Dolemite directs his army of Kung Fu Killers in his very own real live pad.

I'm the one . . . Dolemite Rudy Ray Moore

The Columbia Dance Theatre starring from left Scarlette Reid and right Darneal Moore are performing in Dance Festival June 7-8 at Wilde Lake High School Auditorium in Columbia.

Rudy Ray Moore ... Dolemite ... he's rapping and tapping What's Happening

By Ida Peters

Yes . . . Dolemite is my name. I'm rappin' and tappin'. I'm the one . . . that killed Monday . . . whipped Tuesday . . . put Wednesday in the hospital . . . called up Thursday to tell Friday not to bury Saturday on Sunday.

That's how Rudy Ray Moore, King of the Party Records, came to town this week and rapped with the press at a luncheon and cocktail party.

Have to admire Mr. Moore . . . he covers a whole lot of brains with fast sweet talking. His press luncheon will go down in history. It was a masterpiece.

He insisted we lunch in his suite at the Hilton . . . sent out for a bucket of fried chicken, fries and rolls and we all had a finger licking good time rapping. (No plates)

He had lined the room with pictures from his film "Dolemite" now playing in 14 cities across the country. He proudly showed off his Gold Record, "Eat Out More Often."

Between humorous recitations from his other albums "The Poet of Raw Soul," "Dolemite for President" . . . (I promise you nothing), "The Sensuous Black Man," he showed a video tape of his Chicago opening last Sunday. Crowds broke a five-year record at the Woods Theatre grossing $16,000 opening night and beating out such pictures as "Mandingo" and "Cornbread, Earl and Me." The last picture to draw such a crowd was James Bond.

You can count black movie producers on one hand and name only a few successful ones, like Sidney Poitier and Fred Williamson.

Rudy Ray Moore saved his money from his hit party records and produced, starred and acted the lead role in "Dolemite."

He's 42, and plans to use the same strategy that promoted his records in selling his film. He's already traveled to Atlanta, Detroit, Chicago and Baltimore rapping and tapping with the grass roots audiences that already know and have bought his records.

He says he came to Baltimore about 5 years ago . . . strolled on Pennsylvania Avenue and gave out his records to finger-popping jazzy ladies. His reputation spread by word-of-mouth and the chain reaction resulted in a million sales across the country.

Rudy was born in Cleveland and says he learned his jokes from the "wise men" in the beer joints. The financial backing for "Dolemite" has come from hard work, day and night, working small clubs as well as the better houses across the country.

When you see the movie, check out Dolemite's pad. That's his actual living room . . . and his own bedroom that he uses as the set.

Rudy Ray Moore not only produced "Dolemite," he wrote the original story with Jerry Jones; starred as Dolemite and conducted the Soul Rebellion Orchestra on the movie soundtrack.

"Dolemite" co-stars D'Urville Martin who also directs. Lady Reed plays the Madam, Queen Bee. She's along on the press tour, is a native of New Orleans and travels with her own Louisiana Hot Sauce.

Also on the press tour is Freddie D'Fox who plays Joe Blow.

Dolemite is about a hard-hitting, nightclub owner who gets framed and sent to prison by "Mr. Big" his henchman D'Urville Martin and some crooked cops.

An FBI agent gets Dolemite released from prison on condition he will break up the racketeers who are terrorizing the city.

Queen Bee meanwhile converts Dolemite's gorgeous army of street girls into an army of 16 Kung Fu killers and the action hits the fan when Dolemite takes back his night club from the hoods . . . talking all that trash.

"Cornbread"

There is one picture in town I can honestly recommend you take your family this holiday week-end, "Cornbread, Earl and Me."

It's about a high school basketball player who lives, eats and sleeps basketball. He's won a scholarship to a good college, and he's the first kid to really make it on his own out of that welfare neighborhood.

He's shot in the back by mistake by two cops looking for a killer as he runs home in the rain with a soda pop bottle in his hand.

The film zeros in on the anguish of his family and friends; the intimidation of witnesses by the police and the heroics of the black lawyer who fights to clear the young player's name. The real hero is the young boy who finally tells the

(Continued on Page 9)

Arena Players honor Esther Rolle

Actress Esther Rolle, of the CBS television show "Good Times," will be the guest of the eveing at the Arnea Players, Inc.'s 10th Annual Awards Presentation, tonight May 30 at 6:30 p.m., at the Blue Crest North.

* * *

The theatre group will present a special Performing Arts Award to Miss Rolle, in honor of her outstanding accomplishments in theatre.

* * *

Born in Pompano Beach, Florida, the ninth of 18 children, her initial exposure to theatre began with "The Family Circle," a musical-dramatic group formed by several of her brothers and sisters. The ensemble performed for local groups, but broke up before she was old enough to join.

Esther Rolle

* * *

She later moved to New York City, and began attending creative writing classes at George Washington Carver College. A fellow student asked her to perform a part from an original script, and later, one of her instructors suggested that she begin acting instead of writing

* * *

Taking his advice, Miss Rolle studied at the New School for Social Research before becoming one of the original members of the famed Negro Ensemble Company. She performed in many productions including "Sound of the Lusitanian Bogey," "Summer of the Seventeenth Doll" and "God Is A Guess What?"

* * *

She appeared on Broadway in "Amen Corner," "Blues for Mister Charlie," "The Crucible," "Purlie Victorious" and "The Blacks." Miss Rolle has toured with the "Black Nativity" and "Purlie."

Her television credits include guest roles in "N.Y.P.D." and "Take It Is," and she was a regular cast member in the daytime serial "One Life To Live." For two seasons she was featured as the Findlay's housekeeper, Florida Evans on "Maude," and it was there she developed the character she plays in "Good Times."

* * *

two-day symposium on the movie business will be held at the University Club in Manhattan, June 11-12. The program will draw persons who wish to hear about and discuss the financing, packaging, producing, making and selling of movies for theaters and television. Further info can be obtained from Monica de Hellerman at (212) 751-5860.

Purlie opens June 3 in D.C.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A smash hit when it arrived in Washington after two great years on Broadway, Purlie now threatens to become the latest and maybe the most riproaring of Americtn stage classics.

All Washington will see why at the National Theatre starting on June 3 for a limited engagement.

"Purlie," says director Stockton Briggle, "has become an American landmark."

As funny and fast-moving as the lightest-weight musical and rippling with tunes which carry the story forward, Purlie has been hailed by critics not only for extravagant comedy but for a serious core which tells the tale of blacks who score a whopping victory over a hard-hearted old racist.

Exuberant singer-actress Patti Jo stopped the show in her very first night on Broadway — playing the ingenuous country girl whose tilts take her headlong into love and some lilting lyrics. Turning her least body movement into visual comedy, she sings with fireball force in the role that brought her stardom soon after she first emerged from Otter Creek, Fla.

In the title role of Purlie, Broadway's Robert Guillaume has run the gamut now from Sportin' Life (in Porgy and Bess) to Othello and Purlie is a radiant blend of the charm and the outrage he displayed in his other roles.

As the whopper-telling "newfangled preacherman" who goads his flock to fulfill their destiny, Guillaume's biggest moment comes when he packs the outrage of a lifetime into a magically funny incantation against oppres-

(Continued on Page 9)

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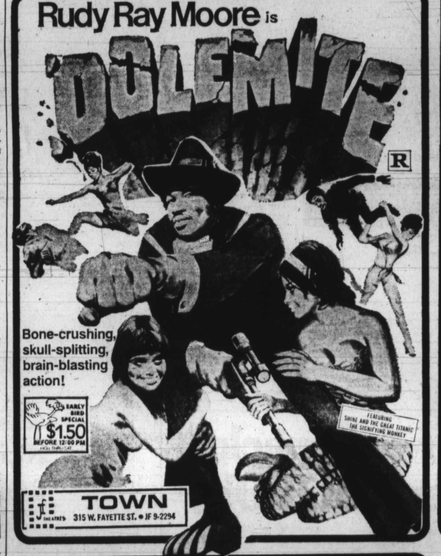

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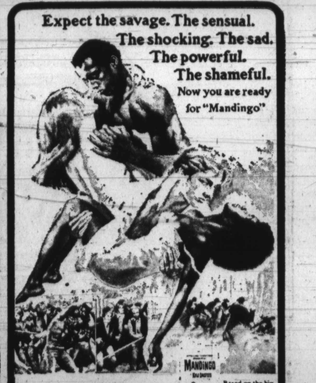

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For The Record

Black Heat scorches

By Frederick I. Douglass

When a flame burns with such intensity that it is black, then you are getting into phenomenal things that cannot be explained by science. But there is actually such a thing as Black Heat and it scorches the soul of anything or anybody that comes within reach of its sizzling flames.

Black Heat is an up and coming rock group from D.C. whose members include Ray Thompson, saxophone, flute, vocals; Rodney Edwards, trumpet, vocals, percussion; Esco Cromer, drums, vocals; Johnell Gray, organ; James Duvall, guitar, vocals; Chip Jones, bass, vocals.

"Keep On Running" is the name of Black Heat's latest album. The title is appropriate because that's

Black Heat has Ray Thompson, Rodney Edwards, Esco Cromer, Johnell Gray, James Duvall, Chip Jones.

exactly what the group has been doing since it recorded its first album in 1972. Entitled "Black Heat," the album featured David "Fathead" Newman, who gained fame while playing with Ray Charles, as guest artist soloing on the sax and flute. The funkiest cut on the album was "The Jungle" which was released as a single. I remember attending a cabaret in 1972 where Black Heat and Brute played. The cabaret was jumping to begin with, but when Black Heat played "The Jungle" they really let the place out.

* * *

Despite the adversity and changes that flock groups have to undergo, Black Heat keeps on running and has always been in a hurry to get to the top. In 1974, the group came out with another album appropriately titled "No Time To Burn." The title cut was released as a single which gained a lot of airplay for the group. Perhaps if Atlantic records had followed up with other releases from the LP, then Black Heat might be further up the ladder of success. The LP features some meaty material like "You Should've Listened," "Check It All Out," and "MM's" which had the most potential of becoming a hit. Maybe Black Heat has simply been ahead of its time, leading the way for heavy brass groups like the Ohio Players and Kool And the Gang.

* * *

While Black Heat was on stage cooking, I was talking to Darryl Brooks, the manager of the group. Brother Brooks stated "Our latest thing, Keep On Running,' is going to be the thing that puts Black Heat over the hump . . . It's really clicking fast in D.C. and other places in . . . while we're here in Baltimore we want to expose people to our sound and get the people from Baltimore to grooving on what we are doing . . . the 45 is selling fast and other parts of the country are picking up on "Keep On Running," which I think is the best thing the group has done."

* * *

After talking to the group's road manager, I went upstairs to check our people's reactions to the group . . . The Wild Cherry has a balcony type arrangement where you can sit and look down on the dance floor. Black Heat had the people up on their feet, doing it to death . . . I even saw some confirmed wallflowers getting it on and trying to boogie down . . . With a band like Black Heat playing, you can't be a spectator for long. Their beat is irresistible . . . they were really scorching, searin' and sizzling the Wild Cherry.

-Happening

(Continued from Page 8)

truth as to what happend to Cornbread, Earl and Me.

Cornbread is played by young Keith Wilkes, the NBA rookie of the year with the Golden State Warriors. Others in this excellent cast are Rosalind Cash, Bernie Casey, Moses Gunn.

"Mandingo"

One reader called and talked a hole in my head on my "Mandingo" reactions last week. He says after all, "Mandingo" is just a movie. He says the movie shows just how many colors black people come in and how they got that way.

He says his grandfather told him tales of slavery days and they were like the movie. Our caller also said that if Ken Norton wanted to play the big dumb bull, that was his decision.

* * *

Our caller also has a hang-up. He lived around Calhoun and Saratoga, growing up and he says slavery resulted in light people being persecuted by dark people.

Anybody else . . . let me hear what you have to say.

-Purlie

(Continued from Page 8)

sion. This is a speech which, as Guillaume handles it, surges and rolls until the audience frequently comes right up out of their seats, cheering the preacher on.

Along with Guillaume and Patti Jo (she was labeled "a superfind" by Time Magazine), lithely stunning Norma Donaldson and rock-gospel artist Barry Smith lead a large, high-strutting cast.

Joining Purlie for the current production, Barry Smith finds good use for the up-in-the-air rock-gospel style that made him a strong performer in nightclubs across the U.S. This is his first role on the legitimate stage but he "adapted like he was born to it," says the producer and has had a handsome critical reception in the role of crafty Gitlow.

The McKenzie report

Bits and Pieces

By Vashti McKenzie

Freddie Prinze and Paul Williams are heading

Cab Calloway at Playboy Club

Shady Grove through June 2.

WEBB is sponsoring a Soul Train to see The Godfather of Soul, James Brown and the James Brown Reality Show at Shady Grove Music Theatre in Rockville, Md. June 6-7. Call Jim Sears at WEBB or your favorite DJ like the Mosquito or Curtis Anderson, Soul Train Conductors.

. . James Brown owns the only black radio station in town.

Diahann Carroll who married Robert DeLeon, Managing Editor of Jet Magazine last Sunday has been married three times. He's been married once and just recently divorced. They met early this year when he went to Hollywood to interview her for the Academy Awards. She'd been nominated for "Claudine."

Diahann said on the Mike Douglass Show that "I have been approached about doing a film about Josephine Baker . . . The greatest honor is that I understand she wanted me for the role."

TIPS FROM THE PIPS: "We solve our problems by talking alot." Gladys Knight told Mike Douglas while cohosting with the Pips, on his show. "I think that's one of the keys to us being able to stay together so long. We do a lot of talking. I think we are the meetingest group that's out today. We talk about anything and everything, whether it hurts somebody's feelings or not. It's best to get it out."

"Blue Magic" who a few weeks ago played D.C. and

James Brown coming to Painters Mill

who called us when they ran into police brutality in Michigan called this week to say that the United States Department of Justice has promised to launch an extensive investigation into the May 10th event.

The "Blue Magic" best known for their hit tune "Side Show" are from North Philly. They are Ted Millar, 25, lead singer; brother Vernon, 24, and Wendell Sawyer, 23; Keith Beaton, 24 and Richard Pratt, 23.

After their D.C. concert they played an engagement in Muskegee, Mich. and were enroute to Erie, Pa. They had stopped at the Howard Johnson restaurant just north of the intersection of U.S. 23 and I-94 Highways when they were stopped by countless numbers of heavily armed police.

They claim that after being detained for nearly six hours and robbed of $600 cash, they were told someone at the restaurant had called police about a black man carrying a gun, which was never found.

Ralph Guy, U.S. Attorney for Michigan informed Blue Magic lawyers that based on the complaints from the group his office intends to fully investigate police brutality charges brought against a number of officers from Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department and Ann Arbor, Mich. police.

Lawyers for Blue Magic may sue for at least $50 million against the two Michigan Police Departments.

Major Harris, "Love Won't Let Me Wait" is at Mark IV in D.C. starting June 3.

The Spinners are at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, tonight, May 30th.

The Roy Clark Show is at Painters Mill. Next, "Gypsy" starring Angela Lansbury.

You can't prent Lena Horne's exact age . . she's 38 plus and celebrated last Sunday at Westbury Music Hall in N.Y. She's touring with Tony Bennett in the Lena and Tony Show. When I get to where Lena's at . . . I hope I look I look as good as she does.

The depression doesn't seem to be hurting the dinner theatre business. It's booming! Packers was the Limestone Dinner Theatre a week ago when members of the Family Life Group of St. James Episcopal Church enjoyed the show, the all you eat buffet.

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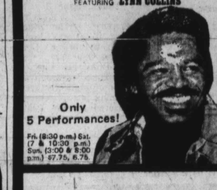

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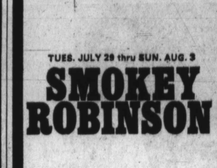

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* Scrambler
* Helicopter
* Twister
* Pretzel
* Kiddies Rides
* Dodgem
* Trabant
* Flying Coaster
* Miniature Steam Locomotive of the 1870's
* Arcade
* Spider

HOW TO GET THERE: Washington Beltway Exit #37 (Indian Head Highway) turn right at Rt. 227 direct to Marshall Hall.

MAY