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"BLACK WOMAN IN WHITE," a play by Arthur C. Lamb, premiered on stage of Morgan State College's Little Theatre on Dec. 2 and runs through Dec. 12. Left to right: Thomas Lynch, as Caesar Rainey; Bruce Hawkins as Martin and Penny Demps as Nurse Ella Jones.

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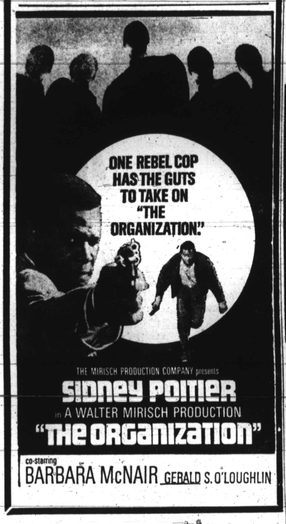

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What's Happening!

By IDA PETERS

WITHERS WITH FLACK SHOE

Unlike a lot of other popular singers, Bill Withers did not decide on a music career until he was 29, and it was an uphill fight all the way.

Riding on the crest of a single smash hit "Ain't No Sunshine," Withers has come a long way and will be co-featured with Roberta Flack and Company at the Civic Center on Sunday, December 5, starting at 8 p.m.

Success was rapid for Bill, however belatedly he got on the winning track. The former 9-year Navy man and mechanic moved to Hollywood in 1967 in order to look into recording opportunities. He was employed in an aircraft plant installing plumbing fixtures in 747's, while waiting for recognition of his demo tapes of five tunes he had presented to major record companies.

When he finally got a call from Sussex Records, Withers composed ten original tunes for his first album, "Just As I Am." The album was a huge success, and "Ain't No Sunshine" proved to be the single number of most effect upon his new career. The single reached the top ten on the charts and has remained on Billboard's top forty nationally for 39 weeks, while achieving the coveted million-selling "gold record."

ARTHUR LAMB'S PLAY OPENS MORGAN STATE

The premiere of Arthur C. Lamb's new version of "Black Women In White" is scheduled to debut on the stage of Morgan State College's Little Theatre on Thursday, Dec. 2.

The second production of the year is a series of the "Best in Black Theatre" being presented by the Nu Phi cast of Alpha Psi Omega National Fraternity and the Ira Aldridge Players at Morgan State. "Black Women In White" was first produced in Harlem during the early 40s and starred the now famous actor-producer Ossie Davis in his first acting role.

Lamb, who is director of the Morgan State Aldridge Players and an associate professor of English at the Northeast Baltimore institution, has re-written the play which in its present form includes civil rights issues and women's liberation elements.

The play is a moving drama which involves a Black woman's frustration and striving diligence in improving the health care and health facilities of a Black community in Texas.

Directing the second "Best in Black Theatre" production will be Michael J. Madach, a former Foundation Grant recipient who spent last year at the Washington Arena Stage as an actor, assistant director, designer and costumer. An accomplished director and scenic designer, Madach brings to the Morgan thespian group an extensive background in motion pictures, television and stage. Last year, while with the Washington Arena stage, he played roles in "King Lear," "Macbeth," "The Cruelbie" and "Great White Hope."

The premiere performance is on Thursday, Dec. 2, and will run through Sunday, Dec. 5. The play will re-open on the Little Theatre stage on Dec. 9 and continue until Sunday, Dec. 12. All curtains will rise at 7:30 p.m., except the Sunday afternoon matinees on Dec. 5 and 12, which are at 3:30 p.m.

The cast for "Black Women In White" is:

Dr. B. B. Walker, Marcia Armstead; "Doc" Rainey, Clinton Johnson; Caesar Rainey, Thomas Lynch; Martin, Bruce Hawkins; Jim Alexander, Oku Kilolo; Eula Mae Alexander, Erma Jean Johnson; Mary Lou Alexander, Kathy Jenkins;

Jeff Walker, Anthony Richburg; Susie Walker, Diana Nichols; Naomi Walker, Sandy Jones; Alderman Harrison, Richard Quarengesser;

Mayor Randolph, Michael Madach; Dr. Brant, Jody Landers; Nurse Ella Jones, Penny Demps; Nurse Clayton, Shirley Lenora Smith; Reverend Creecy, Fran Dorsey; Bruce Williams, Tom Weatherly; Miss Ewing, Esther Dinkins.

Townspeople: Shirley Basfield, Ophelia Wilson, Saundra Roberts, Vickie Harville and Sandra Spratley.

"BUS", AT NEW

"The Bus Is Coming" now at the New, is set in the ghetto of an American city on the eve of an almost-imminent race war. Joe Mitchell, a prominent and respected leader in the cause of civil rights, has been shot down in his home by local police. All the facts aren't in yet, but the Black Community is suspicious of the circumstances and fearful of the consequences of Joe's death. Some prefer to leave well enough alone, while other, more militant, members insist that Joe's death is the first step in the systematic killing of progressive Black leaders.

Because the film is shot entirely on location in Compton, Calif., the atmosphere and the veracity of the story and the characters are greatly enhanced. In many cases the locations equal the action and dialogue in message power. Scenes shot in Compton city streets, in the city jail, a graveyard, a poor Baptist Church, an after-hours club or a shoe-shine parlor could never be duplicated on a stage set.

The music is written and composed by Tom McIntosh and includes an opening ballad, two songs at a jam session at the after-hours club, and a song at the final rally, as well as background music throughout. O. C. Smith sings the title song.

JOHN HOUSTON STARS AT HIPPODROME

John Huston, whose masterful directing jobs triple his acting efforts, considers himself that rarity among the actor-director hyphenates who is "an instant, obedient actor" whether directing himself or being coached by another director.

In the new Warner Bros. survival epic, "Man in the Wilderness," co-starring with Richard Harris, Huston describes himself as completely in Dick Sarafian's hands, now at the Hippodrome.

His performance as leather tough Captain Henry, leader of a fur trapping expedition, who abandons Harris when he is mauled grizzly bear and defends his plainsboat against bloodthirsty Indians only to die in a massacre, equals that of previous starring roles in "The Cardinal."

(Continued on Page D-9)

HOSEA L. WILLIAMS, national program director of SCLC, will lecture on the changing face of America as seen through black eyes, Tuesday, Dec. 14 at 7 p.m., in the Pullen Gym of Coppin State College.

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In Color SUNDAY 10 PM
WBAL TV 11

EARLE HYMAN plays Trigorin, a novelist and the lover of Kay Doubleday as Arcadina in Anton Chekhov's "The Sea Gull" now at Center Stage.

Happenings

(Continued from Page D-8)

"The Bible" and "Casino Royale."

* * *

"CHAIN GANG WOMEN" NOW AT HARLEM

Michael Stearns is a big husky actor who heads up a fine cast in Crown International's release "Chain Gang Women", now playing at the Harlem Theatre. The Nebraska born star started out to be a musician and for seven years avelled four times around the world playing with such topliners as Lee Brown, Harry James, Billy Eckstine, the Andrews Sisters, Earl Grant and others.

* * *

MONDAWMIN STEREO OPEN HOUSE

Fred O'Neal and his staffs of Mondawmin Photo and his new store, Mondawmin Stereo held open house last Sunday at Mondawmin Shopping Center.

Spied at the buffet and inspecting the new store were Sen. Verda Welcome, Del. Troy Brailey, Dr. and Mrs. James Carr, Atty. and Mrs. William H. Nelson, Jr., James Crockett, the realtor.

Also Otho Ringgold, Lee Sahn of MPC, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Levy, Stanley Butler of Bond's, Mrs. Nancy Brown;

Acting as hosts and hostesses, Mrs. Martha O'Neal, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Snowden, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Booker (he's chief of Community Relations, Mondawmin), Jerry Schunick, Montel Tyler and Stan Peterson, Manager of Mondawmin Stereo.

The O'Neals left after the opening to rush to the bedside of his mother in Minneapolis-St. Paul.

* * *

U. OF M. BAND NIGHT

The department of music of the University of Maryland will present the second annual Maryland Band Night Friday, December 3, 1971 at 8:15 p.m. in the Tawes Fine Arts Theatre on the College Park campus. Performing will be the symphony, varsity and marching bands and jazz ensemble.

Noted performers who will appear are-jazz drummer Joe Morello, playing with the jazz ensemble and trumpeters; Donald Tison, principal trumpet with the Baltimore symphony orchestra; and Emerson Head, well-known soloist and clinician from the University's faculty.

The annual band night is a show case concert, emphasizing the diverse musical spectrum of the University's band program. Selections by more than 200 performers will range from traditional band music to contemporary wind music and from gridiron favorites to rock and contemporary jazz.

* * *

CIVIC CENTER EVENTS

Dec. 3 — Basketball-Baltimore Bullets vs Seattle Supersonics — 8:15 p.m. Auditorium.

Dec. 4 — Ice Hockey-Baltimore Clippers vs. Richmond Robins — 8 p.m. Auditorium

Dec. 5 — The Band Show 3 to 6 p.m. Auditorium.

Dec. 5 — Roberta Flack Jazz Show — 8 to 11 p.m. Auditorium

WIGS AND THINGS

Woody Strode stars in "BLACK JESUS" at the Regent Theatre.

The fabulous girls of "Fanny Hill" are starred in "Dagmar's Hot Pants" now at the Town.

The C.C.B. Players are presenting "The Devitt" in the Little Theatre of the Community College of Baltimore, 2901 Liberty Heights, this Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Sunday, Dec. 5th, 10:30 a.m., "Sounds, Inc." will be presented by the Office of the Chaplain, John Hopkins University, Levering Hall.

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Tom is Merchandising Manager of Contemporary and Rhythm-and-Blues Music for RCA Records.

In that position, he's involved in just about every aspect of marketing and advertising the records he's responsible for.

He gets into the act before we make a record, advising us about which artist should perform what music. Artists like the Guess Who, Nilsson and the Friends of Distinction.

And after the record is made, he initiates advertising and promotional activities to sell it. Everything from press conferences to suggesting ideas for posters and album covers.

This year, he expects to handle 40 to 50 albums, with anticipated sales of 3-million albums and 5-million singles.

With volume like that, Tom works long hours. But to hear him tell it, going to work is like a kid going out to play.

No two days are alike. As he says, "It gives me a chance to try anything. There aren't any hard and fast rules."

He's excited about where music is going today. "Contemporary music has come of age. Now artists are searching for the next plateau, which should be a fusion of jazz and rock and jazz and rhythm-and-blues. Soul music will be more refined, but we'll never get away from the emotional source."

Tom came to RCA over six years ago, after two years at the University of Detroit.

As a trainee, he sold our tape machines to car manufacturers. Then he spent four and a half years selling RCA television sets.

But he really wanted to sell records. So he transferred to our Record Division, promoting rhythm-and-blues records to Detroit radio stations and disk jockeys.

He learned the business so well and so fast we brought him to our New York headquarters last February, as one of four record merchandising managers.

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