(L to R, foreground): guests John Toles-Bey (as McNair) and Randy Brooks (as Lt. Douglas), and series stars Stan Foster (Johnson) and Miguel A. Nunez, Jr. (Taylor) join other black soldiers in their dismay over the assassination back in the States of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in a special episode of "Tour of Duty," to be broadcast on the anniversary of King's death Tuesday, April 4 at 8 p.m. on CBS.

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At The Movies

Tim Reid stars with Don Johnson in "Dead-Bang," a film based on the real-life experiences of an L. A. detective showing at area theatres.

Patti LaBelle (center) is Felicia DeVere, an inspirational music teacher in charge of the Junior Sing preparations in "Sing" a musical opening Friday, March 31.

Ernie Hudson (center) with Amanda Pays and Peter Weller star as members of a deep sea expedition in a struggle for survival against a deadly and malevolent life form in "Leviathan" playing now at area theatres.

Ving Rhames in new TV series

New York actor Ving Rhames, who portrays lawyer and solid family man Charlie Hazard in "Mem," describes the series as "going inside the male skin and exposing it to the audience."

Born and raised in Harlem in New York, Rhames attended the High School of Performing Arts, and also earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from The Juilliard School in 1983.

Rhames' first professional acting job was a minor role in the New York Shakespeare Festival production of "Richard III," starring Kevin Kline. Other Off-Broadway credits include "Short Eyes" and "Map of the World." On Broadway, he co-starred in the Michael Lindsay Hogg production, "The Boys of Winter."

His television credits include the daytime serials, "Another World" and "Guiding Light," two guest appearnces on "Miami Vice," "Crime Story," "Spencer: For Hire" and "Tour of Duty," and a co-starring role in the PBS production, "Go Tell It On the Mountain," in which he played author James Baldwin's father — a role he lists as his favorite.

Rhames received rave reviews for his portrayal of the Symbionese Liberation Army leader, Cinque, in the Paul Shrader film, "Patty Hearst," which dealt with the kidnapping of the heiress by the SLA. He also appeared in "Fame" and "Native Son," and will be seen this summer in the Brian DePalma film, "Casualties of War," as Lt. Reilly.

The actor is single, continues to live in New York and studies Egyptology in his free time.

Ving Rhames (left) stars with Ted Wass, Tom O'Brien and Saul Rubinek on "Mem," a new one-hour dramatic series airing Saturdays at 10 p.m. on ABC.

'Duke Ellington, American Musician' exhibit opens

The life and career of composer and musician Duke Ellington will be the subject of an exhibition and a month-long series of performances, films, and lectures at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History.

"Duke Ellington, American Musician," an exhibition opening April 4 and continuing indefinitely, is part of the citywide celebration of the 90th anniversary of Ellington's birth. Included in the exhibition are a variety of items that represent his childhood, his work as a bandleader and composer, his stature as a cultural hero and international celebrity.

Among the items on display are music manuscripts in Ellington's own handwriting, a portrait of Ellington painted by his granddaughter, concert programs and posters from around the world, magazines, commemorative postal stamps and the artwork, trophies, and photographs of Ellington, his family and his orchestra and a video of classic Ellington performances including "Symphony in Black," "Cottontail" and "Mood Indigo."

Most of the items on display are from the museum's Duke Ellington Collection, which contains more than 200,000 pages of documents including 3,000 original and orchestrated pieces of music; tape recordings of concerts and interviews; personal scrapbooks; photographs, and a variety of trophies and memorabilia.

The exhibition is made possible, in part, by a grant from the Marshall and Marilyn R. Wolf Foundation.

All programs are free and open to the public and will be held in the museum's Carmichael Auditorium (first floor), except where noted. For further information on the exhibition or the festival, call 357-2700.

Ellington Festival Schedule of Events

"Introduction to Duke"

SUNDAY, April 2, Noon and 2 p.m. The Joe Kennedy Quartet play "The Best of Duke."

"The Early Duke Ellington Years"

MONDAY, april 3, Noon and 2 p.m. Singer Arnae Burton, accompanied by the Smithsonian Movement in Classic Jazz Ensemble, performs Ellington songs.

TUESDAY, April 4, Noon and 2 p.m. Music from the period 1923 to 1929 performed by the Washingtonians.

WEDNESDAY, April 5 Noon and 2 p.m. The Howard University Jazztet plays Ellington compositions from 1927 to 1933. The performances are followed by showings of the Short film, *Black and Tan fantasy* (1929) at 3:30 and 4:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, April 6, 10:15 a.m. and Noon. Duke Ellington as a creative maestro is explored in these performances by the Duke Ellington High School Jazz Band, with narration by Miyuki Williams.

FRIDAY, April 7, Noon and 2 p.m. Scott Michaels and his Top Hat Dancers re-create dances from the Cotton Club, followed by a lecture on various dance styles during the Cotton Club period.

"The Early Big Band Years & Duke (about 1933-1940)"

SUNDAY, April 9, Noon and 2 p.m. Pianist Hilton C. Felton, Jr., is accompanied by Ellington Band alumnus and vocalist Jimmy McPhail.

TUESDAY, April 11, Noon and 2 p.m. Saxophonist Buck Hill performs with his trio, followed by showings of the film *Symphony in black* (1935) at 3:30 and 4:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, April 13, Noon and 2 p.m. Trombonist-saxophonist R. Michael Crotty, backed by an 8-piece band, plays works by Ellington. The film, *Symphony in Black*, will also be shown at 3:30 and 4:30 p.m.

"Golden Ellington"

FRIDAY, April 14, Noon and 2 p.m.

SATURDAY, April 15, Noon and 2 p.m. As part of the museum's "All-American Music" series, acclaimed pianist Shirley Horn, will play the best of Duke Ellington.

"The Big Band Years (about 1938-1945)"

MONDAY, April 17, Noon and 2 p.m. This tribute to the female vocalists who sang with the Ellington band includes two performances by singer Ronnie Wells, who is joined by a trio featuring Ron Elliston. A panel discussion with former Duke Ellington vocalists Joya Sherrill, June Norton, and Marie Ellington (Cole) will be held from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Ellington Festival Schedule of Events

(Continued)

TUESDAY, April 18, Noon and 2 p.m. Acoustic bassist Keter Betts and his trio perform a tribute to Jimmy Blanton. From 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., jazz specialist Martin Williams will lecture on Duke Ellington and his music.

"The Ellington theater Pieces"

WEDNESDAY, April 19, Noon and 2 p.m. Singer Beverly Cosham and pianist Howard Breitbart perform Ellington songs for the musical theater. Patricia Willard, an oral historian working on the Duke Ellington Project in the museum's Archive Center, will lecture on the 1941 theater piece *Jump for Joy*, from 3:30 to 5 p.m.

"Duke's Later Big Band Years (1940s and '50s)

FRIDAY, April 21, Noon and 2 p.m. Brooks Tegler and his band perform big band classics in this tribute to long-time Ellington arranger Billy Strayhorn. From 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., radio host Felix Grant moderates a panel discussion with people who knew and worked with Ellington in the 1940s, '50s, and early '60s. Panelists include Patricia Willard, Aaron Bell, and Willis Conover.

"Duke in Film"

SUNDAY, April 23, 2:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Film collector Ernest Smith lectures and shows film clips of Fuke from his private collection.

"Duke's Concert Years: The 1950s"

MONDAY, April 24, Noon and 2 p.m. Saxophonist Ron Holloway and his quartet perform Ellington's music from the 1950s. After the performances Doug Richards lectures and plays recorded examples of Ellington's works written during the 1950s, from 3:30 to 5 p.m.

TUESDAY, April 25, Noon and 2 p.m. An 18-piece band from Bowie State University Jazz Ensemble performs Duke's music from the 1950s. From 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., Brooks Kerr will lecture on Ellington and his band, supplemented by demonstrations on the piano.

"The International Ellington"

WEDNEADAY, April 26, Noon and 2 p.m. Two showing of the film *Paris Blues* (1961). While in Paris, Ellington wrote the film's soundtrack, which was nominated for an Oscar.

Symposium: "The Ellington Legacy and the Smithsonian"

THURSDAY, April 27, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Speakers include Martin Williams, Mark Tucker, John Edward Hasse, Patricia Willard, Marcia Greenlee and others. Baird Auditorium, National Museum of Natural History.

"The Solo Piano Pieces"

THURSDAY, April 27, 3:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Mark Tucker, a musicologist from Columbia University, performs Ellington's piano compositions.

"Duke's Soundtrack Work"

SUNDAY, April 30, 1 p.m.-5 p.m. The Scott Morrow Dance Theatre will perform to the 1968 sacred piece "Meditation." From 2-2:45 p.m., Wayne Shirley from the Library of Congress, will discuss the soundtrack for *Anatomy of a Murder*. the movie will be shown following the lecture.