

YORBALINDA STAR

► **ON ICE:**
Skates
came from
around the
U.S. to
Yorba



Linda Ice Palace to take part
in a three-day Orange
County Figure Skating Club
competition last weekend,
including Jessica Yen, right /
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STAN BIRD / Yorba Linda Star

YORBA LINDA Lynn Slack helps wife Zewlie in her aspiring career as a cinematographer.

Lights, camera, dream!

COMMUNITY: Zelig Slack's film debuts this weekend at the Hollywood Black Film Festival.

By Amanda Beck
Yorba Linda Star

Ladies and gentlemen: Let's give it up for the Yorba Linda filmmaker who likes happy endings.

"To me, there's nothing like seeing the audience laugh or cry. And I like it when I show them another point of view that touches your heart," local resident Zelig Slack said recently.

done extra work in movies that have undoubtedly flitted across your screen.

Her face has appeared in the movies "Big" and "Do The Right Thing," and once she even starred in her own national commercial for Burger King.

But after 10 years of trying to make it in front of the

camera, this wife and mother of five recently aimed her sights behind the scenes. And after working under the tutelage of Bill Cosby in 2002, Slack will mark this weekend with the triumph of seeing her second short film, "Making the Rent," debut at the

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Zelig and Lynn Slack will film their next full-length movie this fall in Yorba Linda. The screenplay is titled "The Sweetest Heir," and it centers around a young girl who finds her inheritance in a jewelry box.

They are inviting Yorba Linda residents to be a part of the production - learn how to use a camera or come to the set and help out.

For more information, call the Slack production company, His Will & Rainbow Enterprises, at (310) 358-6609 or see www.zeligslack.com

MOVIE

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Hollywood Black Film Festival in Los Angeles.

"I'm still waiting for that big break from Hollywood where they say, 'Hey, it's your turn,'" Slack said.

"But it's something I've always wanted to do - since I was a little kid. It's just in my heart."

The winners of the 2004 Hollywood Black Film Festival will be announced Sunday.

In her modest yet vivacious way, Slack will tell you that simply being accepted into the film festival is an honor and an achievement that could help propel her film career.

From among more than 500 entries, her film about an out-of-work dreamer was one of only 77 chosen to screen this year at the week-long event, which boasts sponsorship from Hollywood heavyweights Rob-

ert Townsend and HBO, among others.

Now in its sixth year, the festival is growing in stature and is designed to give independent filmmakers the chance to showcase their talents before studio executives.

"It's a great way for people to show off their life's blood," festival spokesman Greg King said. "It's what they put their heart and soul into, and this is a way for the community to see it."

"It would definitely be a venue where people would want to see their work," added Sandra Lawton of the UCLA department of television, film and media. "I think it has a pretty good thing going."

But the road to this exciting weekend was a challenging one for Slack, who nearly gave up on her dream of writing screenplays after she delivered two sons in back-to-back years, 1999 and 2000.

Amid the daily mothering duties, it seemed that there was practically no time for writing or producing. But then one day a passing moment on the Oprah Winfrey Show reminded her that she had dreams before she had children and laundry. And after that, Slack made a commitment to herself that she would find a way - any way - to make progress in her own pursuits.

"Either you sit there and say 'I can't do it,' or you buckle down and get it done," Slack said. "I used to write from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m., just so I could get my stuff done when it was quiet. ... You have to find the energy to keep on going, just to go toward your dream," Slack said.

Since her return to screenwriting in earnest, Slack has worked to write a feature-length version of the "Making the Rent" story and is preparing with her husband, Lynn, to film another screenplay this fall.

Though her 40th birthday looms and time for research at the Yorba Linda Public Library is still rare, Slack is optimistic and particularly excited about this weekend.

"Just getting in the door is half the battle," she said and then, quirkily, "You eat an elephant one bite at a time."