Payne, Tommy Ford and Martin Lawrence, with wife Pat; Sheryl Lee Ralph, A.J. Johnson, BeBe Winans, rapper M.C. Lyte, singer Adina Howard, Chicago Bulls star John Salley, and nearly all of the Wayans clan - Keenen, Damon and Shawn included. Guests dined on soul food and danced into the night. Will Smith's 3-year-old son charmed the crowd as he broke into a break dance and the snake in the middle of a "Soul Train line" formed by guests.

Seeing Double: You're going to be seeing a lot more of former "Roc" star Charles Dutton as NBC-TV has snagged him to develop a one-hour drama series for the 1997-98 season. A six-episode commitment has been granted for the project which he'll star in and exec produce for his own production company. Meanwhile, Dutton also has a deal with Warner Bros TV to develop, produce and star in movies for TV. And if that wasn't enough, the robust actor has starring roles in "Mimic,"

an upcoming thriller from Miramax Films opposite Mira Sorvino; and Spike Lee's "Get On The Bus." The NBC deal comes at a time when the major networks have taken heat for cutting back on programming designed to reach urban audiences. (NBC has none scheduled on the forthcoming fall lineup.)

Out this week: Is Singer Rick James, who is scheduled for release from Folsom State Prison after serving three years for sexually assaulting a West Hollywood woman. He was acquitted on a torture count that could have sent him to prison for life back in 1993 and later got his sentence cut in half when the judge learned that an investigator on the case had smuggled heroin into jail for the chief prosecution witness. Upon his release, the 47 year-old singer is expected to sign a contract with Raging Bulls Records an independent label launched this year. Word is that James has written more than 400 songs while doing time. On the personal side, he'll marry Tanya Hijazi, his co-defendant in the case and the mother of his 4 year-old son.

So much to talk about: Six-foot 7-inch drag queen, recording artist and personality extraordinaire RuPaul is getting his/her own late-night celebrity talk show this year on VH-1. The 30-minute show, which recently began production at the VH-1 studios in

New York, will be broadcast weekly beginning October 12. Confirmed guests include Eartha Kitt, Dennis Rodman, Whoopi Goldberg, Cher and Dionne Warwick. "The RuPaul Show" will air in the 11 p.m. slot. By the way: Pat Lawrence (the wife of Martin Lawrence) is currently being pitched to host a daytime talk show currently being developed by King World...Sidney Poitier, in post production of Showtime's "Mandela," will play the director of the FBI for his next film, "Day Of The Jackal" with Richard Gere and Bruce Willis...And emmy nominated "Homicide" co-star Andre Braugher joins Dustin Hoffman in "Sphere," based on Michael Crichton's 1987 novel about the discovery of a spaceship 1,000 feet underwater in the South Pacific. The film goes into production in January, when Braugher gets some time off from the series.

THE EXCELSIOR

921 Beatties Ford Rd. • 334-5709

WEEKLY FEATURES:

- Tue. "FISH NIGHT" All you can eat \$5, DISCO following
- Wed. R&R
- Fri. & Sat. DISCO with C.C.
- Sunday - LIVE MUSIC or DISCO



FORD'S USED TIRES

NEW TIRES NEW TIRES NEW TIRES

- Brake Job - Labor \$25.00
- Oil Change - Labor \$17.95



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Veteran actor Joe Seneca dies at home

By Catherine Crocker ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK - Joe Seneca, who turned his work as a song-and-dance performer into an illustrious acting career in serious, acclaimed movies about slavery, black leaders and human dignity, has died.

He died Thursday morning from an asthma attack at his home on Roosevelt Island, said Dulcina Eisen, his agent. She said he had never revealed his age but she estimated he was in his late 70s.

Seneca most recently was seen as Rev. Street in the movie "A Time to Kill," the courtroom thriller from the John Grisham novel. Two weeks ago, he finished filming a movie about slavery for British television called "The Longest Memory."

His first big film was "The Verdict," in which he played the key witness opposite Paul Newman.

Eisen said Seneca was the only client she had in 24 years who would never do a television series. He did not want to be the same character every week he didn't want to be cute and he wanted to do important things.

HOW TO RECOGNIZE A "McHERO" IN YOUR COMMUNITY.

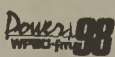
The Reverend Martin Luther King, Harriett Tubman, Malcolm X and other great leaders of the past have helped make a difference in the African-American community. As we continue to accomplish this goal, the local McDonald's owner/operators will recognize local citizens making an impact on the African-American community. You can help McDonald's honor these citizens by nominating a local "McHero". In September, 10 people will be chosen for their outstanding achievements. McDonald's invites you to help us show our heroes that we appreciate their achievements.



HAVE YOU HAD YOUR BREAK TODAY?

The Charlotte Post

Nomination Form



Name _____
 Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Telephone Number _____

Person Nominating Community Hero

Name _____
 Telephone Number _____



*Mail completed nomination form and summary to: Karen Tyson, c/o McDonald's, 3200 Beechleaf Court, Suite 300, Raleigh, NC 27604.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Kids Challenge: The Mecklenburg County Park And Recreation Department hosted an Olympic "field day-style" event for approximately 1500 area youth who participated in the summer day camp program. The Coca-Cola Community Team was on hand to provide ice cold products for the participants.

"Carolina Black Family Reunion"

The 4th Annual Carolina Black Family Reunion is happening, Sunday, September 1st at Independence Park across from Memorial Stadium. There will be live bands vendors, food and games. Call 567-8989 for more details.

"Climbing Jacob's Ladder"

The Afro-American Cultural Center is honored to present an exhibition that examines the beginning of African-American churches. The exhibit titled, "Climbing Jacob's Ladder: The Rise of Black Churches in Eastern American Cities" will open on Friday, September 6, 1996 with a reception at 6:00 p.m. For more information call 374-1565.

"Val-U-Cleaners Grand Opening"

Val-U-Cleaners has opened it's doors at 3201-B Beatties Ford Rd to the West Charlotte Community and would like to invite you to its grand opening celebration, Friday, August 30th, starting at 4:00 p.m. Stop by an see or call Phyllis Jefferies at 393-9353 and ask about the weekly specials.

"It Takes A Whole Village to Raise A Child"

You are invited to join Dr. Benjamin Hinton and the Tabernacle Baptist Church Family on Saturday, August 24th, at 3:00 p.m., as they march from the doors of the Family Life Center to the Gaston County Courthouse. The theme of the march is to spread the message that it takes a whole village to raise a child. Call the Women's Conference Committee at 864-4051 for more information.

"Here's How You Can Be Connected"

Submit, in writing, on your organization's letterhead, the title of your event, date location, contact person and telephone number for your activity to:

Community Connection

5001 Chesapeake Dr. Charlotte, NC 28216 Attn: Jeff Lowery . Phone 393-4365. Fax 393-4265

If you are interested in the Coca-Cola Community Music Van appearing at your non profit event call: 393-4365. Fax 393-4265.



Sprite Hornets Road Show: The Sprite Hornets Road Show was a big attraction at the Park and Recreation Kid Challenges, fifteen area recreation centers competed in the basketball competition and other activities. Look out for the Road Show at the Bi-lo's on Eastway Drive on Thursday, August 22nd, and Bi-lo's on Freedom Drive on Friday, August 23rd from 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.