

# Kitt still purring

Illustration: Bob Hoare



## EARTHA KITT

- ▶ **Born:** January 17, 1927, in **South Carolina**, illegitimate child of white father and black/Cherokee mother
- ▶ **1940s:** Joins **Katherine Dunham Company**, first African-American modern dance troupe
- ▶ **1952:** Revue **New Faces of 1952** introduces three of her most famous songs, **Monotonous**, **C'est Si Bon** and **Santa Baby**
- ▶ **1958:** Movie debut opposite **Sidney Poitier** in **The Mark of the Hawk**
- ▶ **1967:** Cast as **Catwoman** in TV series **Batman**
- ▶ **1968-78:** Bases herself in Europe when work dries up in U.S. after Kitt expresses strong anti-Vietnam War views at White House lunch hosted by First Lady **Lady Bird Johnson**
- ▶ **1978:** Triumphant return to Broadway in musical **Timbuktu!** heralds career revival
- ▶ **2007:** Still a regular fixture of Manhattan cabaret scene as she nears her 80th birthday