About Otto Preminger and Iman ...a sex kitten...she ain't

By Ida Peters

Otto Preminger is a giant in the film world. His multi-million dollar films are legendary. You don't have to be a movie buff to have heard about his 1944 "Laura", "The Man With The Golden Arm", 1955 with Frank Sinatra; his 1954 film "Carmen Jones" with Harry Belafonta, Dorothy Dandridge and Pearl Bailey and his 1959 "Porgy and Bess" with Ethel Waters and Leon Horne.

A week ago the great man, who has been in the theatre since he was 17 and who was born in Vienna Dec. 5, 1906, came to Baltimore to promote his latest flick, "The Human Factor" now playing at the Playhouse.

He's 73 now, wears a hearing aid, has a tremendous appetite and seems to be in complete command of his faculties. He strikes one as a sly dog with his bald head, (shaved daily), sunken eyes and droll wit conveniently not remembering things he doesn't want to be asked about.

New York model from Somalia, Iman as Sarah and Nicol Williamson as Castle, a spy who longs for security in "The Human Factor."

Otto Preminger producer and director "The Human Factor" visited Baltimore-Washington recently.

"The Human Factor" was produced and directed by Preminger from a screnplay by Tom Stoppard and based on the novel by Graham Greene.

Preminger says "As soon as I read 'The Human Factor' I recognized its dramatic values as a film". It is a great love story between a British secret agent and a black South African girl. It is also the story of this man, a very honest, loyal man's involvement with goverment agencies and the tragedy that results.

Otto Preminger is married to the former Hope Bryce, who has been the Costume Designer and Fashion Coordinator on many of his films. They have 19-year-old twins. His son Mark is a medical studenthere in Baltimore at Johns Hopkins.

In view of the fact that Preminger has always selected raving black beauties or sex kittens for his films . . . Diahann Carroll "Hurry Sundown"; Dorothy Dandridge, "Carmen Jones", asked the great one why he selected the high fashion model Iman.

Behind my question is the haunting thought that Iman cannot act, period end of report. In "The Human Factor" she is so out of place and is photographed so poorly that she breaks the thread of the story.

And, Preminger's direction is so loose that his characters seem to be on a drinking binge. One wag commented that if you squeezed this flick it would drip.

Preminger tried not to answer my question and then shrugged me off with "my wife selected Iman".

However, the press book says that her agent was approached about the lead part of Sarah in 1978 and the only condition was that she pass a screen test.

Preminger then coached her twice weekly in the scene of her choice before she performed it before the camera in London in April, 1979.

My comment to Preminger was that "Beauty is in the eye of the beholder" and though most reviewers have been kind to Iman, she is just too thin, awkward and collist to be the kind of girl a man will give up his country for.

Preminger told the press "I cast every part as well as I can. I make every movie as I see it and I do the best I can. I can't worry about things I can't control".

My other question to Preminger was whether he received any feed back from people objecting to the British and American governments meddling in the affairs of South Africans. The Graham Greene story shows an ugly picture of English, American and Russian intrigue.

Preminger told the sad story about how he lost the Arab money he almost had to back the flick in 1978 and he was lucky enough to sell his house in the south of France and two Matisse paintings ti finance the film.

He was asked about the son he had by Gypsy Rose Lee and he confirmed he gave a son to Gypsy at her request. He has since adopted the young man, Erik Lee who is also a Producer and Casting Director and looks like his father.

Mrs. Elizabeth Dett, treasurer of the Clever Kiquejays presented a check for $300 to Mrs. Roberta Keets (Lt manager of the Robert W. Coleman Association for the Handicapped. They money will be used to buy eyeglasses for school children whose parents cannot afford them.

Spinners to entertain at Hooks Testimonial

Jesse Walker's N.Y.

New YorkActor-singer Brock Peters will emcee the Communications Media Testimonial Dinner to Benjamin L. Hooks on Monday, May 12 at Sheraton Washington Hotel in Washington, D.C. Baltimore's Congressman Parren J. Mitchell will be the principal speaker and The Spinners will entertain.

Comedian Irwin C. Watson brings his droll humor to entertain the audience at the Sheraton Centre on May 1 when the New York Urban League has its Frederick Douglass Awards Dinner. Honorees are Arthur Mitchell, founder of the Dance Theatre of Harlem; William K. DeFossett, national president of the 369th Veteran's Association, and George Wein, president of Festival Productions and founder of the Newport Jazz Festival.

The Children's Television Workshop has donated trunkfuls of costumes from five years of "The Electric Company" to the Theatre Development Funds' Costume Collection.

Patti great!

By Robb Brown

The Lyric Theatre will never be the same after what I saw in "real" living motion.

The combined talents of both Patti Labelle and Jerry Butler proved to be a successful mixture. With the place filled to a capacity and everyone was there!

Jerry Butler a real pro showed to the B-More crowd that he is still the "Iceman". His tunes spread from the 50s to the 60s. Along with favorites such as "Western Union Man" to "Your Precious Love" which brought the house down. One to look out for is Miss Deborah Henry who sang a duet with Jerry that had the place in an uproar.

As for "Miss Patti" she did it all! She gave her all and the Baltimore crowd gave their ALL! Several of the new cuts on her new Epic album called "Released" had us all mesmerized. After singing all her new tunes she did a long version of "What Can I Do For You" which had everyone out of their seats.

If Friday nights performance is a sample of her latest promotion tour then look out everybody Patti Labelle means business and we here saw it first!

Toyce Anderson exhibit opens May 1 in D.C.

The rich and vibrant collages and prints of artists Toyce Anderson, which capture the vitality and color of contemporary life in America, will be exhibited May 1 through May 30 at the Washington World Gallery, 3065 M St., N., Washington, D.C.

Mrs. Effie Barry and Congressman and Mrs. Louis Stokes will host an opening party on May 30.

Anderson's principal themes focus on the varied, joyful aspects of the human experience. He uses color with great sensitivity—cool and muted in one context, bright and strong in another.

For his collages, Anderson demonstrates a deft handling of various materials, combining wood, colorful fabrics and other found objects to create an image that communicates and, at the same time, is eminently pleasing in its texture, harmony and rhythm.

What comes through in all his work are Anderson's zest for living and his strong desire to share that enthusiasm with the viewer.

Anderson was born in Cleveland and studied at Ohio University and Pratt Institute in New York City. He has travelled extensively in Europe and Africa and is well known internationally as an editorial and fashion illustrator.

He has exhibited at the Cooper-Hewitt Museum, Randall Galleries, and the U.S. Mission to the United Nations in New York City, as well as the

PREMIERES SUNDAY AT 6:00
Energy Crisis!! Help is Here
The Power Game
Veteran newsman Ray White hosts a series covering home energy conservation, alternative power sources, government policies, nuclear power, gasohol production, mass transportation and many other energy concerns.
The half-hour programs will include energy news, a special feature, and an interview with an expert in the energy field.
THE POWER GAME
22·28·31·36·67
MARYLAND CENTER FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING
This ad made possible in part by a grant from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting

Be A WWINer
$15,000.00
in cash and prizes
WWIN
1400 AM 24 hrs. a day

BALTIMORE'S STEREO SOUND EXPERIENCE
V-103
wxyv·fm

BY POPULAR DEMAND!
THE ARENA PLAYERS PRODUCTION OF "227"
BY CHRISTINE HOUSTON
WILL BE HELD OVER
for three more performances
IF YOU MISSED THIS FANTASTIC COMEDY! YOU STILL HAVE THIS WEEKEND TO ENJOY. FRIDAY—8:30 P.M. SATURDAY AND SUNDAY—7:30 P.M.
CALL 728-6500 FOR TICKET INFORMATION

HELD OVER! 2ND BIG WEEK!
THE DRAGON IS READY FOR ACTION!
KUNG FU OF THE 8 DRUNKARDS
AND
HONG KONG CONNECTION
TOWN
Til 2:30 Mon-Sat BARGAIN MATINEE
315 W FAYETTE 539-2294

Guest Star CURTIS MAYFIELD
SLAMMER
WHERE THE RULES ARE FOR FOOLS, AND POWER BELONGS TO THE BROTHERS!
AND
BROTHERS
Bernie Casey
Vonetta McGee
Ron Superfly O'Neal
MAYFAIR
BARGAIN MATINEES MON-SAT til 2:30

NOT JUST A SOUND BUT A LIFESTYLE
1360AM WEBB
1360AM WEBB
1360AM WEBB
1360AM WEBB
SOUL—CLASS—STYLE
SERVING THE ENTIRE BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN AREA