What's Happening

by Ida Peters

LEAD OFF

When **Redd Foxx** arrived at JKF Airport to begin a four week tour of personal appearances for Music Fair Enterprises, Inc. he had a new traveling companion, Miss Fu Ti Yono.

He told the photographer he especially wanted Miss Yono in the pix. He is currently playing at Westbury Music Fair in N.Y.; then Valley Forge, Pa. and shady Grove, D.C.

The Redd Foxx Show will officially open the 1974 season at Painters Mill Music Fair in Owings Mills with a one-weekengagement beginning June 17.

The show was announced as cancelled when Tandem Productions, producers of the television series "Sanford and Son," obtained a 22-week injunction preventing Mr. Foxx from working in a dispute involving his television appearances — or lack of them.

With the injunction lifted, Mr. Foxx — together with Slappy White, Gerri Granger and the Four Little Steps — can be seen at Painters Mill through June 23.

Sidney Poitier and Bill Cosby will be special hosts to the press in N.Y. for the gala benefit opening of "Uptown Saturday Night."

Karen Chamberlain of Buddah Records was hostess this week for a private showing of "Three The Hard Way" at the Hippodrome. The sound track features the Impressions.

Redd Foxx and his new traveling companion Miss Fu Ti Yono at D.C. J.F.K Airport.

CAMPAIGN AIDE—Mrs. Bertha H. Martin, left, has signed on as the campaign manager for Del. Hildagardeis Boswell, (D-4th-Balto.) Del. Boswell will be making a bid for the Senate seat in the new 38th District come September. Mrs. Martin, the wife Assistant U.S. Attorney William Martin, Sr., has had vast experience in political campaigning and organizing.

"Claudine" is breaking records around the country with James Earl Jones and Diahann Carroll in the title roles.

Many people are asking about the children. If Yvette Curtis' face is familiar as Patrice you saw her as Stephanie, Sidney Poitier's daughter in "A Warm December."

Yvette Curtis' acting career began two years ago when she played a schoolgirl in the off-Boradway play, "The Enchanted." She made TV commercials for Hebrew National and appeared in the touring and Boston productions of "The Me Nobody Knows."

This is the first major role for **Lawrence Hinton-Jacobs**, that of the frustrated son, Charles. Lawrence, who is currently studying and performing with the Al Fann Theatrical Ensemble, feels particularly privileged to be working with such well-respected performers as Diahann Carroll and James Earl Jones.

Precocious **David Kruger** (As Paul) is already too fast-moving to be held down. At thirteen, he has already made six television commercials, played in two Broadway musicals, "Dude" and "The Me Nobody Knows," and appeared in four feature films, including "Across 110th Street" and "Bang the Drum Slowly."

At nine, **Eric Jones** (as Francis) has already made two television commercials (Ginos and Lifesavers), and has been seen in the films, "The Supercops" and "The French Connection." Young Eric enjoyes movies, television, Walt Disney World, strong guys like Bruce Lee, and anything of a comical nature.

Ron "Super Fly" O'Neal is off to L.A. in June to begin rehearsals for "Macbeth" which will tour the environs in July with Joseph Papp's Mobils unit. Ron hopes some serious film folks will give Shakespeare's play a look and see he's actually a serious actor and deserving of some serious and challenging roles and not the junk they've been offering him since "Super Fly."

Angela Hend, now at the International University of Performing Arts at San Diego is completing her first term and already is looking forward to an interview and dancing on "North Star" and perhaps a trip to Barcelona, Spain to appear in a movie. Her mentor is her former teacher at Edmondson High, Wilhelmina Vaughn.

* * *

Section Ten, which gained an Obie Award nomination for it's play "New York Monster Show" last year, will come to the Theatre Project for it's pre-New York trials of "Lulu." The play will run through Sunday June 2.

* * *

For the first time the **Electric Shakespeare Company**, the Summer Theatre at Towson State College, will hold open auditions for its two summer productions: "The Duchess of Malfi" and "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum." Both shows will rehearse and be performed exclusively at night. The casts will be made up of professional actors, students of the Towson State College Theatre Arts Department, and members of the community.

Patricia Fai Walker Davis, counselor in the schools without walls, director, playwright and a new talent in the Baltimore area will receive honorable mention at the Arena Players' Ninth Annual Awards presentation. She recently graduated from Howard University where she wrote the play "The Everlasting Arm."

The ARENA PLAYERS 9th Annual Awards presentation is being held tonight at Blue Crest North within Bobby Felder and his Orchestra.

MICHAEL NEWTON Professional Model and Entertainer, will be a featured Model in the Hecht Company's New York's Designers' Show, to be held tonight Friday, at the new Statler-Hilton Inn, Reisterstown Road.

The show will consist of such designer garments as Jeffrey Beam, John Witze, Bill Blass, Pierre Cardin, and other top New York designers.

Mr. Newton, top professional male model from this area, was recently named by the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists as Male Model of the Year '74-'75 for the region covering Atlanta-Washington,D.C.-Baltimore-Phila-

Godspell returns

The Edgar Lansbury/Stuart Duncan/Joseph Beruh Production, conceived and originally directed by John-Michael Tebelak, with music and lyrics by Stephen Schwartz, presents the following cast: Nedra Dixon, Michael Holt, Lynn Humphrey, Peter Juraski, Patrick Lavery, Nancy McCall, Tom Rolfing, Rick Valretta, Naomi Wexler and Valerie Williams with Zenobia Conkerite, Helen Celzer, Rune Kantur and Craig Wasson as alter-Craig Wasson as alternates. The musicians are: Lea Richardson, keyboard conductor; Jim Gaudiello, percusion; Charles Pierce, Jr., guitar; and Russell Schinnerer, bass. Nina Faso, who has been in "Godspell" since the show's inception (she was a class-mate of John-Michael Tebelak) directed this production.

Yes, "Godspell" is coming back — Monday evening, June 10th to be exact. Back to the stage of the Mechanic Theatre where the Company enjoyed tremendous popularity during its previous nine week run. This time however, the engagement is limited to two weeks only.

People of all ages and life styles have found pleasure in "Godspell." The joyous celebration of life, love and laughter, and of course, its serious side too, which blends unobtrusively into a fitting conclusion. This delightful freeform musical proclaims God's good news' to all humanity utilizing the words of Saint Matthew's Gospel as the libretto and rendering the life and teaching of Christ in the contemporary style of "Story Book Theatre." The parables are there; the teachings are there; Christ and his followers are there; also there are touches of vaudeville, minstrel show, folk and torch songs, and rock, along with nimble footwork that is barely short of acrobatic.

"Godspell" embraces its audience with an intimate sense of participation, whether it be mingling with the cast over a cup of wine at the intermission clapping along to 'Day by Day,' or simply sitting back and being involved, it brings again to the theatre a wonderful warm quality so often lacking in recent years.

Best Actor and Best Actress of the Year in a Special, Emmy Award winners Hal Holbrook and Cicely Tyson. Holbrook won for playing Cmdr. Lloyd Bucher in "Pueblo" and Tyson won for playing the slave in "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pitman."

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The McKenzie report

By Vashti McKenzie

Earnest Patton came to town on a 'humble' and decided to make Baltimore his home.

Patton, a New York actor with an impressive list of acting credits, came to Baltimore three months ago for a disc jockey job at WEBB.

When that fell through, he hucked up on Max Julien at a party that led to a promised part in Julien's movie "Goldie" being made here this summer.

So, he's sticking around, making this his home while waiting for something to happen.

"I've been in NYC for 20 years and I just got tired of the hassle," said Patton in an interview at the AFRO last week.

"It's very hard getting a break in New York. There would be a 100 or so actors called for one small part," he said.

"I've been in 11 films and most of the parts I got with help from friends."

He said that Nipsey Russell, Flip Wilson, Johnny Brown and Lola Falana had trouble getting breaks in New York and didn't make it until they left for the golden west.

He should know. Patton was in "Golden Boy" on Broadway with Falana, Brown and Sammy Davis Jr. He also appeared in "Bubbe in the Night" and "Beach Games."

A man of many talents — disc jockey for WWRL, special investigator, restaurateur, "3 or 4 degrees in various subjects" — his main thing is acting.

"My first love is acting," he said. "I went to the Broadway Academy of Acting School but nothing happened. I worked mostly in commercials and did a lot of plays in college, Penn State.

"A lot of people think it's easy and everything," Patton continued, "but it's not. A lot of people would do anything to get into a movie, I won't.

"I'm expecting a part from Max Julien. Taylor (agency) is supposed to be handling the casting, but I don't know. I guess I'll have to wait for Max to get into town."

Patton played the junky in "The French Connection" and Caleb in the "Life of Harriet Tubman." He's also had roles in "The Landlord," "The Anderson Tapes" and "Cotton Comes To Harlem."

"I don't think people should label all black films in reference to narcotics," he said. "The ones that Cicely Tyson did, "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman" and "Sounder" were beautiful."

He feels some people are getting the impression that all blacks are either hustlers or pimps and label them so.

So why an actor of his caliber with stage, film, commercial and television experience (was a paid looking intern on "One Life To Live") be hot for a part in a movie about hustlers?

"An actor should be able to play the part, any part," he answered. "He is taught how to act and he should. I don't mind doing it."

Most black films deal in the fantasies black people have, the so-called dominant black woman and the Cadillac car of the black male, in his estimation.

He feels that "Cleopatra Jones" Tamara Dobson and "Foxey Brown" Pam Grier go too far on the James Bond theme.

"And as far as plain nudity is concerned, I wouldn't want to be labeled just in that way," he said.

"This film, 'The Klansman,' I just don't see how Lola (Falana) could do this nude scene and still keep her dignity."

He likes black films and would really like to do more films showing black history. "You know, show the brother where it's at," he said. "Like the one I did with Ruby Dee, "Life of Harriet Tubman." A lot has happened that people don't know."

Earnest Patton

Insights . . . Bill Withers

By Frederick I. Douglass

By Frederick I. Douglass

Bill Withers is the master story teller of of show business. He has experienced and survived everything he sings about. Not only has he experienced the hardships of being black in America, he also has undergone the sudden transformation from leading a normal working man's life to the star spangled life that accompanies being one of the biggest names in show business, resulting from his recording "Ain't No Sunshine When You'er Gone." Then came "Grandma's Hands," "Who Is He and What Is He To You" and scores of others which have been big hits for Brother Withers and other artists who have recorded his songs.

His latest album is entitled "justments," and that's no typographical error. Contained within the grooves of the album are songs that are destined to fill the spaces between the one or two worthwhile cuts. Not so with this album. Side one features "You," "Green Grass," and "Ruby Lee," songs which I give my seal of approval with no hesitation, not to mention Withers' latest hit "The Some Love That Made Me Laugh." Without a doubt these are heavy jams that tell the life story of a man whose eyes have seen a lot.

Flip the LP over and you will find two more exceptional, extended cuts entitled "Heartbreak Road" and "Railroad Man," plus a few other jams that might titillate your musical palate. The sound of Withers is lush and romantic or harshly realistic, but never bitter. Withers does not despair the hardships of life, he looks for ways to cope with and to overcome them. He is not a man who feels sorry for himself, he is a man who deals with life as it comes, seeking to master his destiny.

Withers is at his best when he performs live. If you haven't had the opportunity to check him out in person, listen to "Bill Withers Live at Carnegie Hall", which features long versions of jams like "Lean on Me" "Ain't No Sunshine," "Harlem," "Better off Dead" and "Cold Baloney" which was also a hit for the Isley Brothers On the live album Withers really comes off strong and bold, especially on jams like "Use Me," and "Friend of Mine." Withers is a heavy, multi-talented brother that truly understands what is happening to people in an automated, computerized world. His lyrics take you away from the sterile, stainless steel environment in which we live and make you aware that people are living, breathing creatures be understood and to be understood and tom communicate with their fellow man. Withers is very much into life and people. He is a humanist, a man for all people.

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"Seesaw's" Lucie has class!

By Vashti McKenzie

Lucie Arnaz is shining in her own light now. And if you have a chance to meet her . . . try the corner drug store or antique shop . . . you'll shine in her light too.

I met Lucie in a sunny yellow striped room, high above the Morris Mechanic Theatre where she is starring in the hit broadway musical, "Seesaw" through June 8.

Screen actor John Gavin also stars along with Tommy Tune, recreating his Tony winning role.

She was very comfortable in her hotel home, in a taupe jersey tee-shirt that touched the toes of her bare feet. Her fresh clean face was framed by a stylish gamin hair cut.

A new needle point pattern lay tossed aside on the sofa with gold and brown yarn dangling to the floor.

Across the room, pictures of friends and family decorate the lamp table.

Memorabilia from the drug store across the street, along with tennis racket, stationary and "things to keep me busy" lay in an opened trunk that "started out with mother."

Mother, incidently is Lucille Ball.

"I think it will take a lot more than what I have done to come into my own," she said.

"I'll consider it when the masses come to see me for me and not for my mother . . . you know to see Lucy's kid."

Lucie may have been launched by her co-starring role on "Here's Lucy" but she's definitely treading water on her own with appearances on the Kraft Music Hall, TV's game shows like, Hollywood Squares; popular talk shows and summer stock productions of "Cabaret" and "Once Upon A Mattress."

She has been on tour with "Seesaw" since March, getting good reviews for her portrayal of Gittel Mosca, an aspiring New York Dancer who has her ups and downs in a love relationship with a Nebraskan lawyer.

"Gittel is the sum of a lot of women," said Lucie describing her character. "She is the epitome of someone who is giving too much and gets hurt. But she learns a lesson."

Lucie started out on television because it just sort of happened to her.

"I love TV," she said, "You can make things perfect, do close-ups and go on different locations. But the stage is so much more exciting."

She feels the stage is the height of acting.

"There are different techniques, and waiting for that moment when it happens, there is an immediate audience reaction," she said.

"Some people just have to get into what theater really is. It happens, it's over and it's so exciting."

On stage, Lucie has been able to use all her talents; dancing, singing and acting in a comedy show, musicals and playing Gittel "a well-rounded yet tragic sort of person."

At 22, she is still trying all areas of show business to find her home.

"I did a television series for six years and I'm not looking for another, not now," she said.

"I had a chance for a spin-off but they didn't come up with the right angle."

"People who haven't had exposure," said Lucie "think doing a series is a dream, there's security with money coming in each week."

She says she may reach out in a few years to do some films.

"I grew up without a goal," said Lucie, "My mother put such emphasis on school and education."

So, she counted on going through high school and college and then knowing what she wanted out of life.

But along came high school drama productions and the break on "Here's Lucy."

Lucie doesn't get to see brother Desi Jr. much these days. He has been away doing 2 movies for 2 years and jet setting around with various and sundry people.

"I've learned a lot of things," she said. "How to live with people, get out and learn a new town, deal with the traumas of opening night and living alone."

Lucie has been separated . . . "married to or not married to" from her husband, an independent producer for some time now.

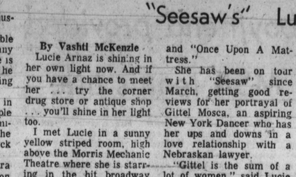
Lucie has personality, character, talent and taste.

"Wait right here, I've got something to show . . . "Wait right here, I've got something to show you," she said disappearing into the bedroom of her suite.

She reappeared holding a faded denim bag with a rhinestone dollar sign in amber on the pocket that had a pair of Christian Dior two-tone sunglasses in another pocket.

"We've got the same bag, same sunglasses and would you believe, I've got a kaftan made of the same material as your jacket," she said smiling.

Like I said, She's got talent and taste. She's got class.



Charles McGregor

Charles 'Fat Freddie' McGregor

The children from Bedford Stuyvesant's P.S. No. 28 gave a standing ovation to the big, bald man exiting the assembly stage.

To some, it was a strange reception for a fierce-looking former heroin addict who served time for robbery, assault and homicide; it was not so strange for these or the thousands of other ghetto youths throughout the country who idolize Charles "Fat Freddie" McGregor, the ex-con turned film star who spends his time helping the children of the tenement-lined streets from which he also came.

While working with the Fortune Society, an organization to help ex-cons adjust to freedom, he was handed a tiny part in a documentary film produced for the group. "A director saw the film," he recalls, "and thought I had the expressive face and delivery which is right for movies." A role in "Born to Win" with George Segal and Paula Prentiss followed, along with parts in numerous other films, including the hugely successful "Super Fly" and "Blazing Saddles." Charley's most recent film is "Three the Hard Way," an Allied Artists release starring Jim Brown, Fred Williamson and Jim Kelly and directed by Gordon Parks Jr.

But the biggest part of Charley's life is still working with the street kids and exercising his ability to be their social commentator, entertainer and friend. Anyone who's spent five minutes with the man believes he'll succeed in turning "all the other 'Charleys' out there" into the Charley McGregory of today.

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• KIDDIE RIDES • DODGEM • COMET • FLYING COASTER • ARCADE

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2. BY POTOMAC RIVER CRUISER (leaving from Sixth and Water Streets on Southwest Washington): come by your own buses or private cars to the Wilson Line pier address (Baltimore-Washington Parkway to New York Ave. South on 7th Street to Sixth and Water Streets S.W.)

SHIP SAILS 9:30 A.M. ~ 2:00 P.M. DAILY

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