What's Happening

by IDA Peters

TWIGS

Sada Thompson, star of the comedy "Twigs" now playing at the Mechanic, lives up to all advance notices.

After watching so many boring plays . . . "Sleuth" was one . . . you'll enjoy Sada Thompson . . . and you'll have to listen quick to catch all of her subtle humor . . . expressed in her walk and quick gestures.

She won the 1972 Tony Award as the year's best actress for the four different women she portrays in "Twigs."

The roles are three sisters and their mother. The action transpires in four kitchens on Thanksgiving Eve. The three sisters have varied lives and or less divided as winners and losers. But the old mother is no loser. She's an aggressive granny and spends her days baiting Pa in affection denunciation, but never sparing the verbal rod.

* * *

POITIER

Actor Sidney Poitier's former wife, Juanita, brought suit in state supreme court Friday to force Poitier to reveal his financial status.

Mrs. Poitier, who operates a drug rehabilitation facility in the Columbia-County Hamlet of Stuyvesant, asks that Poitier show cause why he should not pay amounts allegedly owed.

The Poitiers were married in 1951 and had four children.

* * *

FINE PRINT

A local newspaper recently featured on its back page a story on the Busy Bees the inner-city 4-H club at Murphy Homes.

"Often their voices mix with the whirr of a second-hand sewing machine as they make tote bags, aprons and pajama bags."

Beautiful . . . until I happened to glance at the Irving Phillips photo of Mrs. Beatrice Hill. Her huge machine doesn't look second hand to me. Her machine looks to have the newest bobbin and zig-zag attachments . . . and if this is second hand . . . as the story connotates . . . then I'll take hers and give her my old "first-hand."

* * *

COPPIN

Two productions by the Coppin Players of Coppin State College will be presented in the Research Center this Friday at 8 p.m. and Saturday at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Miss Delores St. Admand is director. The plays are "The Slave With Two Faces" by Mary Davis and "Breedees" by S. Randolph Edmonds.

Cast members for "The Slave With Two Faces" include Albert Williams as Life; Ruth Connelly, Queen; Toni McSwain, Princess; and Sandra Moore, Princess.

The cast for "Breeders" are Ruth Connelly as Mama; Pauline Edwards, Ruth; Solomon Simmons, David; Jimmy Watkins, Solomon; Albert Williams, Overseer; and Darlene Bradley as "Precious Lord."

* * *

GRAND FUNK

Excitement in the form of the rock group, Grand Punk will be in town this week-end sponsored by National Attractions. It's a sell-out and their record "Phoenix" on Capitol Records is seventh on Billboard charts, 8 on Cash Box and 6 in Record World. Their hot single is "Rock and Roll Soul."

* * *

ALDRIDGE PLAYERS

Morgan State College's Ira Aldridge Players' will present a dramatization of Lorraine Hansberry's autobiography, "To Be Young, Gifted and Black," at 7:30 p.m. in the College's Carl Murphy Auditorium this week-end.

The basic reality of the evening . . .

The basic reality of the evening is a company of actors arsembled to tell the story of Lorraine Hansberry, a young, black playwright, who died in 1964 of cancer, through the use of flashbacks from her various plays. Her most well-known work, "A Raisin in the Sun," won the 1959 Pulitzer Prize for drama.

The players will relive the experiences of Miss Hasserry through the sensual actuality of her life: the fears, joys, sights, sounds, smells, etc. should be conveyed to the audience so that it can almost reach out and touch the characters.

Boldly contemporary in form, the play was woven together from letters, diaries, notebooks and portions of Miss Hansberry's plays by her husband and literary executor, Robert Nemiroff. The form is free-flowing, but chronological with scenes and memories

(Continued on Page D-51)

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What's Happening

(Continued From Page D-50)

merging without distinct division.

"HIT MAN"

H. B. Barnum will compose the musical score for producer Gene Corman's "Hit Man."

Barnum, recently receiving rave reviews for his musical direction of "Don't Bother Me, I Can't Cope," has penned the musical arrangements for such talents as O. C. Smith, Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr., Little Richard, Don Ho, Freda Payne and the entire stable of Motown greats.

"Hit Man," a fast-moving action drama, which follows the exploits of a powerful underworld figure who seeks to avenge his brother's death, stars Bernie Casey, with Pam Grier, Lisa Moore and Betty Waldron co-starring.

No single member of the cast plays Miss Hansberry; rather all: male and female, black and white portray her, her character and the people who affected and stimulated her most.

Look who's back in town!

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"The Arabs and

SHIRLEY FIELDS

By BLAINE TAYLOR

The interior is beautiful and cast in the red glow of flickering lights; incense burns in glass holders on red-covered tables.

A intimate and friendly crowd of music-lovers listens in rapt attention as attractive Miss Shirley Fields and her back-up group "The Arabs" belts out a jazz tune.

Another fun-filled evening is underway at "Elzie and Estelle's Royal Roost, 4227 York Rd. in Govans billed by its business partner-owners, Elzie Street and Estelle Hughes, as "Baltimore's only real jazz cocktail lounge."

* * *

Miss Fields and "The Arabs" play from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. every Friday, Saturday and Sunday, giving their many fans such hits as "Fly Me to the Moon," "A House is Not a Home," "There'll Never Be Another You" and "Bye Bye, Black Bird."

Miss Fields sings in a deep, full and throaty voice, and involves the club's patrons in the manner of Shirley Bassey.

She has been appearing at "The Royal Roost" for the last three months, presinger Ethel Ennis.

* * *

The group consists of four players: Calvin Vaughn, leader and organist; James Steve Allen, drummer, a former Army Medic, who began playing at age 17; Henry Jones, guitar; and Bobby Griffin, bongo drums.

It was Mr. Griffin's girlfriend, Miss Nancy Davis, a 1972 Towson State College graduate, who tipped off the AFRO about the music of this new group and Miss Fields appearing for the first time in Baltimore together.

During one performance, a Baltimore City policeman walked into the club and told the AFRO: "If all the bars were like this one, it would be great.

ceded by famed Baltimore "Look at the clientele here — they're all music fans.

"The cars parked outside prove it — they're from Wasinngton, Virginia, Pennsylvania and New York, as well as from here.

Last week, a bus load of 48 former Richmonders now living in D.C., came over to visit former classmate Estelle Price Hughes. They all attended Armstrong High and Virginia Union.

In the group were Shirley Stutely, Butch Cameron, Mel Blackwell, Eva Howlett, Yvonne Robinson, Bernice Patience, Zeke Allison, James and Peter Ammons.

* * *

Mr. Street, 45, the manager of the club, is proud of remarks like these and adds: "I run a good, clean operation here.

"I don't have any problems with the police and in the two and a half years that I've been at this location I've never had to even call them once."

He explained one method he used to avoid trouble: "I have a door cover charge of $1.50 which enables us to keep bringing in top entertainment.

* * *

He further told the AFRO "This is one of the few bars to have really good jazz records on the juke box, and we serve our customers corned beef, roast beef and pastrami sandwiches."

There is one more fact, he claims, that makes "The Royal Roost" unique: "Tais is the only Black owned and operated club on York Rd. from 29th St. all the way out to Towson."

MRS. DELORES PATTERSON EPPS (3rd from right) is shown with her father, Alexander Patterson (4th from right), and WBAL-TV's Dennis Murray during TV 11's "Duckpins and Dollars" program a week ago.

Mr. Patterson, who was a contestant on the program, was reunited with his daughter after a lapse of more than 16 years when she recognized him and telephoned the station to arrange the reunion.

More What's happening

SOUNDER

It's a rare occurence these days when a new film comes along that tells a meaningful story and inspires such critical comments as "one of the most remarkable and touching films of the last ten years" (Margaret Ronan, Scholastic), and earns enthusiastic endorsements from the American Library Association and the National Education Association.

"Sounder" is based on the Newbery Award-winning novel by William H. Armstrong. It was produced by Robert B. Radnitz, who has been honored widely for his many family fair pictures; directed by Martin Ritt, one of the country's finest film craftsman; and adapted for the screen by the brilliant, young playwright, Lonne Elder III. Starred are such gifted talents as Cicely Tyson, Kevin Hooks and the legendary blues, singer-composer, Taj Mahal.

Unlike many of today's motion pictures, "Sounder" gives teachers the opportunity of sharing with their students a truly touching portrait of the black family as a cohesive unit. Educators will also be interested to note that in "Sounder," the teacher is presented as a sensitive catalyst to the young hero's growth.

* * *

ICE FOLLIES

"Spectrum '73" is the title and theme of the 1973 Shipstads and Johnson Ice Follies which comes to the Baltimore Civic Center for its annual winter visit beginning Tuesday, January 9th and running through Sunday the 14th.

The superb cast features the incomparable Richard Dwyer, ice skating's matinee idol of many years standing; Susan Berens, Christy Ito, Kathy Miller, Ricky Ingles, Mr. Frick, now celebrating his 35th year with the Ice Follies, and newcomer Atoy Wilson, the first black skating star.

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MILES DAVIS

By FREDERICK I. DOUGLAS

Miles has done it again! His latest album is truly an electronic marvel.

Entitled "On the Corner," this album gives crystal clear evidence that Miles will lead the vanguard of Jazz for the rest of the century. He has always been avant garde! Remember the fantastic trips he took with Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie, the Trane and many, many others?

If not, I truly feel for you because you have missed an adventure. Remember "Al' Blues," "Sketches of Spain," "Four and More," "Bitches Brew," "In a Silent Way" and "Live-Evil?"

REMEMBER? These are CLASSICS of the BLACK EXPERIENCE!

Miles has always experimented with the latest innovations in music. His style successfully incorporates the best of Jazz, Rock, Blues and electronic music to form a blend that is mind-blowing to say the least.

He has also mastered the use of the Wah-Wah pedal and myriad other electronic gadgetry as an extension of the natural sound of the trumpet. Is there any doubt that this man is a Wizard? Considering the magnitude of his talent I can overlook his arrogance.

"Black Satin!" That's the name of one of the heaviest cuts on this album: It is exotic and mysterious. It takes one to the deff, dark and unexplored regions of the mind. Put it on your turntable and wrap some earphones around your noggin. Let yourself go. Give into the moods of Miles as he takes you one step beyond into the twilight zone of modern music. But be sure to listen carefully because Miles is not playing warmed over versions of wha, was happening yesterday. He is very much into tomorrow. In fact his latest album could have very easily served as the sound track for 2001. It is truly a space odyssey.

Somehow it seems ridiculous to even attempt to review an album by Miles Davis. He is beyond explanation. This is one experience that you have to check out for yourself. Listen to it, Brother. Miles is great. Too bad he and Hendrix never had the opportunity to jam together.

Listen to Miles and hear tomorrow today!

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