

GLITTERATI

*Stone to south-central...
Cosby to the rescue...
Ripley R.I.P.*

Scripps Howard News Service

HOLLYWOOD — Hollywood's rush to capitalize on the L.A. riots enlists director Oliver Stone. He agrees to make "South Central," describing it as "incredibly timely" even though it's been in the works several years.

The movie will portray a father who goes to prison but gets his son to drop out of gang life.

Says Stone, "It is a very realistic representation of what is happening in America right now."

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America's richest man comes to the rescue of struggling Orion Pictures. Multibillionaire John Kluge, who already owns 68 percent of the studio, agrees to put up \$25 million in cash, forgive \$29 million in debt in a deal that will allow the studio to keep operating independently.

Orion, which has had a string of movie successes including the Oscar-winning "Dances With Wolves" and "The Silence of the Lambs," filed for bankruptcy last year. It's the smallest of Hollywood's major studios.

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Bill Cosby leads an African American financial charge to rescue Spike Lee and his beleaguered "Malcolm X" movie. Cosby whips out his checkbook to help Lee make up a cost overrun of between \$5 million and \$12 million, then is joined by Oprah Winfrey, Magic Johnson, Prince, Michael Jordan, Janet Jackson, among others.

None of the contributors is revealing the level of individual checks, but Lee says, "It was because of them that we were able to keep working." Lee said he accepted the money as a gift, not a loan. "To me, the story is how prominent African Americans came together and saved the movie."

Said Cosby, "Obviously, I want to see the project finished, so I gave what I could."

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