

Talking with OPRAH WINFREY

By Frank Sanello

Oprah Winfrey produced and stars in "The Women of Brewster Place," a four-hour miniseries that airs Sunday, March 19, and Monday, March 20, on ABC-TV.

Based on the best-selling novel by Gloria Naylor, the drama focuses on the lives of seven black women living in a big-city tenement.

Winfrey's previous film roles include 1985's "The Color Purple," which earned her an Oscar nomination, and "Native Son" (1986).

A native of Kosciusko, Miss., Winfrey also hosts the No. 1 talk show in TV syndication. She began her media career as a TV reporter and local news anchor in the South. In 1984, she took over a flagging local talk show in Chicago. In 1987, the show debuted nationally and soundly trounced the main competition, "Donahue," in the ratings.

Here, 35-year-old Winfrey talks about her famous diet, the NAACP and guests she refuses to have on her talk show.

Q. Most of the blacks on TV are in comedies. Was selling "The Women of Brewster Place" to the network a tough sell?

A. Not only because it was a drama, but because it predominantly dealt with women. In fact, all three networks turned it down at first. One complained it was too "womenish" — whatever that means.

Q. The men in "The Women of Brewster Place" are not very sympathetic. After the negative portrayals



Oprah Winfrey

of black men in "The Color Purple," did that bother you?

A. I'm concerned about the image of black men, but there are black men who do abuse their families, just as there are white and brown men who do. This is just one story. It's not supposed to be representative of all black men.

Q. The press reported that the NAACP demanded to see the shooting script of "Brewster Place," and you flat out turned them down.

A. Nobody has the right to tell you how to do your work. The NAACP first protested "The Color Purple," then they protested when it didn't get

STAR SPEAK



FRANK SANELLO

more Oscars.

Q. Do you have any other projects in the works?

A. ("Roots" author) Alex Haley is working on a book about Madame C.J. Walker. She started a line of cosmetics for black women and was the first millionaire black woman. I try to read as many black authors as possible to develop as TV and film scripts. I bought "Kafir Boy" and "Beloved"

'I'm amused by the whole celebrity-fame trip, and I've learned not to be controlled by it.'

— Oprah Winfrey

by Toni Morrison. I called her right after I read it. But after all these period pieces, I'd like to play a more con-

temporary role. Something sexy — with my clothes on. I'd also like to do comedy. I'm very funny, which is something a lot of people don't know.

Q. Does it bother you when your talk show is lumped in with the tabloid TV shows?

A. Gloria Steinem said criticism of tabloid TV is demeaning to women because these shows are devoted to women's issues. A lot of women are interested in, say, the fact that a lot of women are deserted by their husbands. If that's tabloid TV, so be it.

Q. What topics have you refused to cover on your show?

A. I don't care what Jim and Tammy (Bakker) have to say. I don't care if Elvis is alive. I've decided never to do another show with the Klan or Nazis. I started out thinking everybody should have free speech, but 10 minutes into the show (on Neo-Nazis), I realized this doesn't help anybody, it just encourages the guests to go out and kick (blank).

Q. How do you cope with all the attention you get in the press, especially about your dieting?

A. Yesterday I read a headline that said, "Oprah Risking Life to Stay on Diet." My mother called me up hysterical, wanting to know if it was true. I'm amused by the whole celebrity-fame trip, and I've learned not to be controlled by it. What the press writes can destroy you. I used to call or write journalists who criticized me. Cosby said when it stops bothering you, you'll know you've grown up.

Q. Why did you open a restaurant in Chicago? New restaurants have a dismal failure rate.

A. Everybody — including Bill Cosby — told me don't invest in restaurants. But I'm not doing it to make money — not that I want to go broke.

But I was just doing it as a fun venture. And I have a great partner, Richard Melman. He created the incredibly successful Ed Debevic restaurant chain.

Q. Have you put on weight since going off your fast?

A. No. Actually, I'm a couple of pounds lighter since I stopped fasting!

© 1989 NEWSPAPER ENTERPRISE ASSN.

OUR LANGUAGE

by Jeffrey McQuain

In golf, tee up places the ball on a peg to begin play. I think I've got this game down, and then I tee up.

Try panjandrum for a pompous or pretentious official. Among the words for self-important people, panjandrum is a grand choice.

Q. There's someone I know who says things like "He don't" and "She don't." That's wrong, isn't it?

A. "He don't" and "She don't" are examples of nonstandard English, but don't expect the speaker to change overnight. Don't is a contraction of do not; the third-person singular contraction is doesn't. Even in contractions, a verb does agree with its subject, doesn't it?

Use query for a question or doubt. Notice that it starts like question, and you'll have no doubts about query.

OUR LANGUAGE AD-VICE: The food company offering a "ready-to-eat-cereal" receives the Ad-Vice Award for this week. Ready-to-eat deserves its hyphens, because the phrase appears before the noun it modifies. The hyphen before cereal, though, is a mistake. Instead, serve a "ready-to-eat cereal."

Georgetown Figure Skating Club
— presents their —
27th Carnival
Just Cruisin'
at the
Georgetown Memorial Arena
Saturday, April 1 - 1:30 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 2 - 1:30 p.m.
— GUEST SKATERS FEATURED —
— TICKET SALES —
Alcott Arena: Mondays, March 6, 20 — 5-8 p.m.
Wednesdays, March 1, 8, 22, 29 — 5-8 p.m.
Memorial Arena: Fridays, March 3, 10, 31 — 5-8 p.m.
Sunday, March 5 — 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
— TICKET PRICES —
Mezzanine \$7.00 Children \$3.50 (12 Yrs. & Under)
Adults \$6.00 Sr. Citizens \$3.50 (Sat Matinee Only)
ALL SEATS RESERVED GET YOUR TICKETS EARLY

FONG'S
RESTAURANT & TAVERN
8 MOUNTAINVIEW ROAD SOUTH
GEORGETOWN

ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT BUFFET
OFFERING... SALAD BAR, SOUP,
SZECHUAN AND CANTONESE
DIFFERENT DISHES EACH DAY

LUNCH TUESDAY THRU FRIDAY
11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

DINNER THURSDAY THRU SUNDAY
5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

WE CATER TO BANQUETS AND PARTIES
Take-Out Orders & Delivery Service
877-9791
877-2227

Face In The Crowd

Take a close look: you may be a winner. If the face indicated by the arrow is yours, you're the lucky winner of a pair of Georgetown Cinemas courtesy passes. Call us at 877-2201 or 877-8822 or drop in at The Herald, 45 Guelph St., Georgetown to claim your prize. If you're not a winner this week, keep on looking. Next week it may be your turn to win.

GEORGETOWN CINEMAS
235 GUELPH STREET — 873-1999

CINEMA 1
POLICE ACADEMY 6
2nd GREAT WEEK!
Evenings at 7:00 & 9:15 p.m.
Sat. & Sun. Matinee at 2:00 p.m.
M FAMILY

CINEMA 2 3RD GREAT WEEK
8 ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATIONS
INCLUDING
BEST PICTURE
BEST ACTOR BEST DIRECTOR
BEST SCREENPLAY
DUSTIN HOFFMAN TOM CRUISE
RAIN MAN
Evenings at 7:00 & 9:20 p.m.
Sat. & Sun. Matinee at 2:00 p.m.

CINEMA 3 3RD EXCELLENT WEEK
Bill & Ted's
EXCELLENT
adventure
Evenings at 7:00 & 9:15 p.m.
Sat. & Sun. Matinee at 2 p.m.

\$3.50 TUESDAYS EVERY WEEK
PASSWORD THURSDAYS This Week's Password Is "LEVIATHAN"

Brackens
10 MOUNTAINVIEW RD. S.
GEORGETOWN

EVERY FRIDAY
7:00 to 9:00
PRIME RIB OF BEEF
\$10.95
Garlic Bread and Salad Included
877-4166

PHOTO SPECIAL

1 HOUR, SAME DAY, NEXT DAY SERVICE

\$100 OFF ON PHOTO FINISHING WITH THIS AD!

Passport Photos in 3 Min. WE RENT VIDEO CAMERAS

CRAIG'S PHOTO
NORMANDY PLAZA
Next to Kmart & Fry's, Chicago. 877-5945