

The Great Life

George Christy

He's still searching for the two actresses who'll co-star in Tom Robbins' "Even Cowgirls Get the Blues," but before director Gus Van Sant ("My Own Private Idaho," "Drugstore Cowboy") begins production this August of Tom's much-talked-about novel, he'll film a 30-minute "short," as he calls it, "an independent venture about a man who dresses as a policeman and how the uniform overtakes his personality ... I'm writing it now, actually. I work pretty fast because I think for a long time about what I'm going to write." Kentucky-born Gus commutes between his adopted city of Portland, Ore. and Los Angeles for conferences with TriStar about "Cowgirls," and he was among the guests at USC's Fisher Gallery viewing the 70 works of 25-year-old Russian artist **Afrika (Sergei Bugaev)**, who was given the Afrika name by a musician who liked his art and suggested something "exotic." Afrika flew in from St. Petersburg with his wife Irina for the gallery opening, and they arrived in Los Angeles with his Manhattan art dealer Paul Judelson, and with Paul were his parents, Maria Olivia and Jim. (His father founded Gulf + Western with Charles Bluhdorn, became president and chief operating officer from 1965-83.) An admirer of the old order." Adds Louis Grachos, "He works in the spirit of the artist he admires — Joseph Beuys and Andy Warhol ... and creates intriguing commentaries and puns on pre-and-post-Revolutionary Russian avant-garde art." Afrika's designed sets and costumes for the



(1) Moses Gunn and Cybill Shepherd, who co-star in "Memphis," during Turner Network Television screening at Academy of Television Arts & Sciences

Merce Cunningham Dance Theater's production, "August Pace," and next exhibits at the Queens Museum in New York. After the vernissage, where Absolut vodka flowed, Selma Holo invited friends of Afrika's to dine at Ca' Brea, and the Judelsons (Paul and his parents) joined Leo Braudy, who's authored that insightful treatise on fame, "Frenzy of Renown" and Interview's ad and promotion director Paige Powell, who hosted an evening for Afrika the following night at the Hollywood Canteen with Gary Oldman, Madonna, Sandra Bernhard, Kathy Bates, and where there was talk about the book, "True and Tacky II," described as a "bible of the bizarre," which informs

(1) Jay Leno and the William Morris Agency's Roger Davis with film industry veteran Hal Roach during his 100th birthday celebration hosted by the Motion Picture and Television Fund at its Woodland Hills campus; (2) Ashley Johnson of "Growing Pains"; (3) Kirk Cameron with bride Chelsea Noble; (4) Morgan Brittany and Mickey Dolenz; (5) Jackie Cooper and Bobby Blake appeared in Hal Roach's "Our Gang" comedies



(2) Turner Entertainment Television president Scott Sassa with wife Ellen



(3) InterTalent's Judy Hoffund; (4) "Memphis" producer Jay Roewe with wife Lisa; (5) Co-star John Laughlin with Priscilla Barnes



Lee Salton

that a leisure activity in Spring Lake, Mo. in Bovine Bingo, a unique way of raising funds for charities and arts festivals. Bovine Bingo is played with a well-fed cow on a lawn-sized bingo card, with players purchasing a square on a work field, and the winner's the one whose square the cow dumps on.

"They lived at the hotel during the heat of their love affair, reveals Michel Palmer of the Negresco Hotel in Nice, which Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor favored (the Negresco being among Richard's favorite spots). "It isn't a secret that Richard loved his drinks, and when Andre, our bar man



died, Richard called and asked to reach Andre's family, wanting to know if they needed any money — he also came to the funeral. A very thoughtful friend." Michel was among the hoteliers visiting from California from the French Riviera, where many hotels delight the eye with their wedding-cake architecture, and in Los Angeles Jean-Michel Harzic and Kajsa Agostini of the French Tourist Office organized a luncheon at Le Bel Age, where general manager Jacques Camus was greeted as "best friend" by all. Dario Dell'Antonia of Monte Carlo's Hotel de Paris (which has the four-star Alain Ducasse restaurant) noted that Americans visiting the Cote d'Azur should explore the nearby countryside. "Hire a car and drive to some of the old villages, where the way of life hasn't changed in years ... a respite from the way we live in cities today. There's a small museum with Jean Cocteau's art in Villefranche, charming areas like Roquebrone, Menton (near the Italian border), Valbon, Vallauris, Cobris, the Picasso museum in Antibes, the Maeght Foundation art collection in St. Paul, the Matisse Museum in Nice. You can spend a week not only having fun in the sun but discovering French culture in a relaxed way." Air France's Robert Watson added that the state-of-the-art 747-400 carriers begin flying from Los Angeles to Paris by the end of March.

Alan Hirsch