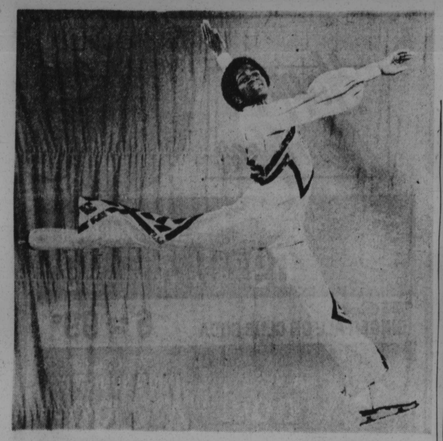
Season's Greetings

What's Happening

by IDA Peters

Atoy Wilson Paved The Way



"The longer I skate as a professional, especially with Ice Follies, the more I enjoy myself." That's what Atoy Wilson, the black skater from Los Angeles told a friend at the beginning of the 1974 cross-country tour with the 1974 edition of the Shipstads and Johnson skating extravaganza.

Wilson thought the excitement of skating almost nightly in front of an audience would wear off. Instead there is an even greater anticipation on his part. Another thing the sensational young skater has discovered is this: He likes meeting people. In his two previous years as a professional, one with Ice Follies and the other with Holiday on Ice, he has made scores of friends and looks forward to seeing them all again. Being the lone black in the company hasn't bothered him a bit. "They don't care what color I am just as long as I skate well."

Skating better than ever, and now an established star, Atoy Wilson will be seen with the Ice Follies of 1974 at the Baltimore Civic Center from Tuesday, Jan. 8th through Sunday the 13th for nine performances.

An ambitious and energetic young man, Atoy Wilson has accomplished a great deal in his young life. For many years he was the only black skater entering U.S. Figure Skating Association competitions on the West Coast. In 1963 he entered the Juvenile competition and earned First place. He was also the first black skater to pass all tests to win the coveted Gold Medal that enabled him to compete in National and International competitions.

The long hours of practice he had to endure as an amateur skating star did not interfere with his schooling. After graduating from high school he enrolled at Loyola University of Los Angeles and was entering his junior year as a Political Science major when the opportunity to skate professionally presented itself. The skater wants to complete his university studies but that can wait until his skating career comes to a close, he says.

Atoy Wilson at one time was the only black starring in a major ice show. He paved the way for others. When Wilson was asked how he fitted into this new environment, a question that is fired at him frequently, his reply was a simple one. "I think skaters and skating fans are too interested in the sport and the skaters to care what a fellow's color is. I found no discrimination either as an amateur or now as a pro. There have been no confrontations of any kind since I turned professional. To the other people in the show I was another guy skating.

Personally the kids in the show, both boys and girls, are fantastic to work with. Richard Dwyer, who has starred for the follies for more than two decades, helped me a great deal. Lucien Boyer, our skating coach, is wonderful. So is management," continued Atoy. "They told me when I turned pro to think of myself as a skater, neither black or white. Being black doesn't matter. What counts is what I do on the ice in front of those thousands of people night after night."

COMING 1974

William Washington is the young black promoter who books acts for Baltimore's Civic Center and Lyric as well as D.C.'s Capitol Center and Constitution Hall.

His firm, Dimensions Unlimited is looking forward to a great 1974. He expects to bring Earth, Wind and Fire, Feb. 8; Aretha Franklin, Eddie Kendricks, Young Senators, Feb. 18.

Watch our columns for more details. Dimensions Unlimited will have a big show, New Birth, Isley Brothers at the Civic Center on Dec. 28th.

Irvin Dett, Wayne Davis and Tim Weldon are giving "The New Year's Eve Silver Explosion" at 305 W. Monument St.

* * *

COMING-MECHANIC

"The Waltz Of The Toreadors," co-starring Anne Jackson and Eli Wallach in Jean Anouilh's joyous comedy, will come to Baltimore's Morris A. Mechanic Theatre on January 7th, following its success in New York, and acclaim for the co-stars. The comedy will continue at the Mechanic for two weeks through Saturday January 19th.

The central figure of the farcical action is General Leon St. Pe, newly retired from the military to enjoy whatever 'life' the chateau country provides, preferably romantic. The General engages himself with his memoirs, neighborhood chambermaids and flight from Mme St. Pe. The General is forced to listen to Mme's St. Pe's constant infidelities and other taunts. The General finds other comfort in his love of Gislaine, a beauty he met in a waltz when she was eighteen, and he a young officer. But he lost Ghislaine in her committal to idealized love.

Also starring in the cast are William Roerick, Diana Van Der Vlis and Benjamin Masters. The featured players are William Le Massena, Mary Hara, Robert Wallach, Nancy Sellin, Katherine Wallach and Judith Egor. Brian Murray directed the comedy, which was translated from the French by Lucienne Hill.

* * *

SOUL TRAIN

Eddie Kendricks, the Persuaders, and Eddie Floyd entertain on Soul Train this coming weekend. The popular, nationally televised, teen dance show is hosted by Don Cornelius, who is also the executive producer.

Everybody digs Eddie Kendricks! He is the dynamite brother with the golden tenor voice, who sang with America's best-selling male vocal group, the Temptations, a few years ago. A founder-member of the group, he's now doing it on his own — solo. And he's doing quite well, too.

Eddie comes to Soul Train singing, "Boogie Down Baby," "Darling Come Back Home," and a Motown favorite, "Keep On Trucking."

The Persuaders, another lively stepping group of four guys, stop in to entertain the Gang. These superperformers will really persuade you not to turn that dial. They come alive singing such hits as, "Some Guys Have All The Luck" and "Love Attack."

Eddie Floyd is the man! A soul artist, songwriter, and producer, this brilliant talent has turned out such heavies as the monster, "Knock On Wood" and "I've Never Found A Girl (To Love Me Like You Do)" plus "California Girl," to name a few. Eddie will sing, "I want To Do Things For You."

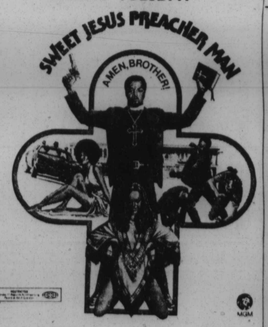
* * *

A very special treat awaits everyone that greets the New Year with Jazz Interactions at Pub Theatrical, Broadway at 31st Street, NYC., on New Year's Eve, December 31st.

Starting 9 p.m. the organization will sponsor an All Star Jam Session, led by the exciting sounds of trumpeter Joe Newman and featuring legendaries Teddy Wilson, a jazz man at the top since his Benny Goodman years in the 30's, who is one of the most imitated jazz pianists of all times, and Baby Laurence, widely considered the world's greatest tap dancer.

EDDIE FLOYD

STARTS TUESDAY



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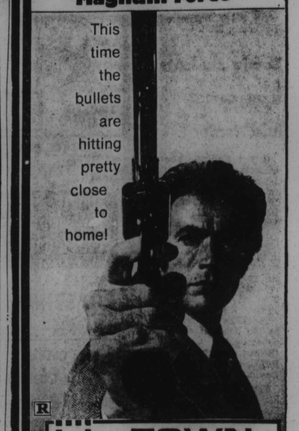
Clint Eastwood is Dirty Harry in Magnum Force

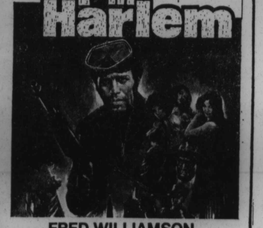
This time the bullets are hitting pretty close to home!



TOWN THEATRES 315 W. FAYETTE ST. • LE. 9-2294

Black Godfather's Mad... and that's Real Bad!

Hell Up in Harlem



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MASEKELA

Coming to D.C.

"Masekela: Introducing Hedzoleh Soundz," the album Hugh Masekela calls "a beautiful taste from anything I've ever done, the most beautiful recording I've made," is being released to correspond with a nation-wide tour by Masekela and his Ghanaian band.

He will be at the Cellar Door in D.C. from January 2-5.

Going back to one's roots is a familiar phrase in music, rarely accomplished with the vitality one wishes; however, "Masekela" is the exception that proves the rule. By using native African musicians, Masekela was able to "play the rhythms I know, and play the feelings I know without explanations." Although throughout his ten year career as a top jazz trumpeter Masekela has sought to bring his African heritage to the forefront of his music, he now admits he was largely unsuccessful. "You can't put it into people's heads who haven't been around it all their lives. I've always worked with black musicians, but you can't teach them about Africa. I knew I had to go back to my country and find the musicians I needed there."

Last year, Hugh did just that. He went from the Congo to Nigeria, from Ghana to Liberia, searching for musicians who could help him say what he wanted to say. The experience was formidable on several levels. Explains Hugh, "when you're from a place like Africa or India or China, you come from there but you never really see it. Between movies and pictures you make up a fantasy about what it is really sy about what it is really like for yourself and you get very tight with it. If you can add sociological and political movements to that image, the way you can with Africa and China, you can make up a very potent fantasy. You draw a lot of inspiration from it, but you don't know what's real. I was curious.

"I wanted to find musicians first and the country second. The most interesting part of Africa to me is the art, the culture, the music. I figured I've always tried to play African music in the States, but it's never really worked. But when I found my band in Ghana, within six days we had cut the album. There just wasn't any need to explain."

The album was cut in Lagos, Nigeria, in an 8-track studio built by E.M.I. ("Most of the music scene in Africa is still under the control of colonization." Masekela). Hedzoleh Soundz met Masekela in a Ghana nightclub to which African superstar Fela Ransome-Kuti ("he's sort of like our James Brown." Masekela) had taken the transported jazz musician. Masekela and the band jammed for a few days, then flew to Nigeria to cut the album in a weekend. The results were outstanding.

Says Masekela, "It's an old idea for me, finding the African music and playing it, but it could never come together until I returned to Africa. It's an old dream for me, one I've always had."

Iroducing Hedzoleh Soundzs

MONUMENTAL Music Hall by Connie E. Brown

Paperwork Pundit

In the crowds and rush of Christmas shopping, it is difficult to develop an eye critical enough to spot a hazardous toy or gimmicks and invidious sales practices.

"Consumer Survival Kit," a production of the Maryland Center for Public Broadcasting, provides information to help consumers develop good shopping skills.

One of the most enjoyed and informative experts featured each week is Bob Smith, the Paperwork Pundit.

As his name indicates, the Paperwork Pundit is an expert on paperwork who loves to read fine print. In a humorous manner, Bob makes the consumer aware of the written aspects of contracts, warranties, labels, etc.

Bob Smith in addition to his role as the Paperwork Pundit is an actor, director, technician and storyteller. He usually exercises these talents with the Arena Players, Inc. Spotlighters, Pickwick Players and the Center Stage Touring Company.

The son of Robert A. and Margaret J. Smith, he was born in Cleveland, Ohio, October 2, 1946. Raised in Baltimore, Bob is a 1964 graduate of Dunbar High School.

Attending Morgan State College until 1966, he is presently enrolled in its University Without Walls program majoring in Theatre Arts.

Bob is featured in the Center Stage State Touring Company production of St. George and the Dragon, which gives much pleasure to many elementary school youngsters.

As the Paperwork Pundit Bob Smith can be seen on channels 67, 73 and 28 when the Consumer Survival Kit present various programs designed for the awareness of the consumer.

SAINT JAMES

Lauretta Young, soprano, will be heard ... a.m. service, Sunday, December 30, ... copal Church.

PEABODY

On Tuesday, January 8, 1974 at 8:00 p.m. in the Peabody Concert Hall, Richard Franko Goldman, ... Institute, will make his first appearance in Baltimore as a conductor. He will conduct the Peabody Wind Ensemble in a concert for the benefit of the Peabody Scholarship Fund.

For this concert, Goldman has chosen a varied and interesting program which includes works of J. S. Bach, Darius Milhaud, Percy Grainger, Anton Bruckner, and Goldman himself.

CHILDREN'S THEATRE

The Children's Theatre Association, Inc. will begin its second semester workshops in creative dramatics for children and young adults, ages 8-17, the first week in January.

The workshops, which include pantomime, characterization, improvisation and body movement will meet once a week.

BALTIMORE CHAMBER PLAYERS

Compositions ranging from the Baroque to the Impressionistic will be performed by the Baltimore Chamber Players at a concert to take place at the Peabody Conservatory Concert Hall on Sunday, January 13 at 3:00 P.M.

The group, consisting primarily of first chair players of the Baltimore Symphony, is now in its third year of concerts in Baltimore with an impressive list of over thirty major compositions in the repertoire.

AFRICAN LECTURES

"Africa Comes to You," a series of informal lectures on black culture, is being offered by the Gorsuch Avenue Center of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, Kirk and Gorsuch avenues, with programs scheduled at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesdays.

The subject on January 2 will be Swahili literature and language, and on January 9, African music. The guest speaker, Munyiri Stephen Karigu, is a visiting student from Kenya currently enrolled at the Bay College of Maryland.

BOWIE

The Bowie State College Chorale, Dr. Eugene Thamon Simpson, director, was featured in a Christmas television special for WBAL TV's Channel 11) "North Star" last Sunday.

Assisted by Nelda Ormaond, soprano and Dr. Dale Krider at the organ, the Chorale sung "Gloria in 'Excelsis Deo" from Schubert's Mass in G; "How Lovey Is Thy Dwelling Place" from the Brahms' Requiem; and "Worthy Is The Lamb That Was Slain" from Handel's Messiah.

The show also included segments on Christmas poetry and Christmas decorations.

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PARKING IS A BREEZE-

Beginning Monday, December 31, Don Harrison joins WBAL-TV's

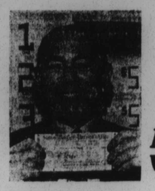
ACTION NEWS 11

50¢ made them $1,194,500 richer!

Meet the Big winners of our 3rd Million Dollar Drawing:

If you didn't attend our Millionaire's Party at the Steelworkers Hall, you missed quite a show. By winning the Lottery's first prize our new millionaire won 50 thousand dollars a year for the next 20 years. Not bad for a 50¢ investment!

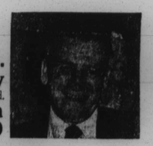
If you didn't win the Million Dollars just remember there's lots more where that came from. We'll be holding another Millionaire's Party very soon. To get on that prized guest list all you need is a little Lottery ticket and a little luck.



Milton Caplan Baltimore, Md. Won $1,000,000

Mike Plakotaris Takoma Park, Md. won $100,000

William G. Selby Baltimore, Md. won $10,000



These 7 people each won $5,000

Charles M. Butta Baltimore, Md. — John Phillip Gleason Bowie, Md. — Bonnie B. Root Arlington, Va. — Virginia M. Lancaster Fallston, Md. — John S. Sarzynski Baltimore, Md.

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...and 99 other persons won $500 each.

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tickets that could make you eligible for the Fourth Millionaire Drawing now on sale.

Tickets now on Sale for Last Holiday Bonus Drawing- 12:15 Friday, Jan. 4 at Frederick Mall Shopping Center