What's Happening

by IDA Peters

HAPPY NEW YEAR

December, 1972 marks our first full year writing "What's Happening" for the Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers and the first six months as Public Relations Director for the AFRO-AMERICAN Chain.

New duties not anticipated were the handling of the Mrs. Santa Program, the Clean Block program AFRO MAGAZINE plus the writing of What's Happening with special emphasis on stage and movie reviews, television and radio news and record news.

So, to all my wonderful friends, colleagues and their families . . . this column sends special holiday thanks for your help and patience and a special wish for all of you a New Year of peace and happiness.

SIDELIGHT

Some time back we told you of our expereince ($11 tickets) in an open letter to Mayor Walter Washington when we (the Firesides) attended a play at the Kennedy Center for Performing Arts, in D.C.

At Mayor Washington's Thanksgiving party the main topic of conversation was the letter and he found that club members were old friends but he had not recognized this writer's new name.

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ARENA PLAYERS

"To Be Young, Gifted and Black" will be presented by the Arena Players January 5-21 at the Arena Playhouse. Adapted by Robert Nemiroff, it is based on the life of Lorraine Hansbury in her own words.

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"LADY"

"Lady Sings The Blues," as the top motion picture of 1972, will be saluted during the half-time show of the USC-Ohio State Football game at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California on New Year's Day.

The 125-piece Trojan Marching Band, under the direction of Arthur C. Bartner, will render a special salute and will play George Gershwin's "Our Love Is Here To Stay," which is featured in the fim.

Diana Ross, who skyrocketed to motion picture stardom in her first film, "Lady Sings The Blues," will be in attendance.

"Lady Sings The Blues," a Motown-Paramount production, has been the biggest grossing film in the United States for the past five-weeks.

TRIMNASTICS

A special "TRIMNASTICS" program will begin Tuesday, January 9, 1973 at the main gymnasium of the Gilman School.

Classes will be supervised by Jocelyn Levasseur and will be conducted from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays through March 1.

Special conditioning exercises will be offered to increase strength, stamina, agility and to firm up any area of the body where the need exists.

Mild jogging and/or walking and deep breathing are inclined to increse cardiovascular efficiency.

The class is designed to accommodate beginners, as well as advanced fitness buffs.

This course includes nutritional and fitness guidance bulletins and movies recommended by the President's Council on physical Fitness and Sports and the Maryland Commission on Physical Fitness. For further information or to reg-

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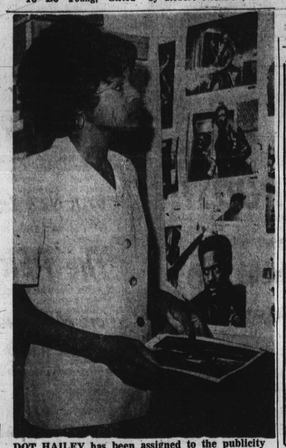

DOT HAILEY has been assigned to the publicity team for MGM's "Shaft In Africa" starring Richard Roundtree, now filming in Ethiopia.

NEW YEAR'S EVE at LATIN CASINO
CHERRY HILL, N.J.
DEC. 31, 1972
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LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT
AND mark of the devil
AND Sweet Sweet Bippie
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NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY
DINNER-BREAKFAST
ALL YOU CAN DRINK
11 p.m. December 31 until
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Blackeyed Bean Soup
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String Beans
Coffee — Rolls — Butter
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If you steal $300,000 from the mob, it's not robbery. It's suicide.
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with ANTHONY FRANCIOSA
as Nick D'Ottavio
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HELD OVER
AT 11:30-1:25-3:20-5:15-7:10-9:05-11 P.M.

She's got to cut it... or cut out.
"Black Girl' is the most moving black film I have seen."—Peter Bailey, Ebony Magazine
"Black Girl' is the best black film yet."—Daily News
"Black Girl' is a fierce, clear and eloquent testament about growing up black in America. Flawless ensemble playing and great emotional energy."—Time Magazine
"Black Girl' is a solid achievement. A triumph."—Rex Reed
Black Girl ...your girl
Directed by Ossie Davis
Screenplay by Ms. J. E. Franklin based on her play
Cinerama Releasing presents a Lee Rivers production "Black Girl" Starring Brock Peters • Leonard Parker • Claudia Mitchell • Lynne Uggams as Santa • Special guest Pearl Bailey • Also starring Ivan Dixon • Frank Silvera • Louis Gossett • Leonard Jackson • Lonnie Elder III • Executive Producer Robert Greenberg • Produced by Lee Savage
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Co-starring PAMELA GRIER
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STARTS MON. NEW YEAR'S DAY
MARI, SEVENTEEN, IS DYING. EVEN FOR HER THE WORST IS YET TO COME!
TO AVOID FAINTING KEEP REPEATING IT'S ONLY A MOVIE ONLY A MOVIE ONLY A MOVIE ONLY A MOVIE ONLY A MOVIE
LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT
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1,000 CONVICTS AND A Woman!
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COLUMBIA PICTURES Presents JIM BROWN
It's a life for a life when Black Gunn lays it on The Mob!
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A JOHN HEYMAN Production of a ROBERT HARTFORD-DAVIS Film
"BLACK GUNN"
Also Starring BRENDA SYKES
Guest Star LUCIANA PALUZZI
And Introducing VIDA BLUE

"IT IS A MISSING CHAPTER FROM 'THE GRAPES OF WRATH' AND OF EQUAL STATURE."
—Judith Crist, New York Magazine
"AT LAST, A COMPASSIONATE AND LOVING FILM ABOUT BEING BLACK IN AMERICA."
—Jay Cocks, Time Magazine
"'SOUNDER' WILL MOVE AUDIENCES — MOVE THEM TRULY. THAT IS — AS FEW FILMS EVER HAVE. THE PERFORMERS ARE WONDERFUL. I CAN'T THINK OF ANY OTHER MOVIE THAT IS SO EMOTIONALLY RICH."
—Pauline Kael, New Yorker Magazine
"THE FILM IS A RARITY. A MOVIE THE WHOLE FAMILY CAN ENJOY."
—Ebony Magazine
"THE BLACK REVOLUTION IN FILM MAKING...BROADENS THE DEFINITION OF WHAT A NEW BLACK MOVIE CAN BE."
—Paul D. Zimmerman, Newsweek
Radnitz/Mattel Productions
"SOUNDER"
A Robert B. Radnitz/Martin Ritt Film
starring CICELY TYSON • PAUL WINFIELD • KEVIN HOOKS
Co-Starring TAJ MAHAL • JANET MacLACHLAN
produced by ROBERT B. RADNITZ Directed by MARTIN RITT
Screenplay by LONNE ELDER III based on the Newbery Award-winning Novel by WILLIAM H. ARMSTRONG
Songs and Music by TAJ MAHAL
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What's Happening

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ister call 323-7036 or 523-4040.

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"FIREHOUSE"

Conflict erupts within an old, close-knit engine company of big-city fire department when a black recruit and an angry white veteran clash during a wave of suspected arson in the ghetto area in "Firehouse," airing on the ABC Television Network's "Tuesday Movie of the Week" Tuesday, Jan. 2 (8:30-10:00 p.m., est).

Richard Roundtree Shaft" fame, Vince Edwards, Andrew Duggan, Richard Jaeckel and Val Avery star in the 90-minute drama. Sheila Frazier, Paul Le Mat, Howard Curtis, Mell Scott, Michael Lerner and Joshua Shelley co-star.

In "Firehouse," the men of Engine Company 23 have long been titled the best firefighters in their city, but the false alarms, arsons and similar problems they serve have made them hardened and distrustful.

When Shelby Forsythe (Roundtree), a black recruit, joins the company, he is greeted Coldly by the men. Tae Commander, Capt. Parr (Duggan), tells him that he will be judged solely on his ability, but Shelly soon learns that he will have a rough time. His principal antagonists, Spike Ryerson (Edwards), a popular veteran who sees Shelby as someone on woom to release his anger for a series of deliberately-set fires that have claimed the lives of numerous firemen.

Forsythe's problems come to a head when another fireman, Myers (Jaeckel), sees him let a young black arsonist escape.

Accused by the men, Shelly is soon in a fierce fist-fight with Ryerson, but their personal battle is broken up by a major alarm. They are called in to fight a large fire, a blaze that will put all of the men of Engine Company 23 to a severe test.

"TWO SAINTS".

You don't have to be a child to be delighted with Story Theatre as Center Stage will demonstrate when "Two Saints" begins previews as the theatre's holiday offering on December 29.

Twenty actors will impersonate bears, birds, deer, wolves and other animals as well as peasants and noblemen while enacting a folk tale by Isaac Bashevis Singer and an allegorical short story by Gustave Faubert.

What is unique about Story Theatre is that it allows actors to utilize music, pantomime, singing and narration in which the actor becomes his narrator while performing the action of the story. This provides a natural progression from story into theatre. The form demands disciplined expression from the actors and imagination from audiences.

"Two Saints" is directed by Larry Arrick, formerly artistic director of the Yale Summer Repertory Theatre, where it premiered in 1970. Mr. Arrick adapted "Gimpel the Fool" and Kenneth Cavander adapted "St. Julian the Hospitaler." Babara Damashek has composed the music.

Both plays depict unlikely candidates for sanctity. Gimpel is a Jewish fool who struggles all his life to believe in the goodness of men but meets disappointment after disappointment. When he is about to die, he looks forward to fashioning his own world at last.

Julian is a Catholic nobleman who delights in murdering first animals and then men — in the name of war. Martyrdom comes to him almost as death comes to his victims. He does not seek it but cannot avoid it.

C. David Colson has joined the Center Stage company to portray both Gimpel and Julian. He most recently appeared in Baltimore as Nathan in "The Rothchilds." He has also been seen in New York productions of "Purlie" and "The Last Sweet Days of Isaac." Previously he spent four years in residence at the San Francisco Actors Workshop and at the Asolo Theatre in Florida.

Composer Barbara Damashek will re-create her role of the Matchmaker in "Gimpel the Fool" as well as acting as musician for both presentations. Nancy Franklin and Bob Dorfrank are also Guest Artists.

Center Stage pantominists Bert Houle and Sophie Wouk have joined the mainstage company for "Two Saints." Others in the cast include Carol DuPont, Wil Love, Dale McIntosh, Peter Murray, Jan Rothman, Carl Schurr, Henry Strozier, Margaret Stuart-Ramsey, Shana Sullivan, Ann Ulvestad and Alan Wade.

The production will also utilize three apprentices from the Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center in Connecticut: Sarah Felder, Bonnie Gondell and Jack McClure.

Costumes for "Two Saints" are being designed by Juliellen Weiss, who [illegible] only created costumes for "Halloween," a Broadway [illegible] later this season, and [illegible] tumes for Broadway productions of "Jesus Christ Superstar" and "Lost in the stars." Sets and lighting will be by Center Stage's resident designer, Raymond C. Recht.

"Two Saints" will have its formal opening on J[illegible] 3 following a week of previews, and will play through Sunday, January 23.

EXHIBITIONS, CHANGING

Baltimore Museum of Art

Wyman Park — 889-1755. Tuesday-Friday 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday 10-30 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday 1-5 p.m.

Thru Dec. 31 — Bonnier's Toys

Thru Dec. 31 — Jack Lorian Screen Prints

Thru Dec. 31 — Soft Power: A Classic Black Experience

Thru Jan. 21 — Collection of Philip and Leni Stern

Thru Mar. 11 — The Art of Mezzotint

Dec. 19-Jan. 28 — Maryland Annual.

Jan. 8-Feb. 11 — Contemporary Music Scores

Jan. 16-Feb. 25 — Collection of Robert and Jane Meyerhoff

Jan. 16-Feb. 25 — Ken Huston and Nancy Rexroth Photography

Feb. 17-Apr. 22 — Moshe Safdie

Mar. 6-Apr. 1 — County Children's Art

Baltimore Museum of Art/Downtown

One Charles Center — 889-1735. Monday-Friday 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Thru Jan. 12 — 18th Century Decorative Arts: England, France and America

Jan. 22-Feb. 23 — Drug Poster Competition

College of Notre Dame

4701 N. Charles Street — 435-0100. Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m.-12 Noon

Jan. 8-Feb. 9 — Photographs: Student Works.

Feb. 11-Mar. 4 — Sixth Annual Invitational Print and Drawing Show

Mar. 1-Apr. 30 — Mixed Media

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"DIANA ROSS DELIVERS THE KIND OF PERFORMANCE THAT WINS OSCARS!"—Peter Travers, Readers Digest (EDU)
"DIANA ROSS - AHH, DIANA ROSS! SHE DOES A MARVELOUS JOB!"—Group W Radio
"A MOVIE DEBUT BY DIANA ROSS THAT IS REMARKABLE, BOTH FOR VOICE AND PERFORMANCE!"—CBS-TV
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PARAMOUNT PICTURES CORPORATION and BERRY GORDY present
DIANA ROSS IN "LADY SINGS THE BLUES"
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