

# Variety, charisma mark Snipes' style

By College Press Service

WASHINGTON — Wesley Snipes came to talk about "Sugar Hill," his film opening Feb. 25, but dressed for a future role: wearing a button down green shirt, much like the ones jazz trumpet innovator Miles Davis is remembered for wearing on the cover of his 1958 album "Milestones."

The shift from playing Romello, a savvy drug dealer struggling to get out of Harlem in "Sugar Hill," to Black Panther, a comic book super hero he will portray soon, to a deep, biographical portrait of Miles Davis marks the versatility Snipes wants to maintain during his Hollywood ride.

"I would never want to be just one kind of character," he says. "That's not acting."

With perhaps a little too much swagger, Snipes professes to be the "brother of my complexion" other than Sidney Poitier who has starred in action, comedy and drama roles without having to play any parts that stereotype African Americans.

At 31, Snipes has indeed overcome some barriers in Hollywood, molding himself into one of the most sought-after actors of any complexion.

In "White Men Can't Jump," Snipes

created his most memorable character, basketball hustler extraordinaire Sidney Deane. As architect Flipper Purify in "Jungle Fever," Snipes made waves engaging in inter-racial romance on screen, although the film's controversy was not quite as stirring as Poitier's "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?" which tackles similar themes in 1967.

But Snipes' brilliant druggist Nino Brown in "New Jack City" landed him solidly among the film elite, garnering him co-starring spots with Sean Connery in "Rising Sun" and Sylvester Stallone in "Demolition Man."

His roles, while often entertaining, always have depth. Snipes instills wisdom into his character, no matter how evil, comball or sympathetic they may be.

He says he hopes people, especially young people, "Don't just look up, but look in" to his character. And on being a role model for black youth, he adds, "I hope they get into what I'm talking about and not just how I'm steppin'."

As a young man, Snipes looked to Malcolm X and Adam Clayton Powell as heroes. He turns to them still, among others, for inspiration.

"Studying their lives helps me shape mine," Snipes says. "I don't want to let them down."

Snipes grew up in the South Bronx and was raised by a single mother after his parents' divorce. After he took to hustling in pool halls as a teenager, his mother moved the family to Orlando, Fla.

Later, he returned to New York, earning a Victor Borge scholarship to the State University at Purchase. There, he became a Muslim, and later left the Islamic faith, and met his wife, who he has since divorced.

Snipes says his mother was a constant source of inspiration in his life. She is consistently reminded him, "Wherever you're gonna be, be the best at it."

His relationship with his father was never as solid. In "Sugar Hill," Romello has a tight bond with his father, despite the trouble he has imposed on family. In one particularly moving scene, Romello feeds soup to his father, who is strung out on drugs.

Snipes says that on-screen bond is nothing like real life, but he wants to be there if his father ever needs him. "I hope I mature into that kind of man in the picture," he said.

## What's Up?

The Dance Theater of Columbia, under the direction of Pam Bailey, will present "Alice in Wonderland" as a benefit for the Children's Hospital of Richland Memorial Hospital March 4-6 at the Town Theater.

The original dance will feature characters from the Lewis Carroll classic, performed by some of Columbia's finest dancers and a cast of more than 80 young dancers. Call 788-7517 for tickets.

"Bull Bait Gaucho," an original experimental theater performance by local musicians One3Four, is an abstract interpretation of Sir Richard Francis Burton's journey to Mecca.

One3Four has assembled members of USC's Puppet Regime along with local actors to implement the show. Featured performers will include Maria Melekos, Peter Thomason and Monica Wyche.

The show will be held from Feb. 23-March 2 at Benson Theater. Tickets are \$3 for students and \$5 for everyone else.

For additional information, call James Carmine at 252-3385.

If you're into swing and dancing, join Tony Torre and the Tony Torre Orchestra at the following monthly events.

The orchestra performs the second Tuesday of each month from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Big Apple, 1000 Hampton Street, behind the Richland County Library. Tickets are \$4 for senior citizens and \$5 for everyone else.

The orchestra performs live on WSCQ Morning Show the second Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Western Steer on St. Andrews Road.

At each performance, the Tony Torre Orchestra accepts food donations for Harvest Hope Food Bank. For more information or tickets, call 699-1957 or 252-7742.

In the midst of a critical nationwide blood shortage, USC is offering to support the Midlands community by hosting monthly blood drives at Thomson Student Health Center. Beginning Thursday, the health center in conjunction with the American Red Cross will sponsor blood drives from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. the last Thursday of each month in the physical therapy center on the second floor.

Students, who must be 17 and weigh at least 100 pounds to meet health criteria, are allowed to donate blood every 56 days.

The many spectacular waterfowl that can be found in the Palmetto State are the subjects of an exciting exhibition of original duck stamp art at the State Museum.

The paintings were donated to the museum by the S.C. Migratory Waterfowls Committee and are part of the exhibit "South Carolina Connections: Art, Fine and Decorative." For more information about the exhibition, call the museum at 737-4921.

A new poetry magazine, the Poet's Pen, will soon appear in Columbia. Each issue will feature about 160 poets.

Poet's Pen is looking for amateur writers to contribute. However, the magazine can't afford to pay for poems.

Anyone who would like more in-

formation should contact Poet's Pen, P.O. Box 3430 Station C., Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1Y 4J6.

Please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope to help cover the mailing and correspondence costs.

Riverbanks Zoo will continue to offer free admission Fridays through the end of February.

Special zoo features such as the birdhouse rainstorm, penguin and sea lion feedings and the milking demonstration at Riverbanks Farm are held daily on schedule regardless of the weather.

Riverbanks Zoo is open from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. daily. The admissions gate closes at 4 p.m.

For more information, call the zoo at 779-8730 or 779-8717.

The National Library of Poetry has announced that \$12,000 in prizes will be awarded this year to more than 250 poets in the North American Open Poetry Contest. The deadline for the contest is March 31. There is no entry fee for the contest, which is open to anyone.

Any poet, whether published or not, can be a winner. Every poem entered has a chance to be published in a deluxe, hardbound anthology.

To enter, send one original poem, any subject and style, to The National Library of Poetry, 11419 Cronridge Dr., P.O. Box 704-YD, Owings Mills, MD 21117.

The poem should be no more than 20 lines, and the poet's name and address should appear at the top of the page. Entries must be postmarked by March 31. A new contest opens April 1.

## 'Ranch Romance' return of old-time country

By College Press Service

If you miss the days when country music was something other than rock 'n' roll with a Southern accent, then Ranch Romance is just the band for you.

Of course, in addition to your hankerin' for vintage Western swing rhythms and classic desert yodeling, you'll need to pack along a certain open-mindedness about women who sing love songs directed at both women and men.

Head singer and songwriter Jo Miller has flipped back and forth with ease in the past (hence the disc title "Flip City"), but now seems to be settling into the sort of coyly androgynous narrative voice that was once

k.d. lang's stock in trade.

With her oversized, creamy white Stetson and her absolutely honey-pure 1940s singing style, Miller is a perfect heart throb for the romantically ambidextrous and easily the most exciting female country singer to emerge in the last couple of years.

The opening track, "Wheatfield Annie," is a perfect example of this dynamic. Featuring an update of the band's "Buckaroo" riff and a lyrical paraphrase of the k.d. lang classic "Big Boned Gal," the song is an exuberant celebration of a cornfed Midwestern gal who got the townfolks a bit confused by her, presumably gender-bent, ways.

Other new tunes tread equally familiar ground. "Sweet Comfort in the

Blues" and "Baby's Gonna Come Back Home" represent a roadsick amplification of last album's "Arizona Moon," while "She Who Must Be Obeyed" is a sort of empowered feminization of "Trouble." These tunes aren't retreads, mind you, but their basic premises are just as familiar as those you'd expect from any country band.

Accordionist Nova Devonic, guitarist David Keenan and fiddler Barbara Lamb all take their turns at the lead local spot for a tune apiece, which is fun and effective each time. But Miller's voice is the main attraction here, and you won't be able to get enough of it. You'll also want to check out the band's earlier offerings "Blue Blazes" and "Western Dream."

Getting high doesn't cause AIDS.  
It just lets it happen.



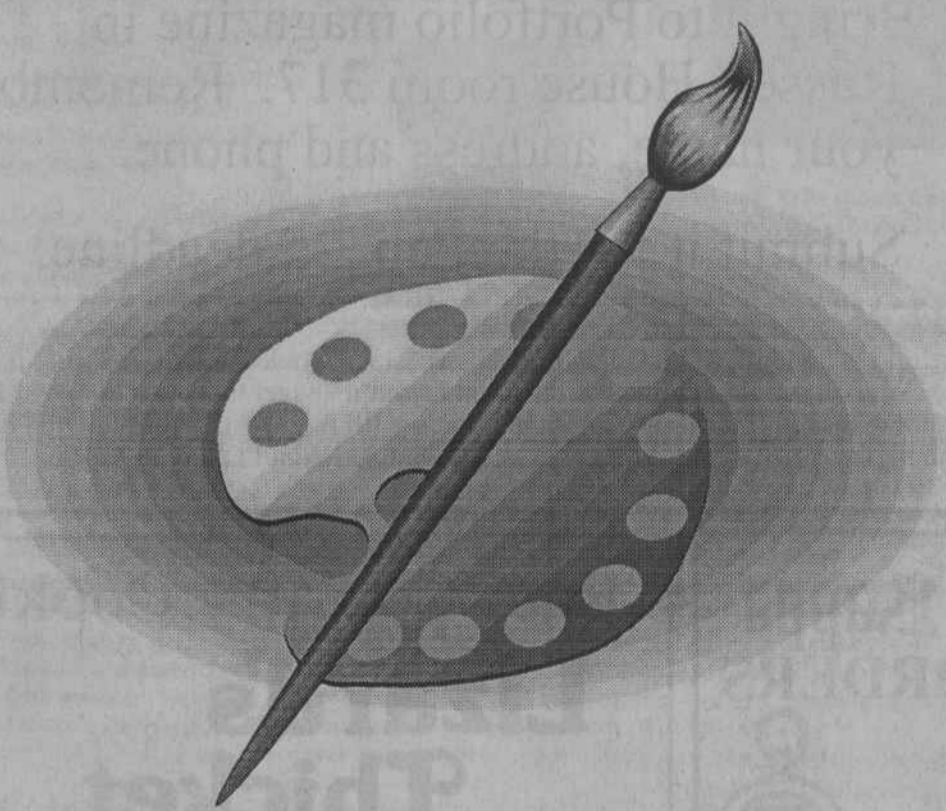
Find out more about how drug use and AIDS are related. Call the National AIDS hotline at 1-800-342-AIDS. The hotline for the hearing impaired is 1-800-AIDS-TTY.



You Don't  
Have to be  
An  
Einstein



To Understand  
the Benefits of  
Cooperative  
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## Picture this...

Your artwork could be on the cover of the 1994-95 USC phone book. Have your work seen by everyone who looks for a number, pulls out a yellow page coupon or tries to call the TIPS man. Full color slides should be submitted with a self-addressed stamped envelope to Student Media, Russell House room 323. Please include your telephone number! The contest is open to all students, faculty, and staff of USC. Slides must be received by **March 18, 1994**, so get out the ol' paintbrushes, camera, or what have you and get to work.

# SPRING BREAK SALE!

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**COCA-COLA 12 PACKS \$2.99**

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