BIGGEST BECAUSE IT'S THE BEST

Rhythm, blues featured at Royal

The Royal, after a long time without top flight attractions, opens tonight (Friday), Sept. 23, for one week, with a special midnite show with an all - star rhythm and Blues show that headlines many of the hottest entertainers in records and on stage today.

The top headliner is Al Hibbler, the brilliant song-star whose "Unchained Melody" set a new high in record sales.

Glamorous La Vern Baker, whose new disc, "That's All I Need," has earned new fans in a co-headliner, while Red Prysock, maestro with the new hit "Hand Clapping," fronts his big band.

Other features are the El Dorados, singing their nine record ing "At My Front Door," and the delightful Two Sweethearts.

On the screen is "Air Strike" with Richard Denning and Gloria Jean.

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Theatrical Whirl

A real, bona-fide surprise hit Nat King Cole squarely between the eyes during his Riverside (Milwaukee) theatre appearance last week . . . eleven of the town's top disc jockys walked on stage, one after the other, and handed the King a token of their appreciation for his "contribution to music" . . . Nat, by the way, has a most unique accomplishment coming up, which he will add to the many already under his belt . . . The televised "Mr. District Attorney" show of Monday night (26th) will deal with song piracy (the practice of stealing songs from their original authors and of theffing records from companies and artists who first cut them) . . . The King will supply the vocals for the tune "Someone on Your Mind," around which the plot is we . . . The film will show scenes of the recording studio of C . . . I Record's and compare the legitimate Capitol label with . . . bogus one (for the sake of the story, of course).

Bob Spielman, ace critic of Billboard, the bible of the entertainment industry, gives Katherine Dunham's Cire's (Hollywood) offering a mild going-over in the current issue of the newsweekly . . . "for what has been touted as the top modern dance troupe in the country, the current stint is disappointing . . Miss Dunham, whose own performance consists in a good system of nothing more than a decelerated version of the shimmy and shake, has definitely been better . . . Actually, the numbers in which Miss Dunham does not appear have verve and liveliness than the ones in which she does" . . . And speaking of commentaries, here's an excerpt from one by the same paper on William Marshall's Othello: "He (Marshall) takes an unconscionable time to get hopped up (to his role) as the Bard (Shakespeare) would have had him" . . . Says the writer: "The current play at New York's City Center is impressive, but not comparable to the Jose Ferrer-Paul Robeson effort of a dozen years ago."

Proving there's nothing new under the sun, especially for Pearl Bailey, she'll team up with Lily Pons for a duet on the "Toast of the Town" television show Sunday . . . and they're slated to sing "everything from bop to grand opera" . . . Billy Daniels and the Marx Brothers are heading the current show at the Rivera Hotel in Las Vegas . . . first time Daniels ever has shown in Las Vegas that he wasn't at the rival El Rancho Vegas . . . When two white agents went into court in Santa Monica, Cal., to battle over the right to represent her (and collect the usual 10 per cent, of course), Dorothy Dandridge told inquiring reporters the squabble was "silly" . . . Excusing herself, Dottie ducked into a "powder room," later escaped by a side door and made for home.

Looking back up there, Whirl sees it neglected an important little item when it was discussing Pearl Bailey . . . It failed to mention the little fact that Pearl will pick up $50,000 for 10 "Toast of the Town" appearances during the 1955-56 fall and winter season . . . little? . . . Herb Jeffries is wearing a patch over his left eye (a la Sammy Davis Jr.) after being struck by a metal fragment while driving his open sports car in California . . . Harry Belafonte goes back into the Empire Room of the Waldorf-Astoria next Thursday (29th)

Gospel singing Mahalia Jackson is recovering at Chicago's Billings Hospital following a gall bladder operation . . . she hopes to resume her TV show the last of the month . . . Lil Armstrong left Paris last week after a week's layover there between hops to armed forces camps in Europe . . . Al Hibbler's "Unchained Melody" last week was reported by the Fritz-Schulz-Reichel recording company as going over the 500,000 mark in sales in Germany . . . According to officials of the firm, an American record is considered "good" if it does 40,000 . . . Louis Armstrong and his All Stars and Velma Middleton are currently a "must" for Hollywoodians at the fashionable Club Crescendo . . . Eartha Kitt is making ready to move into her newly purchased East Manhattan town house . . . Before then, though, Eartha will fill a date calling for her dancing of Salome in a television version of the play on December 18.

Latest on the mitt parade for the Mills Brothers is a two-sided ginger, "Suddenly There's a Valley" and "Gum Drop" . . . and Harry Belafonte clicks with his new waxing, "Troubles" . . . flip side "Hello Everybody" . . . Ruth Brown's rhythm and blues version of "It's Love Baby" is threatening to surpass the success the tune enjoyed when Lewis Brooks did it as a pop hit . . . and while on the subject of records, the Peacock diskery is doing an accelerated bit of drum beating for its new "discovery," Carl Van Meen.

Lena Horne and Sammy Davis Jr. are listed along with such stars as Peter Lorre, Frank Sinatra, Dan Dailey and Cyd Charisse . . . Duke Ellington and ork will guest on NBC-Radio's "Treasury of Stars" show next Tuesday (27th) night at 10:30 . . . Sarah Vaughan is set for the Fontainbleu (Miami) the week of October 11-17 . . . Back for a moment to Lena . . . she'll team with Pearl Bailey, Billy Eckstine and Billy Daniels in a forthcoming Las Vegas Night of Stars charity show . . . their number will be titled "Quartet from Rigoletto" and will be a parody, of course—SAM LACY.

ON ROYAL BILL—Two of the reasons why the great stage show now playing through next Thursday at the Royal is one of the top footlight attraction of the year. That's Al "Unchained Melody" Hibbler and glamorous La Vern Baker, who along with Red Prysock and his band, the Two Sweethearts and The El Dorados make everything slightly terrific. Midnite show is opening tonight Friday, Sept. 23.

Sylvania names Jackie Robinson a TV judge

NEW YORK — Jackie Robinson, Brooklyn Dodgers baseball player and former National Broadcasting Company consultant, has been chosen to serve as one of the judges for the 1955 Sylvania Television awards.

Decision to set up the awards for the fifth straight year was announced this week by Don G. Mitchell, chairman and president of Sylvania Electric Products Inc.

The 1955 Awards will be presented to individuals and organizations that have made the most notable contributions to television through programs on the air between November 1, 1954 and October 31, 1955. Presentation of the 1955 awards will take place at a dinner here on November 29.

* * *

AT THE SAME time, Mr. Mitchell also announced that Seymour Berkson, general manager of the International News Service; Leonard Bernstein, the conductor and composer; and Robinson will serve for the first time on the 1955 Committee of Judges, of which Deems Taylor again will be chairman.

Other judges new to the committee this year will be Gilmor Brown, president of the Pasadena Playhouse; Mrs. Roy E. Layton, president of the Girl Scouts of America; and Charles Mercer television and radio editor of the Associated Press.

The new judges will join Dean Kenneth Bartlett, director of the Radio and Television Center of Syracuse University; Dr. Frank Bradley, president of the American Hospital Association; Dorothy Draper, decorator, designer and stylist; the Honorable James A. Farley; Mrs. John E. Hayes, past - president of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers; Judge Samuel S. Leibowitz, and Mr. Taylor, all of whom have served on the committee in the past.

JACKIE ROBINSON

* * *

"LIKE ITS predecessors, the 1955 Committee of Judges reflects a high level of leadership in many phases of American life," Mr. Mitchell said. "The variety of interests represented by the individual judges parallels the diversity of tastes represented in the national television audience.

"This will enable the committee to exercise sound and reasoned judgment in arriving at its decision and in presenting its summation of the current state of television."

As part of their duties, the judges will be asked to consider giving a Grand Award to the program which, in their opinion, has made the greatest contribution to creative television techniques while still fulfilling the social responsibilities of the medium.

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Catonsville Legionnaire elected vice commander

At the recent state convention of the American Legion Department of Maryland, William Holley of Catonsville was re-elected vice commander. The convention was held in Ocean City.

Mr. Holley presided over one session of the convention, and gave a report on the progress of the Jackson-Johnson Memorial Post No. 263 of Catonsville.

The post elected and installed new officers recently.

Charles Henson was named Post Commander; James Rhenbottom, first vice commander; Richard Gaines, second vice commander; William Holley, adjutant; William Foreman, service officer; and James Jones, finance officer.

Also, William Brooks, historian; Edgar Coe, chaplain; Sylvester France, judge advocate; Richard Waller and Walter Bivens, color bearers; and Vernon Newton, sergeant-at-arms.

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"Raiders of The Seven Seas"
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"SAVAGE HORDE"
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DORIS DAY in
"LOVE ME OR LEAVE ME"
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"CREATURE WITH THE ATOM BRAIN"
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PLUS CARTOON
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ROD CAMERON and JOAN LESLIE in
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ALSO
"OUT OF THE PAST"
with ROBERT MITCHUM and JANE GREER
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ROBERT STACK and ROBERT RYAN in
"HOUSE OF BAMBOO"
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PLUS CARTOON
SUN.-MON.-TUES. SEPT. 25-26-27
RANDOLPH SCOTT and FORREST TUCKER in
"RAGE AT DAWN"
ALSO
"THAT LADY"
with Olivia DeHavilland and Gilbert Roland
IN CINEMASCOPE AND COLOR
PLUS CARTOON
WED.-THURS. SEPT. 28-29
JOSE FERRER and JUNE ALLYSON in
"THE SHRIKE"
ALSO
"JUNGLE MOON MEN"
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PLUS CARTOON

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TECHNICOLOR
RICHARD WIDMARK
ALSO
"PHFFFT"
JUDY HOLLIDAY
FRI.-SAT. SEPT. 30-OCT. 1
"HOUSE OF BAMBOO"
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TODAY-SAT.-SUN.-MON.
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Starring Faith Domergue
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"CREATURE WITH THE ATOM BRAIN"
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TUES.-WED.-THURS. SEPT. 27-28-29
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JOEL McCREA in
"BORDER RIVER"
PLUS
RICHARD CARLSON in
"CREATURE FROM THE BLACK LAGOON"
THURS.-FRI.-SAT. SEPT. 29-OCT. 1
RICHARD DENNING in
PLUS
FAITH DOMERGUE in
"IT CAME FROM BENEATH THE SEA"
"CREATURE WITH THE ATOM BRAIN"
Egyptian Frieze and Saturday
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Broderick Crawford in
"BIG HOUSE USA"
"Adventures of Capt. Africa" No. 4
WED.-THURS. SEPT. 28-29
GLENN FORD in
"RETURN OF OCTOBER"
PLUS
JOEL McCREA in
"WICHITA"
FRI.-SAT. SEPT. 30-OCT. 1
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Along The Avenue

Las Vegas has the Moulin Rouge, L.A. has Ciro's, Chicago, the Blue Note and at last Baltimore has something to compare with all three. It's Phil's at Mount and Mosher Sts.

A recent reconstruction job from top to bottom has converted the spot into one of the most attractive in town.

Can't get Joseph Reuben, the owner, to comment on the cost of the new look, but take a guess in the neighborhood of of $50,000 and you won't be far off.

To be specific, the interior is the type you would expect to find in clubs where a scotch and soda costs a buck fifty.

For those who go for the modernistic kick in decorating Phil's is the place. A soft indirect lighting system set against a blued background and huge mirrors make it the most.

Even the rest rooms have gone modern. They have been done up in black and gray.

* * *

THE PROUD MANAGER, James R. Smith, "Stitch" to his friends, conducted a group of early arrivals on a tour of the place recently and everyone agreed that someone is in for some stiff competition.

The reconstruction job started last April and was only recently completed. The grand opening has been scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 28th.

Frank Minion and his trio who have been seen on TV and heard on radio are on the bandstand.

A squad of workers are on hand to keep things humming behind the bar and around the tables. They include Anne Jones, Ethel Rakins, Evetta Scott, Viola Green, Joyce Jacobs, Eleanor Brooks, and Helen Davis.

Fellows, with the exception of one, they are all married.

The rest of the staff is made up of Russell Smith, "Stitches" brother; Robert Evans, and Eugene Hall.

* * *

ETHEL ENNIS is back in town and at the Red Fox Room the club where she got her start.

After a few weeks in the Big Town, Ethel is back home for a two-weeks engagement.

She's there every night with the exception of Tuesday with Billy Fox and Monty Poulson.

Hear tell the local singer is about ready to cut-a couple of sides for Decca Records. Probably within 30 days.

Paul Cohen, one of the big-shot moguls for that record firm was impressed with Ethel's showmanship.

One thing that has not been mentioned but it's a known fact is that a few records on the juke boxes by any artist adds more moola to the bank account.

REMEMBER THE rumors about one singer being ungrateful to her sponsors and another busy drinking joy juice like mad?? Both girls say they have been terribly hurt by the rumors.

Had their heads together a few a.m.'s ago discussing their troubles.

Speaking of problems, wonder how long it will be before that place on Poplar Grove St. can enjoy the comforts of staying open seven days a week?

THIS COLUMN predicts that Frankie Jones, now appearing at the Comedy Club, will turn out to be one of the most popular performers to hit this town.

In his stint at the Avenue nite spot, his performance takes on the appearance of an audience participation show.

All though his act, while singing and playing the piano, he chats with his audience and his listeners reply in return.

In between, a good listner can detect strains of a little Errol Garner at the piano. Frankie, it appears can play just that way when he wants to.

Some of his numbers are not for timid. Listen to his version of "Grimes Fairy Tales," "Upstairs," and "I Can't Give You Anything but Love Baby."

Veretta Dillard is next on the Comedy Club agenda.

THE ROYAL THEATRE is back to big time stuff this week with stage shows.

Al Hibbler, LaVern Baker, Red Prysock and the El Dorados are heading the Rhythm and Blues show starting (Friday) tonight.

Ever wonder what happened to the stage shows they use to present there? Remember, not one show has been on the boards at the Royal in years.

It's because you, you, you, and I did not support them.

Manager Jack Burton says he's going to try and keep the ball rolling this time — but he needs cooperation from you.

A special midnight show will highlight the return of live performers to the theatre.

BY THE BY, did you know there is a law which requires a theatre to close down shortly after 12 midnight on Saturday??

The bars can remain open until 2 a.m. but not the theatres they must have special permission.

Creston "Doc" Woingust took his variety show out to Henryton State Hospital Monday and score a big success.

Busses for the trip were donated by Robert Stanford of the Diggs Motor Coach company.

The show as called "The Creston "Doc" Woingust Variety Show." "Doc" was assisted by Flossie King, mother of Andre King noted dance instructor.

* * *

FOLKS AT Henryton said the show which played to a packed house, was the best they had seen in 31 years.

The show bill featured songs by Josephine Ball, interpretative dances by Cannington and Coleman, the Tangiers, a vocal group.

Managed Mrs. Evelyn Stylee members of the Tangiers are Milton Penn, Eddie Rogers, George Brooks, Ronald Carney and Carroll.

"Shanghi" Lil Hall brought down the house with her touch songs. Andre King and his Afro-Cuban dancers rounded out the program.

* * *

LOOKING FORWARD to a good movie this week-end? Don't fail to see "To Catch a Thief" at the Regent with Cary Grant and Grace Kelly.

"Love is a Many Spledmored Thing" brought tears to many a woman's eyes when it played the same house earlier in the week.

The wise guys along the avenue who saw Jack Webb in Pete Kelley's Blues at the Royal are of the opinion that Webb should stick to his detective stories.

One said his (Webb's) facial expressions reminded him of a wooden Indian.

THE MET had a crowd Wednesday night for the Marciano fight even though the bout had been postponed.

Over at the Harlem there's a heck of a movie with Ann Blyth and Edmund Purdom, "The King's Thief."

Ask anybody and they'll tell you that "Shotgun" was one of the best to play the New Albert.

After visiting our local movies this week don't forget to stop by for a thirst quencher at the Casino where there's music or Jones' Cocktail Lounge where the Pyramids are evry Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

* * *

THERE'S ALSO fun to be had at the Las Vegas where the Terry Gibbs Quartet is playing sweet music; the Cream Club on North Gay St., the Club Orleans, Mickey's Bar on Poplar Grove St., the Clover Club at Fayette and Wolfe, Rich's Tavern, also on Poplar Grove St., the Bermuda Bar on E. North Avenue, Jerry's Bar and Cafe on Edmondson, and the Club Savoy on E. Monument St.

For tasty food don't forget the Rice Inn and for more fun visit the Club Ambassador, the Fulton Cafe and the club Astoria where Irvin Bean and his combo perform nightly.

CAUGHT BY THE CAMERA—Unsuccessful in her attempt to flee from photographers, sultry singer-actress Dorothy Dandridge smilingly gives up the ghost in a Santa Monica courtroom. Miss Dandridge appeared as a witness in a suit brought by her former manager against her present manager, which was settled out of court before La Dandridge fled.

Dot Dandridge ducks scribes

HOLLYWOOD (ANP) — Batting each other like the old Aesop's fable of the cats and the cheese, two talent agents, Earl Mills, and Bernice Black, dragged their differences into Municipal court at Santa Monica last week, the prize being 10 per cent of Dorothy Dandridge's earnings.

Miss Black who appears to have been procuring some of the jobs for the pretty star of "Carmen Jones," had sued Mills for the sum of $1,250 which she claimed was due her through a verbal agreement made between her and Mills.

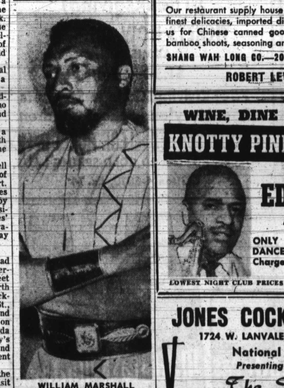
* * *

BUT THE STAR, who is said to not give much concern to the financial end of her lucrative career, leaving it to Mills, and who had been subpoened as a witness, ran away from newspaper reporters.

Now one of Hollywood's highest salaried stars, and under contract to 20th - Century-Fox studio, she wanted to get away from legal squabbles. As reporters crowded near with questions she remarked, "It's all silly."

THROWING her pink scarf around her shoulders, she ducked into a ladies' wash room. But while the newsmen and photographers waited in vain for her to emerge, she slipped out a side door to a parking lot and drove back to nearby Beverly Hills and to her home on Sunset Strip.

Miss Black secured a settlement of $300. The court denied Mills a cross-file complaint.



WILLIAM MARSHALL

Marshall hailed in 'Othello' role

NEW YORK (ANP) — William Marshall, brilliant thespian, scored a signal triumph in his return to New York and the Broadway legitimate stage after a long absence.

Marshall held the coveted role of "Othello" in the first New York presentation of "The Brattle Shakespeare Players," at City Center Theatre.

The star was surrounded by a magnificent cast of artists. Iago was Jerome Kilty. Desdemona was played by Jan Farran.

Marshall rose to new dramatic heights with his well paced emotional climax of the tortured Othello in the final action at the death bed of his wife, Desdemona.

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"BE A SURE WINNER TODAY"
Phone for my special guaranteed blessing for Saturday, Oct. 1st. Unconditionally guaranteed for 30 days. You owe it to yourself to phone now for details. Phone 24 hours any day, secretaries always on duty to give full information and details. Read March 1955 issue of Our World Magazine telling about Prophet John's guaranteed specials. See news item in Color Magazine telling why Prophet John cannot receive or send MAIL. Come see this man or phone him now.
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Limited space prohibits telling you much here but if you will write me I will respond at once and tell you how I received this wonderful result.
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to Record For Decca.
With MONTY POULSON On Bass
Plus BILLY FOX
Hear "Hey Jacques," "Off Shore," "I Hear The Bells," "Experience Unexchanged," and Many Other of Your Favorite Selections.
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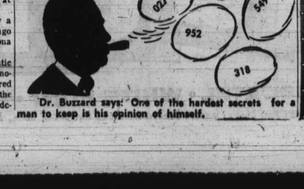

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