What's Happening

by IDA Peters

Brock Peters the producer of the new comedy "Five On The Black Hand Side" will be in Baltimore next Tuesday. He will tour the AFRO plant at 11:30 a.m. and we will lunch with his later and talk about the film and also his role in the American Film Theatre's production of "Lost In The Stars."

• • •

Tony King called from New York last week to say he was on his way to the National Newspaper Publishers Association at the Playboy Plaza Hotel in Miami Beach.

NNPA will see a screening of "Five On The Black Hand Side" and "The Exorcist" and Tony hopes they will screen his "Super Spook" film. He's coming to Baltimore to tell us more about it.

Bonnie Butler, the AFRO's National Sales Rep was in California last week in preparation for the AFRO's Dawn Magazine April issue on the record industry. She reports she ran into Max Julien who says he and Venetta McGee have completed the film "Thomasine and Bushrod."

FLASH . . . Max Julien says he will be in Baltimore soon to work out plans to film a movie. How about that? A movie has never been made in Baltimore. Keep your fingers crossed.

"RAINBOW"

Last night, we were in D.C. at the L'Enfant Plaza's American Theatre for the opening of the musical "The Rainbow Rainbeam Radio Roadshow."

James Rado, one of the writers for "Hair" is the star . . . Billy Earth, who was drafted and died in Vietnam. He went over the rainbow to Rainbow Land and is sent back to earth to find out what happened.

He follows the yellow cloth road back to Washington, D.C., somewhere "Under The Rainbow." To give you just a hint there are 32 songs performed by a cast of 15 marvelous young people happily integrated (5 of us) in outrageous situations. (Next week I'll give you my interviews with them, Bill Henry Douglas, Pi Douglass, Helen Gelzer, Jozella Reed and Charles Weaver)

The show opens with Jozella Reed as Mother with the Rainbeams singing "Starry Cold Night" . . . progresses to "Mama Loves You" and the show stopping tune, "O.K. Goodbye." Seems as if over the rainbow . . . heaven goes back to that vast radio in the sky and the shows of the '30's.

In those days, you never saw the performers or knew how sound effects were made. On stage, Jozella is black, Billy Earth, the son the Vietnam Vet asks her are you really my mama. She calls him "Henry . . . Henry Aldrich . . ." urges him to eat his cream of wheat.

This is a foot-tapping, swinging show and I'll tell you more in Tuesday's AFRO.

• • •

A note in the mail from Dr. Eva Jessye . . . she was the subject of our AFRO Magazine History Series the second week in November.

She writes to tell us, that last week, January 19, her Afro-American Music Collection was dedicated at the University of Michigan School of Music.

Outstanding folk from the fields of music, theatre attended including Eubie Blake and Etta Moten Barnett of Chicago who M.C.'d part of the program "In Retrospect."

Dr. Jessye was the first black music director for films and George Gershwin's "Porgy and Bess." Now 79, she was head of the music faculty at Morgan State College and music columnist for the Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN before going to New York in 1926.

• • •

Claudette Colbert opens in "A Community of Two" at the Mechanic Theatre Feb. 4. Miss Colbert is making her road debut in this new Jerome Chodorov comedy.

Her last stage appearance was in "The Irregular Verb To Love," which opened ten years ago. Unfortunately the show opened at the time of the President's assassination and closed soon thereafter.

There was a heart-warming sidelight during the Willmington, Del. Playhouse run. "Miss Colbert backed into the radiator and received severe burns. Second degree burns,' was the theatre physician's medical diagnosis and ordered her to the hospital. Her producers, Jerome Chodorov and Marshall Young offered to cancel the engagement until Miss Colbert got better. But Miss Colbert overruled everyone and insisted that the show must go on. It did. To everyone's satisfaction, the show is getting rave notices at the National Theatre in D.C.

• • •

GRANTS ARE NOW BEING MADE by Fund for Arts in Neighborhoods. The major part of the funds was raised by the Mayor's Ball last June.

They are prepared to fund projects in the visual arts such as painting, sculpture, crafts and photography, and in the performing arts, including theatre, music and dance.

Don't gripe later. Apply now. There are short simple application forms. Write to Fund for Arts in Neighborhoods, Baltimore Arts Tower, 318 W. Lombard St. Baltimore, 21201 . . . or call 338-0611.

• • •

John Schneider, president of the CBS broadcast group held a champagne reception in honor of Cicely Tyson at the Kennedy Center this past Wednesday to preview "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman" to be shown on network on January 31.

Tony Picha, PR for WMAR-TV held a press preview at their York Road studios . . . not champagne . . . for the press this past Thursday.

James Henderson called to tell us about the Baltimore Touring Company. They will present "Harmonic Motion" a Musical Review, Friday, through Sunday, at War Memorial Plaza.

• • •

Henderson is with Sun Life Insudance, a former president of the Dulaney Valley Dinner Theatre, technical director of Corner Theatre and has sung and acted with the Peabody Choir and the Vagabond Players.

• • •

Tonight, Friday, we'll be down at the Playboy Club to serve as one of the judges in the finals of the annual Baltimore Bunny of the Year Contest.

Three years ago our own chocolate bunny won the Baltimore title and went on to Chicago to win the International Bunny of the Year title. For the past several weeks, Playboy Club members have been voting for their choice and the six finalists will be judged tonight.

Also tonight Friday, Veronica Tyler will appear in concert at Park Heights Baptist Temple at 4302 Garrison Blvd. Urge you and you to turn out and support our own in the arts.

"Pioneers of Modern Painting," the new six-part film series written and narrated by Kenneth Clark, will be shown during February and March at Maryland Institute College of Art, the Baltimore Museum of Art, Johns Hopkins University, and Goucher College.

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United Artists

Monumental Music Hall

by Connie E. Brown

GRAMMY AWARDS

Singer-composer Stevie Wonder led the list of candidates for the music industry's Grammy Awards with six nominations, two as a composer and four as a singer.

Blind since birth, Wonder's "You Are The Sunshine Of My Life," was nominated for Song Of The Year, Record Of The Year, Best Rhythm and Blues performance and Best Rhythm and Blues song. His rendition of that song was also nominated for Best Male Pop Vocal performance.

Wonder's "Innervisions", was in the running for Album Of The Year. "Living For The City" is his fifth consecutive single gold record.

Roberta Flack, winner of two grammies in 1973, was nominated this year for Record Of The Year, Album Of The Year and Best Female Pop Performance Of The Year, for "Killing Me Softly With His Song."

• • •

THE IMPRESSIONS

Custom Records recording artists, The Impressions, are starting the new year not only as vocal performers but also as movie stars. Signed to perform the soundtrack for a new Allied Artists film, "Three The Hard Way", The Impressions also appear in front of the camera.

The scene finds them in Curtom's recording studio, where the group is being produced by the film's leading man Jim Brown. Starring with Brown in the movie are Fred Williamson and Jim Kelly.

While continuing to change and grow, The Impressions have remained one of the most exciting live acts in the business.

Their latest album of songs "Finally Got Myself Together," is scheduled to be released this month.

• • •

THEATRE PROJECT

The Elizabeth Keen Dance Company brings strong creatures to the stage at The Theatre Project this weekend. Ms. Keen's dances feature spacemen, wood nymphs, gaffers and movie queens in sometimes funny, sometimes serious works.

Directed by Ms. Keen, this professional company from New York will be performing at the Theatre Project tonight through Jan. 28.

INNER EAR

The Inner Ear, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, will present "Remedy For The Blues", featuring Toots Thielman and the National Jazz Ensemble, 8 p.m., Lyric Theatre, Friday, Jan. 25.

• • •

BENEFIT CONCERT

All proceeds from a concert on Saturday, February 2, by the Theatre Chamber Players of Washington and Baltimore will be donated to the Center Stage Rebuilding Fund, according to an announcement by Leon Fleisher, conductor of the ensemble.

• • •

BALTIMORE SYMPHONY

Max Rudolf, Music Director Emeritus of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, author of the widely used book, "The Grammar of Conducting" will be guest conductor with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra on Wednesday-Thursday, January 30, 31, Lyric Theatre, 8:15 p.m.

• • •

JOHNS HOPKINS

An exhibition of oil paintings by noted Baltimore artist Bennard Perlman will be on display at The Johns Hopkins University through February 8, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. dailey.

• • •

SHEPPARD'S ART SHOW

"Venetian Scenes and Other New Paintings" is the title given to Joseph Sheppard's latest 1-man Baltimore-area art show.

The show opens Saturday, Feb. 2nd, at 10 a.m., and continues through the end of February at the Gilden Gallery, Pikesville. The artist, who is nationally recognized as one of the leaders of the American Realist School of Art, will be at the gallery from 3 to 5 p.m. on opening day.

Columbia Pictures has acquired "Santee," starring Glenn Ford in the title role, for distribution in all territories outside of the United States and Canada.

• • •

In a unique piece of television programming, Redd Foxx, star of "Sanford and Son" television series, will be roasted by a dozen of the entertainment industry's top names at the Beverly Hilton Hotel on March 10, and the show will be taped, edited and sold to a major television network as a one-hour television special with all proceeds going to the United Negro College Fund (UNCF).

Randy Gray, probably American International's eighty-eight-year-old singer, makes his movie debut in American International's "Truck Turner," but he doesn't sing a note. He doesn't make a sound.

Long John Silver

Randy, who has appeared three times on the Merv Griffin Show, and who is the youngster in the Bold Soap, Morton Salt, Dodge and Shakey's Pizza television commercials, shares acting honors with Isaac Hayes and Yaphet Koto as they shoot it out in "Truck Turner." Koto holds Randy as a shield and hostage as Isaac Hayes, on the side of the law, has a pistol duel to the death with Koto, a hit man.

Ever since the talent searching to find Tamara Dobson for "Cleopatra Jones," studios have been beating the woods for new talent. Nationwide searches are currently going on for actors to play in "Father Divine" (Write George Prief at 8467 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 90048) and to play the lead in "Leadbelly" (Write Gordon Parks at Paramount Pictures, Culver City, Calif.)

That's not all: A new Solution Production called "Welcome to the World" is seeking "rough looking" men around 35: youngsters aged 14 to 18, who are martial arts trainees and can play brothers, plus a couple of mother and father types around 40. (Write Talent News, 6223 Selma Avenue, Hollywood). Be sure to say you read in the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspaper.

• • •

Carl Anderson, the D.C. actor-singer who made his movie debut with an electrifying portrayal of Judas in "Jesus Christ Superstar," has been nominated for three major awards. Anderson is in the running for two golden Globe Awards from the Hollywood Foreign Press Association and the NAACP has nominated for an Image Award.

Michael O'Herlihy has been signed to direct the new Viacom pilot "Evel Knievel," being filmed for the CBS Television Network. The announcement was made in Hollywood by executive producer Robert Relyea and producer John Strong.

Already having hit the $2 million mark in just one week's play in 24 theatres in over a dozen cities across the nation, "The Exorcist" is being hailed as the highest grossing film in Warner Bros. history.

Managers of cinemas in most cities report that black audiences made up at least 30 per cent of those who have viewed this dramatic film that deals with the subject of driving demons out of a person's mind. A prominent black psychiatrist attributed this black interest to the interest of minorities in the mystical, going back to African voodo days, and to deep religious ties.

• • •

The French Academie Du Jazz in Paris has announced special awards to the Pointer Sisters, plus Carlos Santanna and John McLaughlin.

The Pointers, on Blue Toumb Records, earned the Prix Billie Holiday award. Jazz Moderne honors went to Santana and McLaughlin on the Columbia label.

• • •

Sam Williams, bass player with Papa John Creach, remains in a coma after being shot the week before Christmas, and is in critical condition in an Oakland hospital.

He has been replaced in the Grunt Records group, for the time being, by Harry Hok.

Williams had been helping some female friends and the estranged husband of one of the women, when the latter went berserk and shot the other three, killing the two women. The man called the police and gave himself up.

• • •

THIS MEANS YOU!

The Mid-Towne Players will hold auditions for their April production on Wednesday, January 30 — at 7:30 p.m; Sunday, February 3 — at 1:00 p.m; and Wednesday, February 6 — at 7:30 p.m. in The Great Hall of the St. Michael and All Angels Church, at St. Paul and 20 th Streets.

This show is a Broadway Review and varied performers are needed — especially acts, and persons in-terested in musical accompaniment. Singers are asked to bring their own sheet music and actors a prepared reading, if at all possible.

More Happening

Gladys Knight and The Pips along with Richard Pryor and Kool And The Gang coming to the Baltimore Civic Center.

Egyptian Sun, a Baltimore music group will give a concert of original music at 8:30 p.m. Sunday at the Theatre Project.

Treasure Island

By Connie Brown

Dear Boss:

Per your assignment, gathered up my small fry from elementary school and headed for the Morris Mechanic Theatre.

All dressed up in her favorite purple knit dress, white lace tights, and white shoes, she calls her "Christmas shoes," we arrived at the box office.

Entering the theatre we were surrounded by 500 wiggling, screaming elementary students. Each one was giggling and bursting with the excitement of seeing Treasure Island, Theatre Ensemble.

The young audience was presented by the Fanfare thrilled as one of the world's best loved novels began to come to life before their eyes. To sail with Jim Hawkins aboard the Hispanola in search of buried treasure and to see real live pirates was quite an experience.

There were numerous shouts and applause as the cast recaptured the mystery and excitement of the books of the story . . . the inns, the Bristol dock, the ship, and Treasure Island with its coves, jungles, and the stockade.

It was a thrilling educational and theatrical experience for this young audience to see Treasure Island come to vivid life . . . one they will long remember.

TV Notes

courses televised by WMAR-TV, channel 2 through the facilities of the CBS Television Network, beginning Jan. 28 at 6:30 to 7 a.m.

Melba Moore, Wilt Chamberlain, Nancy Wilson, Minnie Pearl and others including many sports and circus type acts will appear on The Mike Douglas Show beginning Monday, Jan. 28 on channel 13 at 10 a.m.

A gigantic Stock swindle, a $3,000,000 diamond necklace, arson and theft involving an embezzling financier and his wife are the ingredients of "The Capricorn Murders" on "Shaft," Tuesday, Jan. 29 on channel 2 at 9:30 p.m.

Jimmy Wells Trio gets down this week-end at the new 10 EAST dinner club.

"Good Times"

By Cynthia Stevenson

The new comedy series "Good Times" starring Esther Rolle and John Amos will premiere Friday, Feb. 8 (8:30-9:00 p.m., EDT) on the CBS Television Network.

Newcomer Bern Nadette will play Thelma Evans, the 16-year-old daughter of Florida and James Evans (Miss Rolle and Amos). Miss Nadette, a drama major at The Juilliard School of Music, will be making her professional acting debut when she joins the previously announced cast of Ralph Carter as 10-year-old Michael Evans, Jimmie Walker as 17-year-old James Jr., and Ja'net Dubois as Florida's neighbor and best friend Willona.

• • •

"The Entertainer of the Year Awards," variety special produced by Sullivan Productions, Inc., will be broadcast Saturday, Jan. 26 on channel 2 at 10 p.m. Appearing will be great stars as Roberta Flack, Redd Foxx, and Sammy Davis Jr.

Former football star Rosey Grier, as ex-college player Bo Bo Johnson, thoughtfully strums his guitar in "Reunion in Terror," a McMillan and Wife segment of "NBC Sunday Mystery Movie" to be colorcast on the NBC Television Network, Jan. 27 at 8:30 p.m.

The Temptations and G. C. Cameron guest star on Soul Train, the nationally, hour-long, teen dance show this weekend. Edna Hill, Miss Black Teenage America, will also appear. Sunday, Jan. 27th on channel 45 at 2 p.m.

Maryland area colleges have reported they will offer to their students the two Sunrise Semester

Esther Rolle

Coppin

Sunday, Feb. 3

Donny Hathaway and the Softones in concert. Show times are 8:00 pm and 11:00 pm in the College Auditorium.

Monday, Feb. 4

Drama presentation. College Auditorium.

Tuesday, Feb. 5

Jazz Concert.

Wednesday, Feb. 6

Greek Unity Day. There will be a Greek Sing at 7:30 pm in the Pullen Gymnasium. The public is invited to attend.

Thursday, February 7

Alumni Day.

Friday, Feb. 8

Olatunji and his African Dancers will perform in the College Auditorium. Admission is free.

Saturday, Feb. 9

The Homecoming (basketball) game is being played at the Baltimore Civic Center at 2:00 pm. The Homecoming Cabaret is also being given at the Civic Center at 9:00 pm.

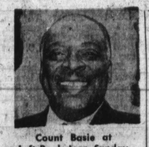
Pratt

Saturday, January 26

"Paddle to the Sea" and "The Puffed-up Dragon," films at the Pratt Library's Pennsylvania Avenue Branch, 12 noon.

Sunday, January 27

"Kwaidan," film at the Central Pratt Library, Wheeler Auditorium, 2 p.m.



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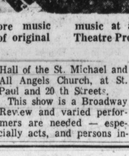

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