Men of Soul . . . The Temptations

Damon Marries Saturday

By Connie Brown

Arriving early at the Merriweather Post for the Temptations Show, watched the 5,000 capacity pavilion being filled by a mixed crowd of anticipating fans.

Sitting there with my legs crossed, played it super cool. But inside, could hardly control the sensation of not only seeing the popular stars in person, but interviewing them as well.

But the best was yet to come, during the interview, just prior to their stage appearance, Damon invited me to his wedding.

Damon Harris, the youngest Temp, is taking a bride this week in New York at Saint Augustine Episcopal Church. The lucky lady is Christina "Tina" Combs of New York, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Combs.

By happenstance, Damon met Tina two years ago back stage at the Apollo Theatre. He became interested in her when they exchanged unfriendly words. Later Damon made it his business to get to know her better.

The semi-formal wedding Damon says, is for Tina. She told me, "If we didn't have a wedding, thirty years from now when our daughter is getting married I'll envy her! So instead of a quiet marriage, we'll have a wedding."

After the wedding the Harris' will return to his home in Detroit, but hope to move within a short time to Columbia, Maryland.

Honeymoon plans have been postponed until December because of Damon's schedule . . . then to Japan.

When asked if Tina would be employed Damon laughed and then very seriously stated, "she'll work for me, being my wife and when we are ready, she'll work at having lots of talented babies."

* * *

Thanking Damon and the other Temp for their time, I quickly returned to my seat so as not to miss the show.

The curtain opened and there they were. The Temptations in striking, flashing, sequined topped outfits of white with bright orange sunburst on the right sides.

The crowd was turned on to a point of increasing excitement by the super group as they sang selections of old tunes. With their extraordinary, versatile five lead vocal and clock-work precision dance routines, the Temps gave their fans what they had been waiting for.

"Papa Was A Rolling Stone", "Hey Girl," "Cloud Nine" and their own version of "The First Time Ever" combined with funky moves and soulful vocal variations kept the audience screaming for more.

This show was so alive and real that it would have been wonderful if every Temptation fan in the Baltimore/Washington area could have been there. I dedicate this article to all soul brothers and sisters who were unable to be present because of confinement; and hope you can make the next show.

What's Happening

by IDA Peters

"Don't Bother Me, I Can't Cope" will not be coming to Baltimore anytime soon. The Chicago Company is still going strong . . . ditto the original New York Company.

* * *

In our town today (Friday) is Tony King, who has the role of Roy in "Gordon's War" which stars Paul Winfield and was directed by Ossie Davis.

Film will open downtown on the 29th. It's a story of a returned veteran who forms a vigilante gang to fight Harlem dope pushers.

* * *

Kitty Broady is back from the national convention of National Association of Television and Radio Announcers in New Orleans.

"Gordon's War" was the film shown at the special preview and she calls it great. Kitty is the new National Secretary of NATRA and new proxy is Cecil Hale of Chicago. Kitty also won an award for Service in the Field of Community Relations.

* * *

Last Friday members of the Columbia Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority gave a Bingo Benefit at The Other Barn to benefit the Edgar Johnsons who lost their home in a gas explosion.

BIG BROTHERS

"Oliver" is the play being put on by the Big and Little Brothers the first two weeks in September. Stage crew is still needed so call Louis Ferrari at 594-0689 during the day or 435-5077 during the evening.

ACTORS WANTED

The Vagabond Players will hold auditions for Lillian Hellman's "The Little Foxes" on Sunday, August 26th, from 2 to 5 and 7 to 9 at the Langsdale Library Theatre, Oliver Street at Maryland Avenue (just behind the Lyric Theatre). J. Fred Johnson will direct the Hellman Play which will open the veteran group's 58th season on October 18th.

"SOUL TRAIN"

The Best of Soul Train featuring the biggest names in the entertainment field, will perform on Soul Train, the hour-long, teenage-oriented dance show, August 18. Don Cornelius is host and executive producer of the popular program.

Don and the Soul Train gang will play hosts to the greatest stars in slow business such as James Brown, Godfather of Soul, Queen Aretha Franklin and the Eighth Wonder of the World, Stevie Wonder. Other guest stars include the tempting Temptations, the incredible "Superfly" Curtis Mayfield, the sexy, sassy Supremes and Motown's fantastic Four Tops.

The Best of Soul Train also boasts the melodious tones of mellow Al Green, Soul Train's "Love Train" — The O'Jays and everybody's favorites, the internationally renown and forever popular Jackson Five.

Also, added to the "Best of Soul Train' greats is the multi-talented Chuck Berry and the versatile Teddy Brown.

AT INNER HARBOR

The parts of Regina Giddons and Benjamin Hubbard will be played by Vagabound regulars Virginia Robinson and J. R. Lyston. All other leading and featured parts are open. The script calls for a variety of adults actors and both black and white actors are featured. Technical personnel and backstage workers are requested to attend this audition as well. Further information can be obtained by calling Mrs. Dorothy Levinson at the Vagabond number 833-8327.

CHARLIE BYRD

The Charlie Byrd Trio returns to Baltimore on Wednesday, August 22 to appear On Stage Downtown in Hopkins Plaza at 8 P.M.

The Byrd Trio brings the Baltimore Forward Thrust summer concert series up to its eighth and next to last week. On Wednsday, August 29, the series draws to an end with the Left Bank Jazz Society presenting the Jimmy Heath Quintet in concert.

SHOW REVIEW

New Birth

By Frederick I. Douglass

Washington, D.C. — The threat of rain hung ominously over the Carter Barron Theatre as the crowd anxiously awaited the appearance of the Ohio Players, the Dells and New Birth. Rhythmic pounding, screeching whistles and chanting voices combined in an improvised, melodic black symphony reminiscent of a fertility rite. Although the weather was threatening, the theatre was crammed full of blacks of every size, shape and color who had come from miles around in buses, cars and on bikes to get down with some of the most popular groups on the current scene. Ironically, the Dells were billed as the stars of the show while most of the audience had come to see New Birth and the Ohio Players in that order.

After a brief appearance by the New Sensations, a D.C. group featuring a grey chick on flute, New Birth came onstage and the crowd went berserk. The rain had already begun to fall, drenching the crowd to the bone, leaving the well pressed finery that some of them had worn hanging limply from their sepia frames.

Dig this, most of the people there were clear as a whistle, sporting high heel shoes complimented by gaily colored pants, shirts, dresses, overflowing halters and cornrowed hair. Getting down to the frenetic beat of New Birth, the crowd signified with their home-made instruments as the audience and the band became one big band.

New Birth is extremely popular with the under-30 group because their music represents the ultimate of the new wave of black music which stresses audience participation and interaction. You do not just sit back, bob your head and otherwise listen to these sounds passively; you blow a whistle or horn, holler, sing or beat on something. It is high-energy, kinetic, action-oriented music. Finally the moment the crowd had been waiting for came as New Birth swung full blast into their rollicking hit, "Got to Get a Knutt." Estatically the crowd danced in the rain to the happy refrain as the group demonstrated its vocal and instrumental virtuosity. New Birth blew everybody away.

Next came the Ohio Players who romped through jams like "Funky Worm," "Pain" and "Pleasure" as the torrential rains continued to beat down on the audience, soaking their Afro and Superfly hairstyle to the skull. Declaring that they had come to "tear this down," the Players lambasted the people with their hard-driving Ohio sound. Bugles blared like Joshua at the Battle of Jericho and the walls of inhibition soulfully came tumbling down as the brothers and sisters jammed to the insistent, throbing beat.

Last-but-not least came the Dells, the headliners of the show who performed with gusto their hits like "Stay in My Corner," etcetera, but seemed to be suffering from a generation gap. While their delivery was excellent, it was not the kind of music the audience could actively participate in and a large portion of the crowd departed even though the rain had slacked up to a minimal drizzle. Nevertheless, the Dells were an integral part of the heavy vibes that went down at the Carter Barron Amphitheatre the other night. If you weren't there, brother, you missed a beautiful trip . . . and you can still catch them thru Sunday.

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