



Smithsonian Institution

National Museum of African American History and Culture

Playbill for Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992

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[[image]]

If all the world's a stage, this is one of its most versatile performers.

The new Oldsmobile Eighty Eight LSS has the range to perform a wide variety of roles. One one hand, it's a full-size sedan loaded with luxury features. On the other, it offers a level of precise handling and control one might not expect of a car its size. All things considered, the performance of the Eighty eight LSS is well worth the price of admission.

Demand Better. Eighty Eight LSS By Oldsmobile. [[logo]]

[[logo]]The Good Old Guys
"Hey, They Don't Call Us Good Old guys For Nothing."
[[logo]]

[[logo]] GM (R) [[logo]] (C)1993 GM Corp. All rights reserved. Buckle Up, America!

[---] Marines, Army and National Guard are posted throughout L.A. County.
May 4 * The curfew ends.
May 4 * The Crips and the Bloods announce their agreement on a Gang Truce.
*Federal troops begin to pull out of L.A.

May 8 * The Crips and the Bloods announce their agreement on a Gang Truce.
*Federal troops begin to pull out of L.A.

May 12 * Damian Williams, Antoine Miller and Henry Keith Watson are arrested for the beating of Reginald Denny and others on April 29. Gary Williams turns himself in later that day. They quickly come to be called "The L.A. Four."

May 19 * Dan Quayle delivers his "Murphy Brown" speech, in which he blames the L.A. riot on a lack of "family values."

June 30 * Daryl Gates steps down and Willie Williams is sworn in as LAPD Chief.

A June 1992 investigation by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Southern California covering the period of the unrest found "serious civil liberties violations practiced in the name of mass efficiency and political vindictiveness." The city attorney and D.A. suspended plea bargaining and insisted on maximum charges, bail amounts and jail sentences.

LAPD and Sheriff's Department records obtained by the ACLU show that from April 29 to May 20 the police, in cooperation with new deployments of 1,000 federal officers including Border Patrol SWAT teams, rounded up 1,545 mainly Latino immigrants and turned them over to the Immigration and Naturalization Service, frequently in the absence of any criminal charges. More than 800, largely from Mexico and Central America, were deported following the unrest.

1993 KING FEDERAL TRIAL AND DENNY TRIAL

February 4 * Judge John Ouderkirk dismisses 10 of the 33 charges

The advertisement features a black and white photograph of a dark-colored Oldsmobile Eighty Eight LSS sedan parked on a street. Below the car, the headline reads: "If all the world's a stage, this is one of its most versatile performers." The text is in a serif font, with "world's" and "most versatile performers" in a larger, bolder font.

Below the headline, there is a small paragraph of text: "The new Oldsmobile Eighty Eight LSS has the range to perform a wide variety of roles. On one hand, it's a full-size sedan loaded with luxury features. On the other, it offers a level of precise handling and control one might not expect of a car its size. All things considered, the performance of the Eighty Eight LSS is well worth the price of admission."

At the bottom of the advertisement, there is a small logo for Oldsmobile and a tagline: "Demand Better. Eighty Eight LSS By Oldsmobile."

On the right side of the advertisement, there is a vertical timeline of events from 1992, titled "1992 CURRENT EVENTS". The events listed are:

- February 28 * The City of L.A. offers to admit its liability for the beating of Rodney King and to pay him damages. This settlement would make the city to avoid legal challenges, stemming from the King beating, to the LAPD's current policies on the use of force.
- February 28 * Judge John Ouderkirk dismisses 10 of the 33 charges against the four defendants accused of beating Denny and others. Charges of attempted murder of Denny against Williams, Watson, and Henry Keith Watson are upheld.
- April 27 * With police, National Guard units, and County Pandemonium Marines on tactical alert, vehicles are looted down in the King Federal Trial. Officers Berman and Wind are acquitted. Officer Powell and Sgt. Stacey Koon are found guilty of violating Rodney King's civil rights.
- August 6 * Judge John O. Ouderkirk sentences Powell and Koon each to 30 months in jail for convictions which each carry a maximum sentence of a 10 year prison term and a \$250,000 fine.
- October 18/19 * The L.A. Superior Court jury hands down several verdicts of convictions in the Denny Trial. Damian Williams is cleared of attempted murder and convicted of murder and assault for his role in the attacks on Denny and four others (three Latinos and one Asian American). Henry Keith Watson, also acquitted of attempted murder, is convicted of manslaughter and felony assault, and released on probation, having already served 17 months in jail.
- December 7 * Williams is sentenced to 30 years in jail.

Below the timeline, there is a small section titled "1993 CURRENT EVENTS". The events listed are:

- February 28 * The City of L.A. offers to admit its liability for the beating of Rodney King and to pay him damages. This settlement would make the city to avoid legal challenges, stemming from the King beating, to the LAPD's current policies on the use of force.
- February 28 * Judge John Ouderkirk dismisses 10 of the 33 charges against the four defendants accused of beating Denny and others. Charges of attempted murder of Denny against Williams, Watson, and Henry Keith Watson are upheld.
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August 4 * Judge John G. Davies sentences Powell and Koon each to 30 months in jail for convictions which each carry a maximum sentence of a 10 year prison terms and a \$250,000 fine.

October 18-20 * The L.A. Superior Court jury hands down several rounds of convictions in the Denny Trial. Damian Williams is cleared of attempted murder and convicted of mayhem and assault for his role in the attacks on Denny and four others (three Latinos and one Asian American). Henry Keith Watson, also acquitted of attempted murder, is convicted of misdemeanor and felony assaults and released on probation, having already served 17 months in jail.

December 7 * Williams is sentenced to 10 years in jail.

1994 CURRENT EVENTS

February 25 * The City of L.A. offers to admit its liability for the beating of Rodney King and to pay him damages. This settlement would enable the city to avoid legal challenges, stemming from the King beating, to the LAPD's current policies on the use of force.

Dramaturg.....Kimberly T. Flynn

Sources for Chronology: City of Quartz (Vintage Press, 1992) and "L.A. Was Just the Beginning," (Open Magazine Pamphlet, 1992), both by Mike Davis; Covert Action Information Bulletin Interview with Mike Davis; Los Angeles Times; Amnesty International Report on Police Brutality in L.A., CA; "Civil Liberties in Crisis: Los Angeles During the Emergency" a report by the ACLU of Southern California (1992); The L.A. Weekly; Inside the L.A. Riots: What Really Happened—and Why It Will Happen Again (The Institute for Alternative Journalism, 1992); The New York Times; and articles by Cedric J. Robinson, Rhonda M. Williams, Michael Omi and Howard Winant, and Mike Davis from Reading Rodney King, Reading Urban Uprising (Routledge, 1993), edited by Robert Gooding-Williams.

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