

Ella Edwards starring in "sweet Sugar," drama showing at Uptown



ELLA EDWARDS

"SWEET SUGAR," a thrilling drama about women doing time on a sugar plantation in a little underdeveloped tropical country, is the top feature this week at the UPTOWN THEATER 42nd and College.

Starring in the Dimension Pictures release are Phyllis Elizabeth Davis and Ella Edwards, a young black star on the rise.

Perhaps you've seen Ella's face, peering at you with a smile, enticing you to buy the product she's advertising. Or maybe you've caught one of her excellent performances on "Ironside," "Dan August," "O'Hara, U. S. Treasury," or "The Bold Ones." The face belongs to Ella Edwards and whether you've seen her before or not, you're going to see a lot of her soon.

Originally, Ella wanted to be a model but it wasn't long



FEATURE AT UPTOWN: Simone, portrayed by Ella Edwards is seized by the plantation guards after chopping off the head guard's fingers in the Dimension Pictures, Inc., release of "SWEET SUGAR" featuring now showing at the UPTOWN THEATER, 42nd and College.

before she was approached by several producers and directors who encouraged her to pursue an acting career. Bored with the monotonous profession of modeling, Ella took their advice and was soon seen on such shows as "Ben Casey," "The Tycoon," and "I Dream of Jeanne."

Today, Ella is indeed a busy lady. Aside from her budding acting career, she instructs teen models and evaluates their work, entertains at juvenile de-

tention halls for the California Youth Authorities, regularly entertains the prisoners at Stockton, and, once a month, performs for the Marines at Camp Pendleton. Recently, Ella completed "Sweet Sugar" and her performance in that movie insures that she will star in many more films to come so keep your eyes open for this multi-talented lady.

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BOB WOMACK SR.

LEROY VINNERGAR, known as "The Walking Bass Man," among the musicians and the jazz buffs from coast to coast is another native son to win national acclaim in his respective field. He began his musical career right here, back in the 1940s, by walling the "up-right bass," his current instrument.

During his early career, Leroy gigged at many of the noted Indy nite spots with the sensational Jimmy Coe and his small combo and other local aggregations. In the 1950s, my friend became a featured sideman with the late Art Tatum, internationally-known jazz pianist and his trio in Chicago, Ill. Later, Vinnergar went out on his own as a featured (single) Super-star bassist.

The known artist he has played with, run into the hundreds, and span many different entertainment fields and styles. He's still the master of the four-to-the-bar walking bass that soloists have come to depend on. Now, that Leroy is fronting his own all-star recording crew from the West Coast and currently on tour of the nation, he can embellish at will and show off his solo artistry as well as his writing and own contemporary sound. His line - up consist of Dwight Dickerson, pianist, Chuck Carter, drummer, Michel Barrere, guitar and Teddy Edwards, tenor-saxsman.

We have been advised that my old friend will be in the city, sometimes next week for a short visit with his family. The cats are traveling in a new truck camper.

Vinnergar has appeared with the "Whos Who In Jazz," and has cut many platters (more than 300 albums) including - his work with Shelly Manne and Andy Devlin on the best selling list - "My Fair Lady" and his long stint with Les McCann and their hit recordings, "Compared To What," "Swiss Movement," "Les McCann Plays The Shout," and Les McCann Plays The True," with Eddie Harris at Montreaux. Also, "Bluesmith," with Jimmy Smith, just to mention a few of Leroy's more noteworthy albums.

Other topflight artists that the "Walking Bass Man," has appeared with include Lou Rawles, Steve Allen, Pearl Bailey, and husband Louis Bellson, Dizzie Gillespie, Mike Douglas, Van Morrison and Judy Collins.

Also, Carmen MacRae, Odette Miles Davis. And on and on. More credits: The film score for "An Affair of the Skin," "The Ozzie and Harriet Show" for seven television years, and his own TV special in 1973, "Do In It," station KCET-TV, Los Angeles, Calif. I understand, he is currently pluggin' a new record release. At press time, we were unable to obtain the name... So sorry. Believe Me... More power to him.

NATIONAL SCENE... Jackie Jackson, one of the stars of the J-5 singing family is being sued by his wife of 10-months for a divorce, and asking \$5,000 per month. We are wondering if the dude can sing himself out of these "happenings." ?... Lionel Hampton has split to Eu-



LEROY VINNERGAR

rope for two-months of one-enters with a 10-piece band featuring the lovely Valerie Carr on vocals.

We were very sorry to learn of the recent demise of friend Jesse "Spider" Burks down St. Louis, Mo., way. He was the "Mound's City," foremost authority on modern jazz music and one of the city's first soul disc jockeys to make it to the top in the Southland. We had the pleasure to meet him in the 1950s, when he owned, "The Toasts of Town Lounge," one of the finest in the city.

Asked recently by the black press, how it felt about losing her white-lover, super film star Richard Burton to his ex-wife Liz Taylor? Soul sister-actress Jean Bell, stated, "our relations has been off-and on for sometime, and I knew we would never get married." "Yes, I helped him to get back on 'the wagon' (stop drinking)." "The beautiful, shapely and alluring Miss. Bell won't have any trouble diggin' another dude... Believe Me!"

LOCAL SCENE... Joseph Moore Sr., And Son, one of Naptown's most popular real estate broker firms will soon move into their new office building, located at 27th and Clifton Streets. The site will include a suite of offices, equipped with the latest in fixtures, etc.

Also there will be a grocery store located on the property. Moore Sr., president, related, "he is going all out, regardless, of the expense to make his agency one of the best in the Middlewest." "Watch the column for the grand-opening (open house) date. The Moores needs no introduction to Indy, they have been in business for the last several years... Mrs. Fannie Mae Clark, widow of the late David Clark, former city policeman is convalescing at her pad after a recent illness.

Dickie Laswell, drummer, is making plans to front another combo during the Fall dancing season. Dickie is well known for his sensational work on the 'skins.' The Womack Enterprises will book the new rock aggregation for social club dates here and throughout the Middlewest... Later, for the happenings!

More than one-fifth of all owner-occupied private residences today were built under the GI home loan program administered by the Veterans Administration.

Former city man is black actor on his way to fame



JON LEI

(SPECIAL TO THE RECORDER)

Jon Lei, formerly of Indianapolis and now living in Milano, Italy, is a black entertainer you will be hearing and seeing a lot of in the near

future. He is the only American who has worked with or in the established company of Teatro San Babila di Milano, where he recently completed two films. One was with the famous Italian star, Adriana Celentano, in

'The Marijuana Affair' now ready for release

The final touches on "The Marijuana Affair", a fast paced "French Connection type" film with a distinct West Indian flavor have just been completed. The film stars the handsome, talented Calvin Lockhart as a U.S. narcotics agent, on loan to the Jamaican government.

William Greaves. The other "All-The-Fighter" is currently receiving rave reviews across the country. It is anticipated that "The Marijuana Affair" will be in theatres before the end of the year.

His mission is to uncover illicit drug traffic and wrong doing in U.S. overseas intelligence operations. Lockhart and a mixed cast of West Indian, white and Chinese actors blend well with the exotic scenery and musical background of reggae and calypso rhythms.

The film also stars the lovely Chinese actress Ingrid Want, along with Carl Bradshaw, Charles Hyatt, Rannie Williams Bob Arun and Yvet Hussey. Produced by Lucien Chen and William Greaves and directed by Williams Greaves, who also co-wrote the film. The film was produced for Film Productions Jamaica, Ltd., a new fast moving company formed only last year in Kingston, Jamaica. The company is headed by Lucien Chen and H.I. Henriques.

"The Marijuana Affair" will be the second feature film to hit the theatres this year for the award winning filmmaker



"Yuppi Du," and the other was with English film star, Charlotte Rapline, in "The Nude Princes."

Jon Lei has TV credits in all of Europe in the fields of dance, drama, and musicals. While working with the Piccola Teatro di Milano, he has had three successful plays. He has also had success with new plays, which will be used next season by the Drama Company.

On September 29, Jon Lei will be opening a series of dance concerts in Rome. He will be doing more filming and then he will return to America where he will translate American music into Italian for a new L.P. release.

In past years, Jon Lei has danced on stage with such greats as Eartha Kitt and Katherine Durham.

A graduate of Crispus Attucks High School, he has also attended Cass High in Detroit, Michigan, Indiana State, Terre Haute, John Harron Art School, and the Conservatory of Music.

With such a busy schedule of traveling and entertaining, he still found time to surprise his mother Mrs. Helen M. Gaines, 2520 Springfield Dr. and his sister Mrs. Bernice Tubbs. On September 17, Mrs. Gaines and Mrs. Tubbs surprised him with a birthday party which was enjoyed immensely by more than 200 relatives and guests.

Jon Lei has been a great asset to the black race and community by lending the world his many talents. It is a must that we as blacks continue to recognize this very talented and gifted young man.

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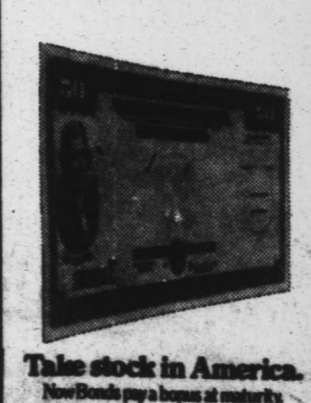
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