Miss Nellie Buchannan and Avon Long are surrounded by former members of the Mask and Wig Club at National Theatre in D.C. for special showing of "Bubbling Brown Sugar". In photo are:

Muriel Wilson Fulton, Llewelyn Husketh Walker, Eddie and Josephine Murray, Joseph, Helen, Edith and Ralph Howard, Pauline Payseour, Shirley Johnson, Paula Chester, Paul and Georgeanna McMechan Chester;

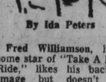
Paul Johnson, Leonora and Randolph Rigby, James and Lillie Myers. Ellsworth Wilson, Gussie Mercer Harris, Mabel Mercer Brooks;

Also, Arnetta Murphy Lottier, Lucille Hale Nixon Josephine Lansey, Betty Williams, Delores Parker, Esther Morris, Margaret Mason, Ida Murphy Peters and Catherine and Vernon Greene.

Thelma Carpenter, Avon Long, Vivian Reed and Joseph Attles who are starred in "Bubbling Brown Sugar" the new musical entertainment about the famous Harlem night spots during the 1910 thru 1940 years.

The Mod Players of Urban Services as part of the Bicentennial Summer Program presented two one-act plays last week directed by Bob Russell. Above, Deborah Woods, Theresa Melton, Howard Tutman, Antoinette Hall, Kim Dobson and Gary Corbin in "You Solve The Problem" an original play by Russell using white masks.

What's Happening



By Ida Peters

Fred Williamson, handsome star of "Take A Hard Ride," likes his bachelor image but doesn't live alone. Sharing his Rome apartment is a beautiful ex-model from California, **Mindy Miller.**

Mindy played a small part in Fred's earlier film, "Black Caesar" and is also to be seen as a showgirl in "Funny Lady." She is of Italian-Russian heritage. She was with Williamson throughout the filming of "Take A Hard Ride" in the Canary Islands, where it was shot entirely on location. When filming was completed they returned to Rome.

Fred's co-stars are Jim Brown, Lee Van Cleef, Catherine Spaak, Jim Kelly, Barry Sullivan and Dana Andrews.

Ike and Tina Turner and the Four Tops, originally scheduled to appear in concert at the Shady Grove Music Theatre in Rockville, Md. September 24 thru September 29, has been cancelled.

The Mitzi Gaynor Show, starring the beautiful and talented Mitzi Gaynor is at the Shady Grove Music Theatre in Rockville, for four performances only September 11 thru September 13.

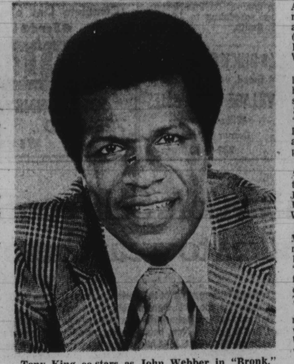
In a tribute to show business, Mitzi is going to sing and dance her way through the world of musical comedy from those fabulous smoke-filled hideaways to the tinsel and glamor of Hollywood with tributes to some other favorite movie stars.

With cast and chorus, she puts her "Gaynor" trademark on such classic show stoppers as "Whatever Lola Wants", "Fascinatin' Rhythm", "Midnight At The Oasis", "Ain't Misbehavin'" "Sophisticated Lady", "Star" and of course, "Honey Bun".

Barney Kessel is one of the great jazz guitarists of our time, and he is appearing with his trio at the King of France Tavern in the Maryland Inn in Annapolis through September 18, with a special family matinee Sunday, Sept. 14.

Barney Kessel has won top-guitarists awards from Playboy, Esquire and Downbeat several times. In Europe, he was described as "the most rythmically vibrant guitarists in modern jazz." Andre Previn raves about him: a unique guitarist . . . accomplished musician . . . staggering amount of technique."

"Claisin" the 1974 Tony Award winning Best Actress Virginia Capers and Joe Morton and Ernestine Jackson, both Theatre World winners.



Tony King co-stars as John Webber in "Bronk," new action-adventure series centered on a police lieutenant (series star Jack Palance) assigned as a special agent of the mayor of a large city. Sundays (10:00-11:00 PM, ET), starting this Fall on the CBS Television Network.

'Smile' takes hard look at beauty pageants

"Smile," the critically-acclaimed Michael Ritchie Film which takes on that American institution, the beauty pageant, will open September 10 in Baltimore area theatres.

It stars Bruce Dern, Barbara Feldon, Michael Kidd, Geoffrey Lewis and the 33 Young American Misses.

The film offers a sharp and funny look behind the scenes at the hoopla, frenzy and chaos when county finalists converge on Santa Rosa to compete for the state title of California's Young American Miss.

"Smile," which Ritchie produced and directed, is his fourth film. It was preceded by "Downhill Racer," "The Prime Cut" and "The Candidate," earning him a prominent place among the more intelligent and original directors working within the film industry's mainstream.

Choreographer-actor Michael Kidd returns to the screen after nearly 20 years to play a starring role as the choreographer of a beauty pageant.

Filmed from a screen play by Jerry Belson, "Smile" is based on an idea by Ritchie, an admitted "beauty pageant freak".

World Famous art in 'The River Niger'

from James Walker's Award-winning Broadway screenplay of his 1973 Tony play.

Producers Sidney Beckerman and Ike Jones have reached agreement with Herbert Baker, one of the world's leading authorities on African and Oceanic art, to use stills of his personal collection, reputed to be one of the five best in the U.S. and one of the 20 finest in the world in their feature film production, "The River Niger," starring James Earl Jones, Cicely Tyson, and Lou Gossett, now in post-production at Goldwyn Studios.

Pictures of Baker's collection, to be used as titles and montages throughout the film, will be taken by Guggenheim Award-winning photographer Max Yayno.

Baker, who served for ten years on the Committee for Primitive Art of the Art Institute of Chicago, is a benefactor of many museums and institutions throughout the U.S., among them the Art Institute of Chicago, the Museum of African Art in Washington, D.C., New York's Museum of Primitive Art, and the Nelson Gallery in Kansas City.

"The River Niger" is directed by Krishna Shah and the 1975 Grammy Award winning show, marks its 775th performance on September 11th (Thursday) at the Lunt-Fontanne Theatre, 205 West 46th Street, NYC.

On September 11th the long-running musical will have passed the runs of such hits as "West Side Story" (732 performances), "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes" (740 performances), and "Oliver" (774 performances.)

"Raisin" stars Tony Award winning Best Actress Virginia Capers and Joe Morton and Ernestine Jackson, both Theatre World winners.

"Warrior: Reflections Of Men At War," a preliminary special to Channel 13's hour version of the 'World At War" series this fall, will be televised Monday, September 8, 1975 at 7:00 P.M.

Archive film, much of it never intended for public viewing, shows the Second World War as it really was, not as it was edited for the newsreels of a generation ago. For this reason, Channel 13 will at the beginning of the program televise a parental advisory that this hour-long program may not be suitable for young children.

"Warrior: Reflections Of Men At War" is a powerful, moving anti-war statement about killing in time of war. Some men are terrified of combat; some revel in it. This film shows their preparations for the war, their participation in it, and their reflections about it afterward.

* * *

The Warner Bros. release of "Dog Day Afternoon," a film based on a real-life bank robbery in Brooklyn is set for New York opening on Sept 21 and already reviewers have labelled it an "outstanding comedy." Hariet: actor Al Fann has a good role in this one and the entrie cast headed by Al Pacino, is called "excellent from top to bottom."

Flip Wilson has a $18,000 customized golf cart, complete with color TV, refreshment bar, quadraphonic fm-am eight-track tape deck, loud speaker amplifier and three chrome Italian horns which sound off in harmony. All of which leads one to wonder how Flip finds time to concentrate on his golf game.

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The McKenzie report

By Vashti McKenzie

The much-promoted new prime time soap opera "Beacon Hill" based loosely on the British tele hit "Upstairs / Downstairs" (seen last season on PBS stations) has some good points and some bad points.

Let's take the good. The period costumes of the early 1900's of old Boston are excellent. Even the decor in the Lassiter mansion from the lamp shade table decorations to the vintage kitchen and garage.

The disagreement comes in the form of one segment in the two hour long premiere last week. When young Robert Lassiter, who'd lost an arm in the Great War, ignores his parents, wishes to attend their party and goes "cat hunting", he ends up on another side of Boston-Town at a different kind of mansion. It was a brothel (whore house, House of Ill-repute or prostitutes hangout).

The brothel was run by a silk-clad black madame. The door was answered by her black maid and her "girls" were various shades of black and gray.

It was hard for me to believe that even way back then, the only "Cat house" young Robert would attend in those segregated prejudiced times would be all black. Not a white face present. The lightest thing there was a prostitute of oriental descent.

They were so prejudiced then that the old rich discriminated against the new rich. The Irish Catholics against the Irish Protestants. The American-born against the immigrant. The upstairs servants against the downstairs servants, the butler against the cook.

Come to think about it, this new show about the good old days versus servants in Boston has a lot of the same prejudices and discriminations that are still around today.

And the way they are carrying on in Boston about the School busing issue, (violence against the young pupils, black and white) a new generation of the "haves" discriminating against the "have-nots" is in the making.

The only other member of the race present in this new series is the cook, played by Richard Ward. ("No Place To Be Somebody").

The producers and the network hope the series takes off like other British imports such as "Sanford and Son" based on the British "Steptoe and Son", and "All In The Family" based on who knows what.

You would think by now with all the shouting against the hordes of black prostitutes, drug pushers and menial sterotype jobs popularized by so-called "black exploitation" flicks, television detective series and daytime dramas, someone would get the message.

* * *

Friend Dee Dee McNeil former PR person for A and M Records who shared lunch and a glass of wine with me the day Jon-Mikael was born a year ago at the Georgetowner in D.C. has again moved on to greener pastures.

She is now Associate Editor of The Soul and Jazz Record, a record industry-orientated monthly. Dee Dee is still writing those great historical pieces about great black entertainers. This month she pens "Roots Bessie Smith: Empress of Blues Singers".

Editor Mays Andrews Jr. in an enlightening editorial spoke of why there's a need for black music magazine.

"The written word has been established as the historical documentation device in Euro-civilization since wise men swooped down from the North, and discovered that a legacy of recorded facts and predictions was contained in a book called "The Bible". In the industry, several bibles have been utilized to record, promote and even manipulate just how Americans shall be entertained.

"But there exists no black bible among those purported scrolls of communications which allow black artists, promoters, and managers an opportunity to have their contributions documented by black writers who are sensitive to their creations.

"Here-to-wit, let it be known that Soul and Jazz record will now be that "bible" of the recording industry. . . ."

So be it.

But always remember, if its happening at all in the Baltimore-Washington area, you read it happening first in the AFRO!

* * *

Have mouth will travel World Heavyweight Boxing Champion, Mohammad Ali on a recent Mike Douglass Show said he did not have any interest in politics:

"The only thing I could run for and not be shot is Vice-President of the United States. That'll be a guarantee to the President that he'll not get shot.

Watching the dance group known as **The Isleys"** can make you very nervous at first. They do such wild leaps and turns that you are sure they will break every bone in their bodies . . . until you finally realize that they just couldn't possibly have any bones and still do those steps.

The six young men and one woman will display their amazing new dance form as stars of "The Saturday Preview Revue" Friday, September 5 on NBC affiliate stations. This special introduces new elements in the Saturday morning children's shows premiering the following morning.

Adults get a chance to see what the kiddies enjoy at a prime time and the kids get a double treat. They get to see their kiddie shows just before going to bed and again as soon as they wake up.

The Lockers group was originated several years ago in South Central Los Angeles when Tony Basil, a young woman who had been trained in all phases of dance, first saw Don Campbell perform his own invention the lock changing positions with split-second speed while "locking" into a fractional freeze between each movement.

She teamed with Campbell and five other male dancers who studied his style, and soon began appearing on local TV shows. They have since appeared on nationally aired programs including "The Tonight Show".

"So far we haven't broken anything but a few zipper," said Tony. As choreographer for the group, she now considers structured dance as "stunted."

The beautiful Ruby Dee can be heard regularly over stations of the National Black Network in "The Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee' story hour.

Dee Dee McNeil

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George Rose (foreground) and David Rounds and Beatrice Straight, along with (background) Richard Ward, Lisa Pelikan and Sydney Swire, are members of the domestic staff in the Lassiter household in "Beacon Hill" on the CBS Television Network. The new dramatic series depicts the intertwined lives of a rich, influential Boston Irish-American family and its staff of servants in 1920.

... and all that jazz

By Bob Matthews

Every now and again the least expected event turns out to be a spectacular surprise. And so it was last Sunday.

It was the Left Bank Jazz Society's regular concert, but there was a difference — this one was a free concert.

The billed attraction was the U.S. Navy band, who go by the name of The Commodores. Realizing that most military groups have a jazz band, some of which are reasonably good — was not prepared for what transpired.

Arrived at the concert and was immediately collared by Vernon Welch who MC's the presentations, who excitedly told me "this group is dynamite."

And — he was right.

On stage was a 17-piece big band steeped in the Count Basie tradition, with overtones of Stan Kenton and Buddy Rich — they were really cooking.

All of the arrangements were special and the execution nearly flawless.

Especially effective was a medley of tunes from the movie "Black Orpheus" which ran the gamut from Latin to jazz-rock.

Frankly, I was thoroughly impressed, as was the capacity crowd which took advantage of the freebie.

The session was being recorded by a Navy public relations unit, the tapes to be used for promotion purposes. This accounted for the usual sound system of the ballroom not being used.

So, add the U.S. Navy band, The Commodores, to the list of groups you must hear. The Air Force jazz band, called Airmen of Note, have already made their mark. Will wait to hear what the army turns up.

* * *

Have not yet decided whether it is an advantage or disadvantage to sound like an established star when you are in the music business.

Matter was brought home to when I happened to hear a singer with a local group called The Links.

The singer's name is Liz Figueroa, and she sounds remarkably like Nancy Wilson. That may not be a kind thing to say, but then Nancy is better known on the national level.

To Ms Figueroa's credit, she makes no attempt to do Nancy's material — in fact I kinda wonder if Nancy could do as well on some of the tunes Liz does.

If ever you get a chance to hear The Links, try to make sure they do their medley of Duke Ellington tunes. You can rest assured, it inevitably becomes a sing-a-long.

As for this matter of sounding like someone else can remember when Judd Watkins got started in show business a few years back, and was struck by the resemblance to Lou Rawls.

Doesn't seem to affect instrumentalists, however. Next time you get the chance, listen carefully to Arnold Sterling on tenor sax. He is the closest thing to Cannonball Adderley you will hear in this area.

And — note the play of Jimmy Wells. There are strong overtones of Milt Jackson in his play on vibes.

* * *

Next week jazz singer Chris Connors and her trio appear at LBJS. In case you can't rememoer where you first heard her, she was a mainstay in the Stan Kenton band of a few years ago.

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For The Record

Young Senators

By Frederick I. Douglass

I was cruising down North Avenue this past Saturday night, trying to figure out how to kill some time before going to a party being given by a friend of mine. The car radio was blasting out the latest tunes, but the d.j. wasn't coming across with anything that I really wanted to hear—that is, until he said "let's get down on a blast from the past" and proceeded to reactivate the graves of Eddie Kendricks' enduring classic "Girl, You Need a Change of Mind."

"Zounds, what sounds" I said to myself without moving my lips, "the Young Senators were really cooking when they backed up Kendricks on that recording." Suddenly it became abundantly clear how I could spend my time most valuably—by going to the Wild Cherry niteclub to hear the Young Senators live and in person.

I arrived at the Wild Cherry about eleven bells. Music was oozing out the doors and windows of the club. The word was out that the Young Senators were in town and the brothers and sisters were lined up at the door, waiting to get inside. I made it just in time because the Senators were just swinging into "Change of Mind," the jam I primarily wanted to hear.

After stating the basic theme of the song, the Senators went off on a Jazz-Rock rampage that lasted nearly a half an hour. That's a long time to play a song, but not a note was wasted. Particularly impressive was an amplified and electrified clarinet solo by Leroy Fleming, who also sings, plays sax, flute and harmonica.

Brother Fleming has added a new dimension to a frequently neglected instrument by altering its natural sound through the latest in electronic gadgetry.

Members of the Young Senators include Charles Newton, trumpet; Calvin Charity, guitar, vocals; James Johnson, drums, vocals; Jimi Dugans, congas, vocals; Wornell Jones, bass, vocals; Frank Hooker, keyboards, guitar and vocals. They have a new LP on the market entitled "In Session." Unfortunately, I haven't heard this recording and, therefore, cannot make any judgments about it at this time. But I do know that the Young Senators are one of the most talented groups in the B-More, Washington area as they proved time and time again while Saturday night eased into the wee, wee hours of Sunday morning.

It must be added that the Young Senators are extremely versatile and can jam heavily and friently in any musical idiom. Their first set Saturday night was Jazz oriented and most of the people just sat back and [illegible] on the music. However, there was a dude on the scene that decided that he was going to put on a floor show all by his lonesome. Dancing spastically and gymnastically to the Young Senators fervid beat, he seemed determined that his feet would touch every square inch of dance floor in the Wild Cherry. While none of the foxy young ladies would join him in his frantic antics on the dance floor, nobody complained about having a free floor show. People just let the brother do his own thing.

When the Senators came back on stage for the second set, the brother was still dancing with the wind. The musicians began laying down some of the latest hits and soon the dance floor was crowded with brothers and sisters who came out to party with every muscle in their bodies. Everybody was doing it.

While the festivities were going on I rapped briefly with Richard Waters, impresario of the Wild Cherry who stated "as you can see and hear, we're trying to give the people their money's worth by bringing in the best entertainment...we plan to continue this policy because we think that people here in Baltimore deserve the best." Right on, Brother Waters, give the people what they want. Keep on bringing back groups like the Young Senators who really know how to pluck a wild Cherry thereby keeping everybody satisfied.

'Memphis Aside' opens NYC on 18th

"Memphis Aside." A New drama by Gayther Myers will have its American Premiere at the Quaigh Theatre, (308 Lexington Avenue at 62nd Street) on Thursday September 18th. Martin Donegan will direct. The new play deals with the problems that arise in a black family when a white person moves in with them and becomes part of their lives.

Martin Donegan had directed and written for stage, screen and television. His directorial credits include: "Sane Supplement," with Robert Ryan and Richard Kiley, "Othello" with William Marshall and Jay Robinson, "The Red Beard," "San Juan de la Cruz," Secret Bread," "The Shy and the Lonely;" and the "Within."

Born in Pinola Mississippi and raised in Memphis, Tennessee, author Gayther Myers attended Oberlin Conservatory before Graduating with an MFA from Yale School of Drama.

Produced by Gayther Myers, "Memphis Aside" will premiere Thursday, September 18th at the Quaigh Theatre for a limited run through Sunday, September 28th.

* * *

The entertainment for the Fifth Annual Dinner of the Congressional Black Caucus, to be held in the Washington Hilton on Sept. 27, will be contributed by Gamble, Huff and Bell; the Sound of Philadelphia, with New York's Hal Jackson the host.

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