Jim Brown... super-hero on or off stage!

By Vashti McKenzie

In "Three The Hard Way"

"There is no movie that you can make that's more exciting than my life," said actor Jim Brown, said actor Jim Brown cooly sipping a soothing beverage in his hotel suite.

"I did it all," he said. "I've gotten in all kinds of trouble, played football, worked for Pepsi Cola, TV shows and now movies."

Brown was in town last week touting his new movie "Three The Hard Way," Fred Williamson, Jim Kelly and Sheila Frazier co-star in the action flick.

"I'm a super hero off the screen, more so than on the screen," said Brown

So until the life of Jim Brown comes out, in a movie you'll have to be satisfied with "Three The Hard Way"...it's the next best thing to being there!

The action thriller is about three men who combine their legendary strengths to battle a mysterious organizatio n bent on genocide. Ms. Frazier plays Brown's lady.

The method of biological genocide is vaguely similar to the peculiarities of Sickle Cell Anemia.

But you thought the movie was about gambling because the title brings to mind a hot game of crap.

The film is directed by Gordon Parks Jr. and the original score is performed by the Impressions who also appear in the movie.

Brown takes over an easy chair across the room and unwinds his muscular frame completely at ease with the world.

He's not wearing the usual California native costume...sequined jeans, but off-white cuffed pants, silk shirt and plaid poorboy sweater.

For Brown, making "Three" was a very enjoyable experience, one of the nicer things he's had to do lately.

He had a lot to do with the idea of the movie and the selection of his co-stars Williamson and Kelly, both not known for their humility.

"No one thought Fred and I could work together," he said.

Brown feels that when you put three actors together who have obvious super-hero movie images, there is some sort of gentlemen's agreement.

"You put three dudes in a room and there'd be an understanding," he said, 'We all know who we are."

All three actors had a good time shooting the film in Chicago, especially Williamson.

Williamson had a ball "eyeing all the chicks and hitting on all the chicks he could."

Brown was the steady kind of fellow and Kelly was just ready, "you know those karate guys, they're ready all the time...but for what?

"That's the way it is in the movie too," he said. "Fred has lots of girls and he's like that. Kelly's ready and I'm the steady guy with one girl. Frazier plays my girl."

In real life, Brown has become, believe or not, the steady guy. Nineteen-year-old Philly lady Diane Laverne Stanley is his bride-to-be.

The wedding was originally planned for June 22nd, however, previous movie commitments have forced the couple to plan an October wedding instead.

He will start "The

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Diane and Jim "Yes this is it!"

What's Happening

By Ida Peters

Jim Kelly, the karate champion, showed up in New Yrok for the premiere of "Three The Hard Way," after being missing five days. Agents quote him as saying he was tired and wanted to get away and get his head together.

"That's Entertainment" a new movie celebrating movie musicals with the golden (?) era of MGM scenes from 100 classics (?) since 1929 held a gala party for press and bigwigs at the Uptown Theatre Tuesday night in D.C.

Narrators for the film are shown in their early films and include Fred Astaire, Bing Crosby, Gene Kelly, Peter Lawford, Liza Minnelli, Donald O'Connor, Debbie Reynolds, Mickey Rooney, Frank Sinatra, James Stewart and Elizabeth Taylor.

The way things go in Hollywood ... this is the white answer to Sidney Poitier's all-black cast in "Uptown Saturday Night".

In a way the movie is sad. The film clips ... many of them are funny ... show a real sickness on the part of the moneymen who spent so much for so little.

For those of you in the ghetto areas like Baltimore, Washington and Philly ... many of these movies were never shown uptown ... it will be an education. Some of these movies have never been seen on TV and others have not been in theatrical release for years ... and for good reason.

As I said, the movie is sad. I would rather remember Micky Rooney, James Stewart, Fred Astaire and Bing Corsby through rose-colored glasses.The sight of those old men depressed me.

However, it's worth the price of admission just to see Lena Horne sing in "As Thousands Cheer" a 1944 production. It clearly comes through that Hollywood gave her short shrift. She had the talent and the looks.

The audience laughed at the costumes of Jeanette McDonald and Nelson Eddy in the 1936 "Rose Marie" ... but soon quieted at the beautiful blending of their voices. They also applauded Fred Astaire as he danced on a ceiling and with Cyd Charisee in "The Band Wagon." 1953: "The Barkleys of Broadway," 1949 with Ginger Rogers.

Judy Garland they loved as she sang "Oh, Mr. Gable" and danced and sang in "The Wizard of Oz".

"That's Entertainment" is a must for all you aspiring black film makers and all you current black film critics. You'll see how long it takes for perfection in film making and how many bad movies, mistakes, heartbreak and how much money it takes to make good films.

AND ... many never made a gross of $142.576 in one week in one city like in Poitier's "Uptown Saturday Night," did last week in N.Y.

* * *

There are some mighty devoted movie fans ... readers of this column. **Melvin and Lillie Duerson** about the N.Y. "Uptown Saturday Night" ... wrote off for tickets, mingled with the stars and had their picture made with Sidney Poitier. They didn't see the Rev. Jesse Jackson nor recognize Gloria Hi-

(Continued on Page D-37)

Slappy White came home in style. He had his burgundy Caddy shipped out for his East Coast appearances. Above, he's shown at a benefit at Baltimore City Jail in a pink and white suit and white shoes.

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THE BIG BUST-OUT

The McKenzie report

By Vashti McKenzie

Too many cooks spoil the broth — or too many people trying to promote Isaac Hayes for concerts at Painters Mill Music Fair and Shady Grove in D.C. has Hayes getting an attitude.

I've counted five so far.

Anyway, the week of July 1-7 will be Isaac Hayes Week with William Sykes, assistant to the mayor, presenting a scroll from Mayor W. D. Schaefer at the Monday night opening of the Isaac Hayes movement.

"Black Moses" in film and in person

Also on opening night, Hayes will present the YMCA with $250.00 allowing 50 youngsters free membership in the new City Center Branch.

He will be made the 1st honorary member of the new branch.

While in D.C. this week, he turned out for 2,000 youngsters at the District's Banneker Recreation Center to help kick-off Mayor Walter Washington's Summer Youth Program.

You can also catch Isaac Hayes in film in his new movie "Truck Turner" showing downtown.

Archie Bunker will be holding hands with Annie Oakley at Painters Mill Music Fair this week thru June 30.

Carroll O'Connor, Archie Bunker of the TV series "All in the Family" joins the First Lady of the American Musical Theater, **Ethel Merman**, for an evening of comedy and music.

Incidentally, O'Connor Tandem Productions are having their problems too. O'Connor said in a suit filed last week that the production company owes him $63,000.

He claimed in his Superior Court suit that Tandem withheld payment of $45,000 for reruns of the series and "docked" him $18,000 for being off sick for a week.

Tandem could hardly handle Redd Foxx. They don't stand a chance with Archie Bunker.

Beautiful **Gerri Granger** is the sweetness and light in the Redd Foxx Show just finishing tour stops in Pennsylvania, Washington and Baltimore.

Gerri Granger sexy lady

The bag she's in includes mostly jazz, blues and contemporary tunes. One of the highlights of her performance is a fantastic tribute to the late Duke Ellington.

Her sexy style and sensuous strut is due to the fact she's on tour with an over-sexed show. But then again, she's got a great body to work with.

1,000 inmates of the Baltimore City Jail can testify to that. Gerri joined Foxx and Slappy White to sing a short series of pop and blues numbers. She slithered and bumped in a pair of skin tight white pants and a sexy orange midriff top to the men's delight.

Carroll O'Connor

(Continued from page D-36)

dry in her short bush or Goeffrey Holder, the dancer.

* * *

The **Greene Sisters**, "The Sweethearts of Baltimore", appear in the premiere performance of Fillmer (Sillmore)—Are You In There??" on August 2, 1974, 8:30 p.m. at the University of Baltimore. The Play is Written and Directed by George Diggs of the "Parliament Players" (formerly the "Ebony Players"); co-director Vernon Jackson; associate director - Rosalyn Worrell.

* * *

On Wednesday, July 3, Doug Baldwin, ceramist and instructor at the Maryland Institute, College of Art will give the second lecture in a series of entitled Artists on Art.

Richard Roundtree is starred in "Earthquake," along with Charlton Heston, Ava Gardner, George Kennedy, Lorne Greene, and Genevieve Bujold.

Eddie Kendrick's Young **Senators** plus Franky and the Spindles and Sounds Extended are at Union Hall, July 3.

Carl Pitts will be dancing in the Maryland Ballet Company's Ballet Under The Stars tonight and Saturday at St. Timothy's School.

Rare Earth is coming in concert at the Civic Center on July 12.

Peg Leg Bates celebrating the 22nd anniversary of his club in the New York Catskills.

Singer and songwriter **Brook Benton** was placed on two-year probation and fined $500 in Brooklyn Federal Court on his guilty plea of failing to file his 1968 personal income tax return on a $86,327 gross income. The judge suspended imposing a jail sentence provided Benton, 43, pays taxs owed on an estimated $158,537 gross income for 1967-69. He could have received a year in jail and a $10,000 fine.

The African Diaspora, a comprehensive look at black culture as it has evolved on three continents, will be added to this year's Festival of American Folklife, held on the Mall in Washington, D.C. July 3-14.

Coming to the United States for the Festival will be a 55-person troupe from Nigeria a 30-person troupe from Ghana, and a 35-person troupe from Trinidad/Tobago. These troupes of dancers, musicians, and craftsmen will perform alongside of black American counterparts, who trace traditions back to Africa, the mother continent.

Stan Kenton, and his 19-piece orchestra will perform at a benefit concert "Kenton Under the Stars" at Towson State College Sunday, July 21 with the Towson State Jazz Ensemble, under the direction of Hank Levy.

* * *

Harry James and his "music makers" swing into Baltimore on July 4th to open the third season of On Stage Downtown, the Baltimore Promotion Council's free summer concert series. The James band will be appearing in Hopkins Plaza at 8 P.M. Harry James, who brought the world "You Made Me Love You" will bring Baltimoreans an evening of remember-when music that personifies the era of the swining big band.

* * *

The Park School Summer Arts Program will present its first production, "Parent-thesis" on July 5th and 6th at 8:00 P.M. in the brand new Center for Performing Arts on the campus of the school located in Brooklandville.

"A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The

Greene Sisters

Forum," due to open July 2 at 8:30 p.m. on the main stage of the Fine Arts Building at Towson State College will include Don Leifelt, a former stand-in for Lee J. Cobb in the CBS pilot "Mr. Mox."

With a $3.5 million grant, the **Children's Television Workshop**, creators of "Sesame Street" ane "The Electric Company," will bring out a new series of bring out a new series of 60 to 90-minutes TV dramas on American social history, to be telecast by the Public Broadcasting Service in the Fall, 1975 and during the Bicentennial year.

The First Annual **Senior Citizen Art Show** of the Baltimore area will be displayed at Turner Auditorium, 720 Rutland Ave., through July 7, 1974.

The show is sponsored by the Baltimore City Commission on Aging and Retirement Education the Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks, and the Maryland National Bank.

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Enoch Pratt

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"Who Is Sylvia?" and "You're No Good," films at the Pratt Library's Gorsuch Avenue Library Center, 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 3

"Ballet with Edward Villella," "Jascha Heifetz: Portrait of an Artist," and "Mixummerdaydream," films at the Central Pratt Library, Wheeler Auditorium, 2:00 p.m.

Exhibits

Circus models by John Paul Roberts Sr. and Joseph F. Schmitt Sr., at the Central Pratt Library, Central Hall and Children's Department,

—More Happening

"Showboat" opened at the Annapolis Summer Theatre starring Joseph Eubanks in the title role with Maureen Smothers, Michele Pettigrew and Pepper Hunter.

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