

Muhammad Ali film has 'top-notch cast'

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Both "young Ali's" were coached for their boxing scenes by Hedgmon Lewis, former world-ranked welterweight boxer.

Ring Lerner Jr. was the scriptwriter. He was one of the Hollywood 10 who were blacklisted and hounded during the infamous communist witchhunt period in the United States. Lerner has won Academy Awards for his screenplays "Woman of the Year" and "M*A*S*H."

The director is Tom Gries, whose credits include movies "Will Penny" and "The Hawaiians," and t.v. specials "Helter Skelter," "The Migrants" and "QB-VII."

Slated for release next summer, "The Greatest" traces the inspirational story of the colorful champion from his early struggles for recognition in his native

Louisville, Ky. as Cassius Marcellus Clay Jr., to his supremacy in the prizefight ring and becoming one of the most popular personalities in the world.

The motion picture is bound to make a bundle in the U.S. and overseas. Lipsyte writes that Ali has enormous popularity abroad. "Iranian cab drivers, for example, celebrated Ali's victory over Foreman by giving free rides for a day. (Producer) Marshall sees ready-made markets in Thailand, Philippines, Malaysia, the Mideast and all of black Africa, areas in which American films do not normally have great box-office success.

OUT-BOXING "JAWS"

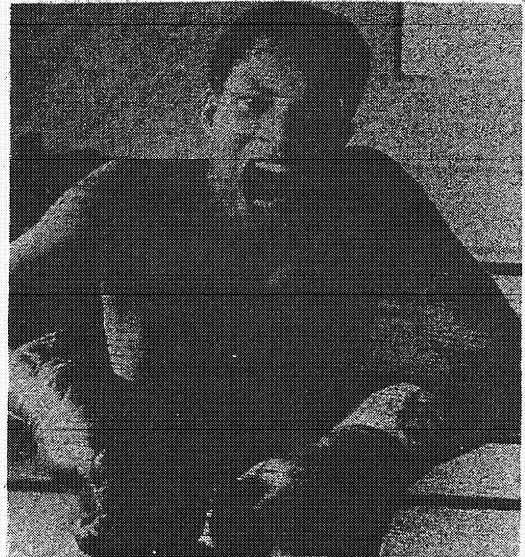
"Something like one-quarter of the earth's population saw the third Frazier fight and the

Foreman fight," says Marshall. "If just 10 per cent of the people who paid to see him box pay to see him act in his own life story, we'll make more money than 'Jaws.'"

"The Greatest" also marks the first time an international personality of such stature and renown has portrayed himself in a screen biography while at the top of his career.

Ali is also quoted as saying, "After this picture I'm going to play Hannibal — hundreds of elephants — and then a black Egyptian warrior — 10,000 horses: wholesome films, movies with a message — educational movies that can help mankind.

This journalist hopes he goes down in the history books as a great Bilalian champion who voluntarily retired undefeated, with the glory of having triumphed in some of the most classic fights of all time.



Phillip "Chip" McAllister portrays the Heavyweight Champion during his teens.

The minds of our youth

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properly developed as youth and put on the road to productive life, their latent talent awakened and the garden of their mind weeded, they could then use their God-given talents developed over countless centuries of oppression to solve the problems of this community and the world's community as well.

The Chief Imam of the World Community of Islam has recognized the need for a new direction for us all. To free our minds from the "Cadillac" consciousness of materialism, and from idol and dollar worship to a willingness to sacrifice to build a base, a platform so each succeeding generation of our youth will not have to fight up from the depths of despair, poverty, hopelessness, frustration and insanity.

As each generation rises

higher and higher from platform to platform we will one day reach the fullness in the development of our great potential. Our most precious natural resource is the minds of our youth, and they should not be wasted.

TRANSITION TIME

Chief Imam W.D. Muhammad says we must bring in a new kind of mind, a mind that will accept more responsibility, that will discover new information and feed it to the community. At this point in our collective history we must take steps to ensure the continual growth and development of our community's leadership. It would be a mistake to leave our interests totally in the hands of others.

We must involve the youth

in the leadership of our homes, schools, levels of government, churches, synagogues, temples and mosques and in the total community decision-making process. How can the mental muscle of young minds develop properly without a challenge, without something to push against?

Through the Youth Leadership Thrust, the Chief Imam W.D. Muhammad in coordinating a wide range of youth programs is giving the youth a platform that will allow them to criticize community leadership, to be heard on issues that affect them and us. We intend to set up debates on the problems that confront our community and get their opinions, and enable them to get experience in defending their position in these open debates or forums.

Imam addresses Sunday school in Georgia

By Omar Bilal Akbar

GRIFFIN, Ga. — Imam Farrakhan Muhammad of the World Community of Islam's Griffin Mosque was the guest speaker at a recent Sunday School class for the all-Caucasian St. George Episcopal Church of Griffin.

In his talk, the Imam gave a general description of the religion of Islam and what it means to be a Muslim. He explained the five Pillars of Islam — Belief in the One God and his Prophet, Prayer, Fasting, Charity, and the Pilgrimage.

During the question and answer period, the Imam discussed the Muslim view of the Prophet Jesus and explained the tolerant view of Islam towards other religions. He also contrasted the

Christian observance of Christmas with the Muslim observance of Ramadan.

During the discussion on fasting during Ramadan, the question of the Muslim dietary law arose. Class members looked on in open amazement as Imam Muhammad illuminated the benefits derived from eating in accord with Divine dictates.

The Imam also used his own life as an example of the power of Islam to transform Believers from a life of obvious unrighteousness to one of proclaiming the Glory of God.

Imam Muhammad concluded his talk with a discussion of unity. He pointed out that regardless of race, color, or religious belief, all men are of one creation under one Creator — Almighty God.

Imam Ali Rasheed: Servant of the community

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During this time he spent months on the road in his car traveling from town to town, city to city as "a zealot for Islam." The results were beyond all expectations as Islam obtained, for the first time, a solid base of believers in the Western U.S.

Later he assumed the responsibilities of regional captain for these 17 Western states. After the death of Master Elijah Muhammad, Chief Imam Wallace D. Muhammad gave Rasheed the mission of ministry in Cleveland, Ohio where his religious, leadership and administrative qualities bore much fruit.

In February 1976 Rasheed was assigned to head the Harlem Mosque, and to be the East Coast regional representative of the Nation. Within

weeks he became well-known to Harlem and other New York believers.

Malcolm Shabazz Mosque No. 7, under his leadership, has expanded its multi-services and leadership to the Harlem community, spread the teachings of Chief Imam Wallace D. Muhammad to every prison in the state, and become one of the busiest and active mosques in the World Community of Islam in the West.

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDS

Many diplomats from all continents at the United Nations are frequent visitors to the Harlem Mosque and Imam Rasheed is a familiar face at the U.N. establishing links and ties with a growing number of independent

countries.

To Imam Rasheed, challenges are endless: "There is no such thing as being problem-free in this world of reality. But we know that as Muslims we have the responsibility, the know-how, the leader and teacher and the God to overcome all obstacles."

"Our overall plan is to reform this city," the Harlem-based Imam projected. "Reformation, we know, takes generations, but Islam has a way of reforming long before the next generation comes into existence.

"Islam is going to work together with others to make a society that is decent and strong and will eliminate the decadence and poverty that has caused this to be a corrupt and blighted society," he said.

"Chief Imam W.D. Muhammad has

taught us that we must move away from any racist kind of mentality; that Islam is a universal brotherhood. When people see (Bilalian Muslims) mixing with the different nationalities of the world, then we have set the example for them to mix with each other without any hesitation.

"Islam buries all false distinctions of race, color and nationality because we are dealing with the spirituality of a human being," Rasheed emphasized. Currently Malcolm Shabazz Mosque No. 7's membership includes Bilalians, West Indians, Hispanics and Caucasians.

Islam is the motor of Imam Rasheed's life; the central heaving plant of his personality; the faith that gives joy to his activity, hope to struggle and dignity to reality.