The World Premiere of "Hangup" in Baltimore benefited the AFRO's Mrs. Santa Program. Above Marki Bey, Bill Elliott, Dionne Warwicke meet in Mondawmin with Fred O'Neal and AFRO's Ida Peters. Bill Elliott Day in Baltimore was October 22.

Jim Brown visits AFRO office in June.

What's Happening Black folks got to get it together in '75

By Ida Peters

This first column of the new year is dedicated to looking back to the highlights of '74 and looking ahead to what's going to happen in 1975.

Federal Communications Commissioner Benjamin Hooks triggered this column, a few weeks back, when he was guest speaker at the 7th Annual Award Dinner for the Baltimore Marketing Association.

He said black folks must get themselves together and support each other instead of tearing each other down. He cited the fact that you, you, you and me must support black businesses and he pointed out Pauline Brooks and Parks Sausage.

This brings to mind that many of you sat on your pocketbooks . . . but a whole lot of you supported the efforts of black motion picture producers. And a lot of you just complained which means that soon a lot of brothers and sisters are going to be out of work. Yes, we're really got to start getting it together.

Conventions Coming

There are at least 11 conventions coming to Baltimore in 1975. Most will be black, most will be held in white hotels. What are black folks doing to make sure some of these black dollars will be left in the black community?

What can be done? Every convention chairman should make sure and demand that extra help hired be from the black community employed throughout the hotels and Civic Center and be highly visible in all types of jobs.

Don't we have enough caterers, motor buses, florists to pool their talents and resources to take care of the needs of even the biggest of conventions.

We should make the effort for black folks to get it together in 1975.

List

Jan. 9-11 — Maryland State Bar, Hilton.

Jan. 20-21 — Assoc. of Art Museum Directors, Cross Keys.

Jan. 27-Feb. 1 — National Institute of Health, Hunt Valley Inn.

April 4-6 — Alpha Kappa Alpha Regional Conference—Hilton

April 11-12 — National Press Photographers Assoc. — Cross Keys

April 25-27 — Phi Delta Kappa Sorority — Holiday Inn

May 11 — Girl Friends Inc. — Baltimore Hilton

May 16-18 — A. Philip Randolph InstFute — Hilton

June 24-26 — Tri - State Funeral Directors and Morticians Assoc. — Hilton

August — Iota Phi Lambda Sorority

January

Thus time last year, we were writing about Jim Kelly and his visit to our office to promote "Blak Belt Jone" with Gloria Hendry. We interviewed Hugh Masekela at the Cellar Door. The Jackson 5 were at Capitol Center and Aton Wilson visited us on a cold, cold day to talk about the Ice Follies.

A irate reader wrote that she attended the Isley Brothers concert at the Civic Center and she was mad because they kept the lights on to watch the fans. She said, "I couldn't help but laugh to think that blacks are worse than the so-called energy crises."

Movies of the month were "The Black Six," Fred Williamson; "That Man Bolt," Fred Williamson.

The Arena Players presented "The Curious Savage" and our reviewer said "You will laugh, cry, sympathize and rejoice with this family and will long remember the philosophies of the mother."

Veronica Tyler was presented in concert at Park Heights Baptist Temple. Brock Peters visited our offices and we started a contest, "Win Jim Kelly Stickers" We received hundreds of letters telling us about Jim Kelly.

We also asked the question "Is Jane Pittman A Real Person," after seeing "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman." The library reported many calls from school children and adults trying to write and read about a real Jane Pittman.

February

To start February we got to eat with, greet and meet two fantastic movie stars Brock Peters, co-star of "Five On The Black Hand Side" and Jim Watkins of "The Magician" fame and best friend, of John Wayne in "McQ."

We also talked with Bill Henry Douglass, direct descendant of Frederick Douglass who starred in "The Rainbow Rainbeam Radio Roadshow" at L'Enfant Plaza in D.C.

Pleasant task was serving as judge for the finals of the Baltimore Playboy Bunny of the Year Contest. The beauteous chocolate bunny Sheila Ross won.

Balloting is now going on down at the Playboy Club until January 15 and the Bunny of the Year Pageant will take place in B-More, January 24, 1975.

"The Exorcist" premiered downtown and black folks lined up in freezing weather. Some young folks in my office went to see it three and four times.

Marki Bey came to town to push the movie "Sugar Hill" and wound up coming back with Bill Elliott in November as co-star in "Hang-Up."

Early in February this department invited citizens to meet and talk with Darrold Hunt, Apprentice Conductor of the Baltimore Symphony. Consensus of the group was advertising should be placed in the AFRO as well as local dailies if the Symphony is concerned about reaching the black community.

Late in February we previewed "Cinderella Liberty" starring James Caan which introduced a new professional youngster, Kirk Calloway.

Movies downtown were "Bamboo Gods and Iron Men," "The Thunder Kick" and "Willie Dynamite."

The Arena Players continued their "Impossible Dream to build their new Playhouse and presented two comedies by Douglas-Turner Ward, "Happy Ending" and "Day of Absence."

At the end of February, Max Julien came to town to announce he would make "Goldie" a million dollar pix (sequel to "The Mack") in Baltimore. So far, nothing is happening.

Continued Next Week

"Tonight of 1974" or "Were Many Of Us Living In The Year Ago While the World Moved On?"

Year end roundup at Coppin

The fall events of the 2nd annual cultural series of Coppin State College Center concluded in November with unforgettable performances by two internationally acclaimed attractions — the National Dance Company of Senegal and mezzo-soprano Shirley Verrett.

A 40-member troupe, the Senegalese presented to the enthusiastic overflow audience a program of dance, singing, music and acrobatics that was truly born of the unadulterated folk traditions of Africa.

The Senegalese Company is vigorous. The dancers, contortionists and acrobats defy the structural limitations of the human anatomy. Its members are young. In a program that included dances of harvest, fertility, exorcism, joy and ritual, there were no high points, for everything the group did was exceptional.

Costumed exotically, colorfully and spectacularly, to say the least, the artists displayed talents that were both primitive and sophisticated. Ceiling-high stilt-walkers covered in feathers, women with bared sculptured breasts, elaborate headdresses, neatly manicured hair styles, gorgeous royal robes were all a part of the two and a half hour evening that was professionally coordinated, but unmuffled by commercialism.

Just seven days later on the afternoon of Sunday, November 24, the final concert in the series was presented by opera star Shirley Verrett.

An artist who has appeared on opera stages, in concert halls, at festivals and with symphony orchestras around the world, Miss Verrett is a rare and impressive performer.

In a program which opened with three songs of Pergolesi, an early 18th century Italian, the artist displayed more than a two octave range, shining as brilliantly on a high C as she did in the register more commonly associated with the mezzo voice. Her Hindu (Gypsy art songs) group consisted of two songs by Gustav Mahler and three of Richard Strauss.

After the intermission, Miss Verrett sang three African-American spirituals arranged by Hall Johnson who is known for his choral work with the original Broadway and movie versions of "Green Pastures," five songs by the French composer Poulenc and concluded with the afternoon's only operatic offering, the aria Una voce poca from the "Barber of Seville."

Here is a phenomenal instrument whether she is dashing off a melisma (many notes on one syllable) at great speed or singing long sustained lines. She has the ability to convey the mood and meaning of each line. There are no dull moments in her performance as she seems to enjoy her craft and sets about the business of establishing good rapport with the audience the moment she walks onto the stage.

Accompanied by pianist Warren Wilson, the audience was treated to teamwork in its highest form. Miss Verrett does not require a timed accompanist, and it is apparent that Verrett and Wilson are on intimate terms with each other as artists and agree on how the music should be interpreted to the advantage of the other and are willing to share the spotlight.

Inaugurated a year ago in conjunction with the opening of the new college auditorium, the Coppin Center Series in its two years has brought a wealth of international entertainment to Baltimore's central city. H. F.

Enoch Pratt

January 11)

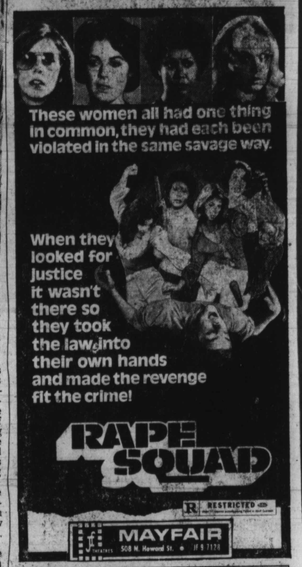
Monday, January 6

"Drive on Treasure Island" (Parts 5 through 8), film at the Pratt Library's Clifton Center, 4:00 p.m.

"Roberta Flack" and "Johnny Lingo," films at the Pratt Library's Keyworth Avenue Center, 6:30 p.m.

"The Ascent of Man: Knowledge or Certainty" (Part 11), film at the Central Pratt Library, Wheeler Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

"God Is Dog Spelled Backward," film at the Pratt Library's Forest Park Branch, 7:30 p.m.



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The NEWEST CHILLER FROM WILLIAM MARSHALL, STAR OF "BLACULA"

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THE STORY OF A WOMAN POSSESSED

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Remember... Only the 50¢ ticket can make you a millionaire!

NEXT DRAWING: WED., JAN. 8 AT 12 NOON & THURS., JAN. 9 AT 10 A.M. IN MONDAWMIN MALL

Isaac Hayes came to Painters Mill Music Fair in June. Above, Vashti McKenzie and Michelle McRae in his red velvet and red leather silver Cadillac limo.

Vashti McKenzie went to Sly and Kathy's wedding in June.

The McKenzie report AFRO soul round-up of 1974

By Vashti McKenzie

This is the What's Happening For The Record-McKenzie Report of entertainment events of 1974.

Ida Peters, Fred Douglass and Vashti McKenzie compared notes of the dawn of 1975 to highlight the best entertainment and entertainers of the past year in the soul world of stage, screen, TV and music.

A lot of stars crossed the threshold of our AFRO offices. We'll only spotlight a few here.

Most memorable is the coming of Jim Brown who was touring the east coast promoting his newest release "Three The Hard Way" in June. He was glowing after the public announcement of his engagement to 19-year-old Philly high school student, Diane La Vern Stanley.

The scheduled wedding, September, then October, was postponed several times because of movies Brown was shooting.

As it turned out, the young lady broke the engagement off. She wanted a career and he wanted babies, now!

Shirley Scott, jazz organist stopped by so did Buddy Miles talking about his just released album Buddy Miles Express."

The singing brother soul sensation Tavares came to our offices so did Master Popcorn Machine"

"Consumer Survival Kit"

"Rhoda"

"The Mike Douglas Show"

"Get Christie Love!"

"Hawaii Five-O"

"Police Woman"

"Columbo"

"McMillan and Wife"

"Maude"

"All In The Family"

"The Streets of San Francisco"

"Mannix"

"Good Times"

"The Midnight Special"

The Worst

"That's My Momma"

"Apples Way"

Best Specials

"The Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr."

"The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman" (repeat)

"Cotton Club '74"

ABC Afternoon School Specials

Afternoon Playbreaks (ABC)

Flip Wilson

Soap Operas

"The Young and The Restless"

"General Hospital"

"The Doctors"

"One Life To Live"

"Search for Tomorrow"

"Another World"

"Guiding Light"

TV Personalities

Jimmie Walker, J.J. of "Good Times"

Redd Foxx

Freddie Prinze, "Chico and The Man"

Teresa Graves, "Get Christie Love!"

Whitman Mayo, Grady in "Sanford and Son"

La Wanda Page, Aunt Esther, "Sanford and Son"

Georg Sanford Brown, "The Rookies"

Don Mitchell, "Ironsides"

John Amos, Ralph Carter Bernadette Stanis, Ja'Net Dubois and Esther Rolex, of "Good Times"

Clifton Davis Theresa Merritt of "That's My Momma"

Telly Savales

Flip Wilson

Richard Pryor

Bill Cosby,

Albums

Jazz

"Big Fun"—Miles Davis

"Get Up With It"—Miles Davis

"Street Lady"—Donald Byrd

"Stanley Clark"—Stanley Clark

"Total Eclipse"—Billy Cobham

"Mingus Moves"—Charles Mingus

"Hymn Of The Seventh Galaxy"—Chick Corea

"Thrust," "Chameleon" — Herbie Hancock

"Satin Doll" —Bobbi Humphrey

"High Energy"—Freddie Hubbard

"Feel"—George Duke

"Illumination" — Alice Coltrane and Carlos Santana

R and B

"Fire, "Skin Tight" — Ohio Players

"Free Beer and Chicken" — John Lee Hooker

"Light Of The Worlds" — Kool and The Gang

"Salt of the Earth" — Soul Searchers

"Mandrill and" — Mandrille

"Open Your Eyes" — Earth, Wind and Fire

"Live" — War

"Do It Till You Satisfied" — B. T. Express

"Diana Ross Live at Ceasar's Palace" — Dina Ross

"New and Improved" — Spinners

"With Everything I feel In Me" — Aretha Franklin

"Hard Core Poetry" — Tavares

"All In Love Is Fair" — Nancy Wilson

"Fulfillingness' First Finale" — Stevie Wonder

"Rags to Rufus" — Rufus

"Flying Start" — The Blackbyrds

"Caught Up" — Millie Jackson

"Body Heat" — Quincy Jones

"Can't Get Enough" — Barry White

"I feel A Song" — Gladys Knight and The Pips

"Al Explores Your Mind" — Al Green

"Three Degrees" — Three Degrees

Top Performances

Gladys Knight and The Pips

Marvin Gaye

Stevie Wonder

Barry White

Earth, Wind and Fire

The Miracles

Richard Pryor

Aretha Franklin

Diana Ross

Rufus

Hamilton Bohannon

Billy Preston

Donald Byrd

The Black Byrds and Bobbi Humphrey

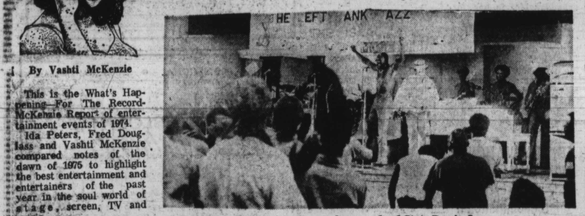
The Jackson Five

The O'Jays

Herbie Hancock

Redd Foxx

Tavares



Above, Isaac Hayes performs bare chested before 600 inmates at Maryland State Pen in June.

Fleet, The Ohio Players, Walter Heath and the list goes on and on.

Isaac Hayes not only came to town to perform before his high paying audience but perform also before 600 clapping and stomping inmates at the Maryland State Penitentiary.

Just a few weeks before, Redd Foxx did two shows for the incarcerated: one at the Pen and the other at the Baltimore City Jail. His whole show accompanied him: Gerri Granger, The Four Little Steps and Slappy White.

Sly Stone couldn't make it to our offices so he invited the AFRO to attend his gold wedding before 23,000 screaming fans at Madison Square Garden in June.

He married the former Kathy Silva a California model and mother of Sly's 14-month-old son, Sly Jr.

Hardly six months later, the new Mrs. Sylvester Stewart filed for divorce, over $15,000 a month in temporary alimony and custody of their child.

What follows are some of our favorites of '74:

Television Shows

The Best

"Sanford and Son"

"Chico and The Man"

"Soul Train"

"Burgler Proofing (PBS)"

"Kojak"

"The Electric Company"

"Sesame Street"

Korge: 70,000 B.C."

"Black Journal"

"Harlem Globetrotters"

Buddy Miles visited in November.

Above, Shirley Scott talks with Vashti McKenzie in September, 1974.

Music Notes

Baltimore Symphony

Arthur Fiedler, who celebrated his 80th birthday on December 17, will be honored by the United States Information Agency on his next visit to the Baltimore Symphony as guest conductor of their Pops concert on January 4. USIA director James Keogh will present the celebrated maestro of the Boston Pops with his agency's Certificate of Appreciation and the Voice of America's Anniversary Medal.

* * *

Comedienne Phyllis Diller will soon appear in an unfamiliar role at the Lyric Theatre — as piano soloist with the Baltimore Symphony! On January 18 she will play works by Beethoven and Bach, as well as arrangements of Broadway show tunes, in a Pops concert conducted by Leon Fleisher. The first part of the program will include light classical works by Berlioz and Smetana and a song written by Miss Diller sung by Baltimore soprano Ruth Drucker. The concert begins at 8:15 p.m.

* * *

Zvi Zeitlin will be the soloist with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra on January 8 and 9.

Yale U. Glee Club

The world renowned Yale University Glee Club will appear in Baltimore at Goucher College on Sunday, January 5, 1975 at 8:30 in the evening. The 75 member Glee Club is here on the first stop in its annual winter tour. The concert program will include a vast range of choral works including well known folk song, spirituals and traditional college songs.

The Glee Club will be accompanied by the internationally famous Wiffenpoofs, the best known of Yale's many undergraduate singing groups. Founded in 1909, the Wiffenpoofs annually entertain at colleges, conventions and alumni gatherings throughout the nation.

How much can you hurt, a guy? Variety, the show business trade paper listed all but one of the cast members of the new show, "All Over Town." Who was left out? The star, Cleavon Little. It's at the Booth Theatre.

And now a word

NEW YORK — The black movie fad seems to have also fallen into a recession. The current list of the "50 Top-Grossing Films" does not include a single film that you could call "black," unless you type "The Klansman" as half-black because of its cast, theme and black producer. It's ranked number five on the list.

* * *

There are some new black-oriented films on the horizon, however. Trade talk is that "Cleopatra Jones Meets The Dragon Lady" with Tamara Dobson is much better than her original. And there's talk a London-based company will do a biopic of singer Josephine Baker with Diahann Carroll starred. Fans of Jim Brown and Fred Williamson will be happy to know their two heroes are currently on the Canary Islands, near the Northwest Coast of Africa filming "Hard Ride" with Catherine Spaak and Lee Van Cleef.

* * *

"Drowning Pool" producers Larry Turman and Dave Foster will reteam at Warners for "The Life And Loves Of Mr. Jiveass Nigger" to be filmed in Stockholm, Sweden. Ron Cutler has done the movie script for Cecil Brown's book which is said not to be a blaxploitation film.

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Edith Oliver in *The New Yorker* February 15, 1969

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