

Entertainment

Famous Stars And Newcomers Blend In Murphy Movie

Eddie Murphy's "Coming To America" is an exciting ensemble of black acting talent, ranging from famous stars to promising newcomers.

Murphy is the prince of a mythical African kingdom who travels to New York in search of a bride in the contemporary romantic comedy also starring Arsenio Hall.

In Zamunda, Prince Akeem lives a life of wealth beyond imagining, surrounded by servants who fulfill his every wish. But he is one thing money can't buy—a bride he loves and who will love him for who he is, not what he is. Accompanied by his loyal, royal companion Semmi (Arsenio Hall), the prince leaves his life of luxury to look for his princess.

Based on a story by Murphy, "Coming To America" is the second teaming of Murphy and director John Landis, following Paramount's hit comedy "Trading Places," which received the NAACP's Image Award as the best picture of 1983.

Offscreen pals Murphy and Hall had wanted to work together for years, but the right project never materialized until Eddie conceived "Coming To America."

After gaining prominence as the host of "The Late Show," Hall makes his motion picture debut in the new movie. It is hall's first in the exclusive motion picture agreement he recently signed with Paramount. Hall describes his character as "a sort of adopted nephew of the royal family."

James Earl Jones and Midge Sinclair are the prince's majestic parents, the King and Queen of Zamunda.

Jones, quoting the script, describes his character as "not just a king but a concerned dad." Jones recently won his second Tony Award for his starring role in the Broadway play "Fences." He won the first for "The Great White Hope" and earned an Oscar nomination for his movie debut in the motion picture adaptation.

His other movies include "Gardens of Stone," "Conan the Barbarian" and "Claudine." He also provided the voice of Darth Vader for the "Star Wars" trilogy.

"She's a monarch but she's a mother first," Midge Sinclair appraises her role. She was selected to audition for the part of the queen after Landis saw her

cameo performance as a spaceship commander in "Star Trek IV." In addition to her many movie and stage credits, Sinclair was Nurse Shoop for six seasons of "Trapper John, M.D." and appeared in the miniseries "Roots."

Shari Headley plays the coveted role opposite Murphy in his first romantic comedy. She makes her motion picture debut as Lisa, the beautiful, independent-minded New Yorker whom Prince Akeem falls in love.

Headley was chosen from more than 1,000 candidates. "This is the kind of fairytale role every girl dreams of," she says. Portraying the daughter of a Queens businessman, Headley herself was born and raised in Queens. A top model before beginning her acting career, she made her professional acting debut on "The Cosby Show" and has also guest-starred on "Miami Vice."

"We wanted an unknown, a face as new to us as it is to Prince Akeem," Landis states. "Shari is beautiful, photogenic and vivacious. She projects charm and intelligence. And she's from Queens!"

John Amos plays Lisa's enterprising father. Amos describes Mr. McDowell as "a real entrepreneur; a man with a big idea." Amos received a best actor Emmy nomination for "Roots" and starred in the hit series "Good Times." Just prior to filming "Coming To America," Amos toured in his two-man play "A Tribute to Great Black Men."

Eriq LaSalle, whose credits include the movie "Five Corners," plays Lisa's trendy and obnoxious boyfriend, Darryl. LaSalle remembers that he was unusually relaxed about auditioning for the part. "I had heard a rumor that another actor had a lock on the role. When I got it I was ecstatic."

"There's nothing like starting at the top," says Allison Dean. The part of Lisa's uninhibited sister, Patrice, in "Coming To America" is Dean's first film role. "They cast me against type. I'm basically shy, but Patrice flirts like crazy with Prince Akeem. She's a little on the wild side."

Prior to her role in the movie, Vanessa Bell's only previous motion picture acting experience was a scene with Billy Dee Williams in "Number One with a Bullet." Bell portrays the Zamundan beauty who has been



COVETED ROLE—Shari Headley plays the coveted role opposite Eddie Murphy in his first romantic comedy, *Coming To America*, now playing at the Terrace Twin.

trained from birth to be the perfect wife for a royal husband. "She genuinely wants to please the prince," Bell says. "Before my audition with Eddie Murphy, John Landis told me not to play it subservient but to play it sincere."

The film is currently playing at the Terrace Twin.

The cast of "Coming to America" also includes newcomer Paul Bates as Oba, prime minister of Zamunda; comedian Louie Anderson as a fast-food career man; Broadway veteran Frankie Faison as Akeem's New York landlord; and Calvin Lockhart as Zamunda Col. Izzi. Making a special cameo appearance in the film is music legend Randy Watson, performing with his new group, Sexual Chocolate. Some of the world's most beautiful women appear as members of the royal entourage.

Interest in model railroad-ing as a hobby began after the Chicago World's Fair of 1933-34. Model railroad exhibits at the fair spurred this interest.

wrote and produced an enormously catchy uptempo dance tune called "Dreamin'" by a group he called Will to Power. Issued on Rosenberg's own Thrust Records, "Dreamin'" shot to No. 1 in Miami and was quickly picked up for national distribution by Epic Records. Will to Power's "Dreamin'" stayed at No. 1 in Miami for 11 consecutive weeks and became, hands down, the biggest local record of 1987 and a top 40 Billboard pop chart.

But Rosenberg wasn't just sitting back and watching his record climb the charts. Bob became a pioneer of so-called "Hot" radio with his high-energy programming and mixing at WHQT-FM ("Hot 105") in Miami. This format burst out of the Sunshine State to sweep urban markets across the country—with Will to Power riding the crest of the wave.

"The so-called 'Hot' sound has already been around longer than many people predicted," says Bob. "Now it's undergoing different permutations in different parts of the country. There are distinct variations coming out of New York, Chicago, D.C., Miami... and it's got a lot more growing to do."

Run-DMC Guard Gets Prison Term

A former bodyguard for the rap group Run-DMC was sentenced to four years in prison for involuntary manslaughter in the death of a man at a concert in California two years ago.

Garfield Brown was originally charged with murder but pleaded guilty to a lesser offense of manslaughter in the death of Alex Baldwin, 21.

Police said several fights broke out during a Run-DMC concert at Selland Arena in Fresno, Calif. in August 1986, and Brown and the two other bodyguards left the stage to restore order. Brown was charged with throwing Baldwin to the concrete floor and kicking him. Baldwin died of head injuries two weeks later.

WRAL-TV Planning For New Look In The Fall

Early evening television on WRAL-TV 5 takes on a new look this fall, according to plans released last week by the station.

The schedule will feature two 30-minute entirely different locally produced newscasts rather than the current hour-long program. The first newscast, "Live at 5:30," will include a brief update on news of the day, recreational weather, human interest sports stories and live on-location segments. WRAL-TV "News at 6" will be a more traditional newscast featuring Charlie Gaddy, Bob DeBaradelaben and Tom Suiter, the nation's top-rated anchor team.

Leading into news programming at 5 p.m. will be "Cosby," the nation's No. 1-rated television show. "CBS News" will be aired at 6:30 p.m., followed at 7 p.m. by the planned premiere of "USA Today." The new evening lineup is tentatively scheduled to begin Oct. 3 when "Cosby" becomes available.

Changes in the approach to news programming are being made to reflect the lifestyles and preferences of today's viewers, according to John Greene, Sr., vice president and general manager of WRAL-TV. "This is an option we have been researching and considering for more than two years."

"We are always looking for innovative ways to meet our viewers' needs and at the same time fulfill our responsibility as a licensee," he continued. "Independent research has shown that today's viewers have more demands on their time. Two out of three prefer shorter newscasts and

newscasts which reflect their personal interests. This is not just an eastern North Carolina phenomenon, it's a trend nationwide."

Station manager Paul Quinn called the move "tremendously exciting. With this format, we can serve all our viewers, whether they prefer a shorter, earlier newscast, a shorter 6 o'clock news or an hour of news." Quinn emphasized that the newscasts will be complementary, but distinctly different.

"Sixty-six percent of all adults say television is the medium they turn to most often for news, according to a 1988 Roper survey," said Quinn. "At WRAL-TV, we're very aware that such confidence carries with it a great responsibility."

A CBS affiliate, WRAL-TV has been a leader in television broadcasting in North Carolina since it first went on the air in 1956. It was the first area television station to use a satellite to relay live coverage of a major news story, the first television station on the East Coast to have a portable satellite truck for news coverage, the first station in the country to begin a regional television news network and among the first with a microwave-equipped helicopter.

WRAL-TV was recently selected by View, a national broadcasting trade magazine, as one of the top television stations in the nation, the only North Carolina station to be so designated. The magazine said the selection was based on an outstanding achievement in five categories including programming strategy/scheduling and local news/program production.

CenterFest Brings Action And Talent With Annual Celebration

DURHAM—The Durham Arts Council will present its 15th annual street arts festival, CenterFest, a festival celebrating the arts and the opening of the new arts center in downtown Durham.

CenterFest will kick off with the blues on Friday night as the council presents the first annual Bull Durham Blues Festival. The blues festival will feature guitarist Otis Rush, Chicago blues band Big Twist and the Mellow Fellows, New Orleans funky Dr. John, soulstress Denise LaSalle, the rockin' zydeco blues of Terrace Simien and the Mallet Playboys and much, much more. The Blues Festival will be held Friday and Saturday, Sept. 16 and 17, at Durham Athletic Park from 6 p.m. to midnight.

CenterFest will continue on Saturday morning with a special ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially open the new arts center. Immediately following the opening ceremonies the festival will begin. This year's schedule will feature performances by Burlington's Bass Mountain Boys, one of North Carolina's fastest rising bluegrass stars, and Richmond, Va.'s Awareness Art Ensemble, one of the premiere reggae bands in the Southeast.

An outdoor art gallery will greet festival-goers in the visual arts area as more than 100 of the area's outstanding artists and craftsmen exhibit in downtown Durham. Original handcrafted artwork by this group of

select artists will create a walkway of choices. Even the youngest festival participant can celebrate the arts at CenterFest, in "Children's Area." The young and the old join in the wonder of creating in this special place.

A spectacle of sight, sound and taste will greet festival-goers at CenterFest's International Food Court. Featuring flavorful fare from around the world, and regional specialties from the United States. Colorful tents and banners will transform the streets of downtown Durham into sidewalk cafes, complete with an outdoor beer garden and live entertainment. CenterFest will

be held Saturday, Sept. 17, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday, Sept. 18, from noon to 6 p.m. in downtown Durham.

CenterFest is sponsored by Cablevision and the Durham Herald and Sun newspapers.

The Blues Festival is sponsored by the Durham Arts Council and St. Joseph's Historic Foundation, Inc., in cooperation with Mad Hatter Productions.

The Durham Arts Council opening season celebration is sponsored by Glaxo, Inc.

For more information on CenterFest and other opening weekend events call 1-560-ARTS.

Eve Cornelious Holds Concert For New Album

Durham vocalist Eve Cornelious celebrates the release of her new album, "Faces of Eve," with a jazz concert at the ArtsCenter on Sunday, Aug. 28.

The appearance at the ArtsCenter is part of a hectic summer for Eve Cornelious. In the past few weeks, she has sung at Bell Chere in Asheville, the Greensboro Fourth of July Festival, and the Greensboro Coliseum.

For Eve, the concert at the ArtsCenter will be a return to very familiar ground. She has sung here on a twice-yearly basis for the past four or five years, and is a big favorite of Sunday-night jazz devotees. Appearing that night with Eve will be Chip Crawford on piano, Stanley Baird on saxophone, Calvin Jones on bass, and Marcus Crump on drums.

Her album "Faces of Eve" will be available at the concert, with a percentage of the proceeds benefiting the ArtsCenter.

The concert will start at 7:30 p.m. at the ArtsCenter, 300-G East Main St., Carrboro. Tickets will be \$6.50 for the public, and \$5.50 for friends.

Will To Power Tests Strength With Fast-Rising New Numbers

When it comes to percolating pop/dance music, Will to Power is the cream of the crop. Their self-titled Epic debut album, "Will To Power," includes their No. 1 dance hit, "Dreamin'," and the fast-rising new single, "Say It's Gonna Rain."

Will to Power is Bob Rosenberg, Suzi Carr, and Dr. J. Will to Power is the brainchild of top-ranking Miami club and radio DJ Rosenberg: producer, composer, and co-lead vocalist for Will to Power. The female leads were sung by the vivacious Suzi Carr; and Dr. J handles all the sax work.

A native of Philadelphia, Bob

Rosenberg moved to Florida in the early '70s and—over the course of the next decade—became one of the most popular club DJs in Miami, one of America's most dance-mad cities. His uncontested mastery of beats and mixes led Bob to cut a 12-inch rap single called "Miami Vice" which he (as "Vigilante") released in 1984 on Pantera Records. The track—a strong Miami club and radio favorite—was soon pulled from the market under threat of legal action from MCA/Universal, producers of the popular "Miami Vice" TV series.

The story of Bob's next vinyl effort has a far happier ending. In 1986, he



WILL TO POWER—This is a percolating pop/dance music outfit with a number one dance hit on their self-titled Epic debut album "Dreamin'," and the fast rising new single, "Say It's Gonna Rain."

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