# Preakness Week at the movies

After or before the 101st running of the Preakness at Pimlico, area theatres are serving up a varied fare for your entertainment pleasure.

In photo at right, Margaux Hemingway is the glamorous model whose world is shattered after a violent act of rape in "Lipstick." This explosive film stars Chris Sarandon, Perry King and Anne Bancroft.

Tony King, next, is the heavy handed gangster who beats up his women in "Sparkle." Far right are Dawn Smith, Lonette McKee and Irene Cara, stars of "Sparkle." Film has musical score by Curtis Mayfield.

Photo No. 3 has Glynn Truman as Jeff Williams and Cicely Tyson as his mother in a strong family headed by James Earl Jones in "The River Niger." Music is written and performed by WAR.

Photo No. 4 shows Nurse Ratched (Louise Fletcher) in the award winning "One Flew Over the Cockoo's Nest" starring Jack Nicholson. Front, Robert Redford rushes to a rendezous with Deep Throat in a scene from "All the President's Men" based on the book by Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein.

# And now a word...

**Ernie Donaldson** and Rod Armstrong are beaming with the signing of another of their groups, The Young Senators, with Epic Records. The group played at Hollywood Palace this past Monday and will play for open air festival at Catonsville Community College, May 29.

The newest hit for The Young Senators is "Boogie Music." The group includes Leroy Fleming, Wonell Jones, James Johnson, James Dugganz, Calvin Charity, Frank Hooker, Charles Newton.

**Comedian Franklyn** Ajaye is gearing up for the publicity blitz that will come in conjunction with the release of MGM's "Dandy, the All American Girl" in which he makes his film debut. Ajaye, who also just completed a co-starring role in Universal's upcoming "Car Wash" is now off to three weeks of rest and recreation in New Orleans. Says Ajaye, "I'm going there to eat and play tennis." When he gets back, he'll go on the road for "Dandy, the All American Girl" and to promote his soon to be released Little David comedy album, "Don't Smoke Dope, Fry Your Hair," recorded live at the Roxy Theatre.

**Godspell**

The Susquehanna Festival Theater at Harford Community College, Bel Air, Md., closing production of the season, John-Michael Tebelak's musical "Godspell" opened this week for a two week run. Two matinees have also been scheduled for 2:00 p.m. on Sundays, May 16 and May 23.

Vajit Ray's "Distant Thunder" which tells the story of the famine in 1943 in Bengal.

Saturday at 7:30 p.m. the festival presents "Pierrot Le Fou" when Jean Paul Belmondo and Anna Karina become involved with spires and escapades on the Riviera.

Prizes will be awarded Saturday night at 10 p.m. The Baltimore Film Festival is now in its seventh year and was conceived by film professor, Harvey Alexander.

**Preakness**

**The Bob Hope** Bicentennial Preakness Spectacular is the biggest thing this weekend besides the running of the 101st race of the black-eyed Susans at Pimlico.

We'll be on hand to hear Ray Charles sing "America" with a cast of hundreds at the Civic Center tonight, Friday.

**The star-studded** show at the Civic Center Sunday, May 16 will have Parliament-Funkadelics, Roy Ayers, Bootsey's Rubber Band and Rare Earth.

**Bits and Pieces**

**Our neighbor,** Miss Ann Kerber (her family owns Walbrook Lumber), received a special Waxter Center Volunteer Recognition this past Wednesday. Entertainment was by Waxter Choral Singers.

**The People of Concern** for Justice will host a benefit dinner and dance at the Central Social Hall, 901 E. Eager St. Sunday, May 16 at 7 p.m. The purpose of the affair is to raise funds to repay a debt incurred by a friend and fellow community worker in this "East Baltimore Group."

**Mel Tansil,** president of the Senior Class of the University of Baltimore, has announced that the Senior Class is sponsoring a university Crab Feast/Picnic to be held at the Rogers Avenue Campus of the University of Baltimore, on May 16, beginning at noon.

# What a pair! Nancy and the Spinners

By Ida Peters

The Spinners bubbled and glittered, rocking and rocking their audience with such hits as "One of a Kind Love Affair," "Sadie," and "Mighty Love," to open Painters Mill Music Fair's 1976 season.

Opening night, they teamed with the incomparable Nancy Wilson who sang her heart out on such times as "This Mother's Daughter," "Body Heat," "When Did You Leave Heaven," "The Greatest Performance of My Life." The audience was jammed with large groups such as Bethel AME Church.

Going out to Painters Mill, Reisterstown Road, was jammed and packed. People came in all sorts of cars and dress and even walked the mile from the bus stop.

Production facilities, the lights, sound etc. were not in good shape for opening night but by the second night everything was clicking for the theatre management and the audience had a romping, stomping good time.

The Spinners, Bobby Smith, Billy Henderson, Henry Fambrough, Pervis Jackson and Phillippe Wynn know how to really shake up an audience. On my row, folks really moved, bounced and tried to head for the stage at every opportunity.

The Spinners wore brown and cream tie-dyed suits with yellow ruffled shirts and highly polished caramel colored shoes. The second night, they were all in green.

Backstage, I got to press the flesh and yes Pervis Jackson actually hugged and kissed me. Phillippe Wynn had his 5-year-old son, Troy traveling with him . . . he just turned five in fact and the Spinners dedicated "Laugh Everyone At The Clowns" to him.

Added attraction was the Spinners' new female trio, a honey colored group, The New Horizon, dressed in beige and brown with rhinestone straps.

Understand the Spinners have added two screens at each end of the theatre to project images on screen to accompany the overture by their conductor, Maurice King. It showed highlights of their career . . . but I couldn't see it from my seat.

Nancy Wilson is my heart. Backstage she told us she is only 29 and that five generations of her family have worked their butts off for this country. She's proud of her children, Casey, 13 and her baby, Samantha. She works only six months a year.

Her costumes for this show included a red Mandrin poie-de-soie coat with white ruffled, jeweled underskirt and cuffs, with wide white sash. Her other costume is in red, white and blue in honor of the Bicentennial.

Nancy Wilson can really talk that trash and she held the audience in the palm of her hand especially on the soon to be hit from her new album, "The Greatest Performance Of My Life."

Philip Wright of Los Angeles was conducting and at the piano, with Harold Jones on drums and Rufus Reid on bass.

**Film Festival**

The Baltimore Film Festival continues at the 5 West Theatre this weekend supported by The Maryland Arts Council, The Mayor's Advisory Committee on Art and Culture, The National Endowment of the Arts and National Association of Theatre Owners.

Last Sunday a special tribute to the late Paul Robeson was held and screening of "Emperor Jones." I have to offer my apologies to the group as I seldom, if not ever, work on Mother's Day. This newspaper has spent 35 years in this business and am entitled to one day off . . . surrounded by children and grandchild.

Tonight, Friday at 7:30 p.m. catch "Les Violons du Roi" from the 1974 Cannes Film Festival. This is a personal view of occupied France during World War II by French director, Michel Drach.

At 10 p.m. Friday is Satyajit Ray's "Distant Thunder" which tells the story of the famine in 1943 in Bengal.

The Spinners

# Chi-Lites fined 5 G's

The Chi-Lites, who have recorded on the Brunswick's label, were given suspended sentences with one year's probation and $5,000 fines by Judge Frederick B. Lacey at Federal District Court in Newark, N.J. May 6.

Group members Eugene Record, Robert Lester and Marshall Thompson, according to the May 15 issue of Cashbox, all had pleaded guilty to income tax evasion.

They were given special consideration in sentencing in return for cooperating with the government. in its case against Nat Tarnopol and several executives of Brunswick Records, four of whom were found guilty and sentenced in April. Record and Thompson were government witnesses in the Brunswick Record trial.

The three men told the court they recognized the unlawful nature of their failure to file income tax returns.


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# Where To Go!

**Bootsy's Rubber Band with Roy Ayers and Funkadelics at Civic Center, Sunday.**

**Adolph McDonald is directing the Gwynn Oak Theatre Group at "The Other Barn" in Columbia through June 12.**

**Ray Charles is headlining Bob Hope Preakness Spectacular at Civic Center, (tonight) Friday.**

**Nancy Wilson is with the Spinners at Painters Mill Music Fair.**

**Sharon Paige is with Harold Melvin and The Blue Notes at Shady Grove.**

# Elton Fax at Morgan

Elton C. Fax whom many Marylanders love will return to Morgan State University as a feature of Bicentennial Days May 14-15.

He will exhibit some of his works and give descriptive lectures. As a participant in the U.S. Department of State's Education Exchange program, Mr. Fax has travelled in South America and the Caribbean where he gave chalk talks to students and professional groups.

On display in the executive offices of the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers are paintings done by Elton Fax of members of the Murphy family.

Mr. Fax has illustrated 27 books and has exhibited in museums in New York, Baltimore and Washington.

# The McKenzie report

By Vashti McKenzie

Spokesmen from the management office of Harold Melvin and The Blue Notes say that despite what people have heard, his group will be at Shady Grove Music Theatre this Preakness Week for three shows.

Their show is better than ever and they know that once people see them they'll believe that too. The new Blue Notes are David Ebo, from Philly. . . a former member of the Blue Velvet; William Spratley, a Richmond naive . . . former member of Impacts and Washingtonian Dwight Johnson. . . formerly with The Internationals.

Then of course there's the beauteous Sharon Paige first heard on the Blue Note album "To Be True," the smash single, "Hope That We Can Be Together Soon" and the current album "Wake Up Everybody."

* * *

**Trip** to New York last Saturday to catch Linda Hopkins in "Me and Bessie." That lady can really shimmy and shake. Show comes this way this summer.

* * *

**Gladys Knight** and the Pips have signed a new agreement with Buddah Records for five years. The signing took place in London last week.

* * *

**The Miracles** are back from a four week tour of England. The guys are set for a heavy summer schedule including five engagements at Disneyland during May and June plus an engagement with Al Green at the Universal Amphitheatre.

* * *

The new B.T. Express single for Columbia "Can't Stop Groovin'" is one of the hotter records this spring along with the Isley's "Who Loves You Better."

* * *

**Brothers Johnson** Overnight sensation is the way you folks out there might want to describe the Brothers Johnson, known individually as George and Louis.

These youngsters, barely into their twenties, have pulled off the Big One-a gold album the first time out. And "Look Out for No. 1," the Lp in question, hit the gold milestone a mere seven weeks after its release.

How'd they do it? Well, George and Louis aren't about to reveal their secret recipe for success, but they're prepared to apply that same recipe to the seven-inch format with their red-hot single, "I'll Be Good to You."

As if all that fast action weren't enough, the Brothers Johnson have also had the good fortune of having the album track, "Tomorrow," chosen as the theme song for NBC Television's Tomorrow show (beginning in June) and getting two other tracks—"Thunder Thumb and Lighting Licks" and "Get the Funk Out Ma Face"—used on the soundtrack of the upcoming Bill Cosby - Raquel Welch film, "Mother Judgs and Speed."

The Johnsons recently took time out from rehearsals for their first national tour to tape a "Soul Train" and host Don Cornelius commented that they generated the biggest turnout and the most fanatical response since the appearance on the show of Stevie Wonder.

Down on the street, too, the Johnsons are scoring big. If, for example you drive down the Crenshaw strip in L.A., you'll see a ten-foot mural of the Johnsons just across the street from Crenshaw High. The mural was painted by a student who wanted to immortalize two of school's most illustrious grads. From the old neighborhood to New Yawk City, these guys are—how you say? — smokin'!

# Chick Corea Stanley Clarke

By Frederick I. Douglass

Return to Forever, the fantastically electrically charged band which features Chick Corea on keyboards and Stanley Clarke on bass, appeared in concert this past Sunday on a dynamic show at the Capitol Center that included Buddy Miles and Carlos Santana.

Return to Forever also has in its ranks super drummer Lenny White whose album "Venusian Summer" was reviewed in this column a few months ago long before other folks were hip to the good music that Lenny puts out. Furthermore, the group has Al DiMeola on guitar, the man whose solo effort "Land of the Midnight Sun" is rapidly gaining in popularity.

Although Chick Corea is supposed to be the main star of the group, Stanley Clarke got the loudest and longest ovation from the crowd when introduced. Stanley has gained immense popularity since he recorded two albums entitled "Stanley Clarke" and "Journey to Love," featuring some of the slickest bass-a-honics ever committed to vinyl. With the excention of Clarke's composition "Lopsy Lou," the group played music from Romantic Warrior," the latest Return to Forever LP.

Return to Forever kicked off the show by belting out "Medieval Overture," a tune that began pulling the collective mind of the audience into what the musicians were about to lay on them. Corea really took off on this jam, whipping on his large and varied assortment of keyboard instruments. Stanley Clarke was right in there, laying down an unbelievable foundation on the bass.

What was really mind-boggling was the playing on a composition entitled "Duel of the Jester and the Tyrant" which gave DiMeola an opportunity to show how much he has progressed on the guitar in the past two years. Corea was really wicked on this jam, first playing electric piano and then switching to synthesizer to obtain some very unique voicings. And Lenny White was in the background flailing away at the drums, adding fuel to everyone else's fire and making possible the extraordinary impovisatory flights upon which the group had embarked. Clarke's bass solo was really a whip.

While the group played their images could be seen in the Centre's huge overhead TV screens that could be seen throughout the arena. What! Hey dig the wild brother in the silver suit with the cape and hood that just flashed on the screen. He is really into his own thing. Meanwhile, Corea, Clarke and company have gone off into the all acoustic set of the evening on "Romantic Warrior," a tune with a haunting melody that is impossible to forget.

The heaviest jam played all night long was "Sorceress," a composition by drum killer Lenny White. To begin with, Stanley Clarke lays out a raunchy bass riff that serves as the inspiration for mean electric guitar solo by DiMeola. Then Corea jumps in humping and bumping up and down the keyboards, creating fantastic, unbelieveable riffs that nearly drove the more than 15,000 people in the arena berserk.

# Bicentennial Festival at Morgan, free

The Morgan State University Bicentennial Committee has received a grant from the Maryland Committee for the Humanities and Public Policy to sponsor a Bicentennial Festival May 14 and 15.

The two-day event will feature a series of activities from art courses and exhibits to debates and film festivals in addition to an assortment of eateries, amusements and balloon ascensions.

Among the host of events scheduled during the festival are:

Friday, May 14

Location: McKeldin Center, Room 202

Lectures

9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. — Women in U.S. History (Dr. JoAnn Robinson)

11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. — Thomas Jefferson and Afro Americans (Dr. Andrew Billingsley)

Location: Jenkins, Room 103

11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. — Bicentennial Youth Debates (Mrs. C. McFadden Walker) Speech Department. The debates will center upon a discussion of the question: "Should Blacks Celebrate the Bicentennial? How?"

Location: At flag pole in front of Jenkins Hall

12:00 Noon-12:15 p.m. — (Flag Ceremony);

12:15 p.m.-1:00 p.m. — (Drill Ceremony);

7:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. — (Drill Ceremony);

8:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m. — (Flag Ceremony).

Colonial uniformed color guard of the MSU Military Science Dept. will raise and lower the flag (12:00 noon and at dusk, respectively). The colonial color guard will also demonstrate and exercise the drill ceremonies with arms.

Location: McKeldin Center Room 410

12:00 Noon-10:00 p.m. — Black Soldier. This exhibit will highlight the role of blacks in the U.S. military from the Revolution to today, Black Medal of Honor winners and a 35 MM slide presentation

Location: McKeldin Center, Room 402

1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. — Symposium sponsored jointly by the Maryland Committee for the Humanities and the Political Science Dept. of MSU — "The Ethnic Heritage of Maryland Politics," Dr. C. Vernon Gray

Location: McKeldin Center, Room 319

5:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. — Black Film Festival. A series of classics of Afro-American cinema which are rare or normally unavailable films made available for this special Bicentennial Celebration. Dr. Thomas Cripps

On Saturday, May 15, the festival will feature a continuation of many events begun on Friday, in addition to a musical entitled "The Old Maid and the Thief," excerpts from the musical "Westside Story," dance performances and instruction, photographic exhibits, jazz and classical music and an original "Bicentennial" musical composed by a member of the Department of Theatre Arts entitled "In Place In Step and Right On Time."

# Arts and Music

**Morgan Opera**

The Morgan State University Opera Workshop under the direction of Arne Lindquist will present Gian Carlo Menotti's "Old Maid and the Thief" and excerpts from Kurt Weill's "Street Scene."

The performances will be Friday, May 14 at 10:00 a.m. and Saturday, May 15 at 8:15 p.m. in Carl Murphy Auditorium. The admission is free and the public is invited. For further information call 893-3286 or 893-3287.

Those appearing in lead roles are Muriel Beatty, Valeria Foster, Donna Hayes, Margaret Lindsay, Fredericka Matthews, Joseph Pearson, Lovitha Whittington; the vocal coaches and accompanists are Lee Mackey and Patricia Springer.

"The Old Maid and the Thief" was originally conceived as a Radio Opera but has achieved its greatest success on the stage. The action centers around Miss Todd, an old maid; Laetitia, her maid and Bob, a vagabond.

Kurt Weill's "Street Scene," a tragic opera, depicts the realities and frustration of Ghetto Life.

* * *

**Baltimore Symphony**

Paul Lavalle, one of America's leading authorities on Symphonic Band music, will be guest conductor of the Baltimore Symphony at the Pops concert on Saturday, May 15, at 8:15 p.m. at the Lyric Theatre.

Highlight of the program, which will begin with a Lavalle arrangement, "The Best of Rimsky-Korsakoff," will be a rousing rendition of music from the big names of the Big Band Era: Paul Whiteman, Glenn Miller, Harry James, The Dorsey Brothers, Benny Goodman and Artie Shaw.

**Goucher**

**Five dancers will don bright pink, full-length elastic bags to perform an original work entitled "The Boo" to be given at Goucher College's Spring Dance Concert on Friday and Saturday, May 14 and 15, at 8:00 p.m. in the Kraushaar Auditorium.**

**The concert also includes live music, performed by The Baltimore Percussion Quartet, under the direction of Mark Goldstein. One of the ballets, "Yaisou," is structured around traditional Greek folk dance themes.**

**Darrold V. Hunt, assistant conductor of the Baltimore Symphony will open his house for the seventh annual Charles Village house tour, noon to 6 p.m. Sunday. The Chamber Choir of the Handel Choir will give a brief concert at 3 p.m.**


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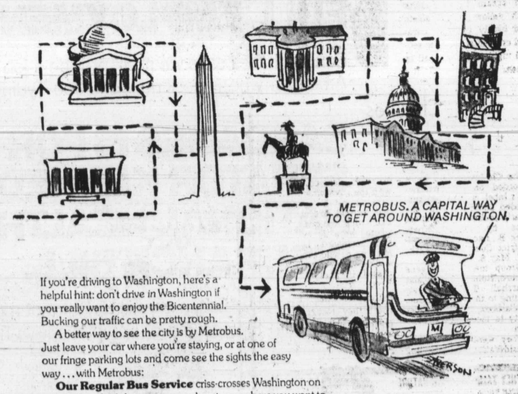



If you're driving to Washington, here's a helpful hint: don't drive in Washington if you really want to enjoy the Bicentennial. Bucking our traffic can be pretty rough.

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