Preakness happenings

By Ida Peters

Redd hot!

REDD FOXX

Comedian Redd Foxx who brings his special brand of wit and humor to the Shady Grove Music Theatre in Rockville, here for five adult shows May 20-May 22, and to Painter's Mill, May 27-29 will be grand marshal for the Preakness at Pimlico Race Track, Saturday.

The 9th race will be the first official Redd Foxx Race.

One of the most popular television stars, Foxx captured the heart of the nation as the cantankerous though lovesable Fred Sanford in NBC's "Sanford and Son." Foxx recently signed an exclusive pact with ABC-TV and will star in a new show this Fall.

Before his television success, Foxx was known all over the world for his risque nightclub act and party records. His first nightclub appearance took place in Baltimore, where he appeared as a single act performing comedy. He then teamed up with fellow comedian and friend Slappy White and the act lasted from 1951-1956.

Foxx moved to California signing his first recording contract while appearing at a Los Angeles club. Not long afterward, he opened his own nightclub in L.A.

He has been seen on virtually every major national talk and variety television show. Recently he starred with Pearl Bailey in the comedy hit movie "Norman...Is That You?".

Sonny caught!

Sonny and Cher are making their first Painters Mill Music Fair appearance this week.

Sonny, 42, says that he and Cher won't be getting together again off-stage. The twice-married and divorced singer is planning a church wedding with Maryland-born Susie Coelho, 23, the girl he's been living with for the past two years.

Cher, who was recently divorced from singer Greg Allman told reporters she had "no comment".

Sonny told reporters he met Miss Coelho two years ago in Palm Springs Calif. and "we've lived together ever since that night".

A spokesman for the couple says they hope to be married at the Catholic Church of the Good Shepherd in Beverly Hills.

At Shady Grove, Sonny and Cher, shared the same dressing room and announced that the tour is part of their $1.5 divorce settlement.

The show at Painters Mill is cute. Cher is almost nude and Sonny wears clothes. Sonny says it's easier working with Cher than anyone else.

Chastity is not with them, but is presented on film to the tune of Stevie Wonder's "Isn't She Lovely".

Sonny and Cher at Painters Mill

They're laughing!

Bolton Hill

"The Lady Who Cried Fox" by Edward Clinton is the new three-act play now playing at Bolton Hill Dinner Theatre.

I don't know if the opening night audience was a rare one. I do know that this is the first audience I have ever seen that continued sustained laughter at least five minutes after the first act ended.

The play centers around Maggie (Mary Anne Dempsey) who is about to be evicted from her basement flat under a N.Y. delicatessen: the wacky delicatessen owner, Auggie Dorsett, who tries to help her. Also, there's Sunny, (Madonna Young) an ex-cheerleader who runs a dating service who gets Maggie a male roommate, Hannibal to help pay the rent.

Hannibal is an eccentric inventor of smells...his mother named him for a cookie...and he convalesces the plot by losing his glasses and trying to lose his virginity.

When Louis, Maggie's husband, an egotistical actor, turns up in his Hamlet suit, skinny legs and tennis shoes, he tickles the audience's funny bones.

Bolton Hill Dinner Theatre provides birthday and anniversary cakes with singing waiters. They sort of overdid it opening night. Every table suddenly found a birthday.

The Nathaniel Alexanders of N. Augusta Street were actually celebrating their 24th wedding anniversary. He works at McCormick and Comoany and she at Eastern High Parent-Infant Center.

Ernest Tibbs is the chef and I'll recommend his Prime Ribs of Beef: the Seafood Salad and the fresh salad bar.

Bootsey alive and well

Temptations leave Motown for Atlantic

By Ida Peters

The Temptations ...original members Melvin Franklin and Otis Williams; Richard Street who replaced Paul Williams and the newest members Glenn Leonard lead singer Louis Procesi... slipped week at a gala party at Manhattan's newest super-disco, Studio 54.

The Temps were introduced by Atlantic prexy Jerry Greenberg and Hillery Johnson vice president-director of Special Markets to a crowd of 500 including Walt Frazier, Bette Midler Luther, Teddy Pendergrass, Bobbi Humphrey and Earl Willson.

* * *

William "Bootsey" Collins is alive and well and playing gigs in Hammond, Ind., Grand Rapids, Mich. this week and in Philadelphia at the Tower Theatre, Saturday, May 21.

This newspaper has been getting calls every day asking if William "Bootsey" Collins has died of an overdose. A high school student called from Randallstown and a mother called who heard it from her junior high student.

This column did not pay much attention until the students of Gwynns Falls Junior High, School No. 91, visited on a Newspaper in The Classroom tour of the AFRO.

They stated quite positively that they had heard that Bootsey was dead. This lead to a call to Warner Brothers Records in Burbank, Calif.

Bob Merlis, director of publicity said the rumor does not make sense. In the first place he said that "Bootsey does not use drugs".

Warner Brothers says they are getting calls from all over the country, at least once a day, and they can't imagine where these type of rumors get started.

I doubt that types of sick rumors start with the record companies managers or performers. I think they the invented in the minds of sick children to see what kind of response they get from the media.

If you can't get to Philly to catch Bootsey, you'll have to wait until August 7 when you'll see him live at RFK Stadium in D.C.

Capricorn Records has a new Percy Sledge single "When She Touching Me" b/w "When A Boy Becomes A Man". The single was recorded at Sound City Studios in Los Angeles and produced by Dave Crawford.

* * *

Bassist for the new Gregg Allman Band is Willie Weeks. He's heard on their new album "Playing Up A Storm". He has recorded with The Rolling Stones, Roberta Flack and Donny Hathaway, George Harrison and David Bowie.

* * *

Coming up next week a new LP from **The Crusaders** in celebration of Crusaders Week. Their new ABC Blue Thumb release is "Free As The Wind". It features Joe Sample's fine string and horn arrangements.

The Jacksons are in England this week for a command performance for Queen Elizabeth and the British Royal Family. CBS Records International has just released The Jacksons top single in Europe "Show You The Way To Go". The group just recently received RIAA certificate for the Epic album "The Jacksons" as a gold recording.

Atlantic recording stars Average White Band and Slave are at the Capitol Center, Largo, Md. May 21.

Films

Kathleen Lloyd taunts ear, which will not enter the gates to the cemetery's hallowed ground in new flick "The Car" now at area theatres.

More that black film entry at the Cannes Film Festival this week. "Black Joy", an Anthony Simmons Film, stars Norman Beaton, Trevor Thomas, with Flowilla Benjamin, Dawn Hone and Oscar James and introducing Paul Medford as Devon.

Also at the Cannes Film Festival (this is in Europe and the biggest exhibition of films for sale to foreign countries with producers on hand from Europe, Asia and Africa)...is Fred Williamson. Fred has made it a point to be present at every major film festival in the world this year.

He will be showing "The Big Score" with Vic Morrow produced by his firm Po-Boy Productions. He will also show "A One Man Mean Machine" with Jesse Crowder, Tony King, Robert Webber and D'Urville Martin.

Bill Cosby will produce, direct, score and star in "Sitting Pretty" based on the novel by Al Young for First Artists.

First Artists is the film home of Dustin Hoffman, Sidney Poitier and Steve McQueen. Paul Newman, Sidney Poitier and Barbra Streisand.

Comden/Green give egghead party!

"A Party with Betty Comden and Adolph Green" is a very special party for egghead: being described by critics in other cities as a "swellegant, elegant party", "Grand, soaring fun", and "simply swell".

It was a swell party but the opening night audience seemed slow, sluggish and not able to keep up with the nimble wit and heavy satire of Comden and Green who got their start playing before Harvard students and the staff of the New Yorker Magazine who dearly loved them.

All of you have been to parties. Picture in your mind's eye the recent Christmas party by the Patterson's of Mohawk Avenue. The carefully coiffed and gowned guests were seated around the elegant club room while Lionel Jiggetts and a singer roamed the gamut of show tunes. Each tune was greeted with handclapping and Oh's and Ah's.

That's what was missing opening night at the Mechanic. Most of the tunes and shows were totally unfamiliar to this audience...and sad to say a lot of folks sneaked out at intermission.

The stage was entirely bare except for two stools, two mikes, spotlights and an excellent, accompanist, Paul Treeblood.

Betty Comden and Adloh Adolph Green have been celebrated writers of movie comedies and films for more than 30 years.

They performed songs and sketches they have written to the music of a written to the music of a host of eminent collaborators including Leonard Bernstein, Jule Styne, Cy Coleman, Andre Previn, Saul Chaplin and Roger Edens.

They have written the book and or lyrics for "Bells Are Ringing", "Hallelujah, Baby", and "Applause".

Their many movie musicals include "Singin' In The Rain", "On The Town", "The Barkley's of Broadway". Also, the screenplays for "Auntie Mame", "The Band Wagon", "It's Always Fair Weather".

They elegantly showcased their tunes with a patter about the background of their work with various stars.

Hilarious was their take off of operettas in the early 1930's reminiscent of the works by the Shuberts, "The Student Prince" and Jeanette McDonald and Nelson Eddy all rolled into one. They were high school and junior high staples back in the 1920's and 1930's.

Betty Comden later did an excellent takeoff of Lena Horne singing "If" which surprisingly both seatmates remembered.

Other well received songs were "New York, New York", "Make Someone Happy" and "The Party's Over".

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Metropolitan Baltimore Health Test
ALCOHOLISM
Clip out this form and take the test with George Rogers and Joyce Jefferson tonight at 8pm.
1. How many hospital beds are filled by people with alcohol-related problems?
A. 20%
B. 30%
C. 50%
D. 65%
2. Alcoholism usually occurs after 15 or 20 years of heavy drinking.
TRUE FALSE
3. What minimum level of alcohol consumption will cause brain damage?
A. A daily cocktail or glass of wine
B. 2 cocktails or 2 beers daily
C. 3-4 cocktails or 6-pack daily
D. 1/5 whiskey daily
4. A person's sex does not affect his or her reaction to alcohol.
TRUE FALSE
5. For young people, the most immediate danger of alcohol is intoxication.
TRUE FALSE
6. A black-out is a period of unconsciousness.
TRUE FALSE
7. Which of the following will help a drunk person to sober up quickly?
A. Black Coffee
B. A cold shower
C. Inhaling oxygen
D. All of the above
E. None of the above
8. What percentage of violent crime is committed under the influence of alcohol?
A. 30%
B. 40%
C. 60%
D. 70%
Tonight 8PM
2
WMAR-TV / BALTIMORE

Stanley Clay's 'roots' firmly planted

By Vashti McKenzie

By Vashti McKenzie

After starring in CBS' movie of the week "Minstrel Man" that aired in March, actor Stanley Clay has starred in a new CBS pilot, tenitively titled "Steam Heat" which Alan King and Jack Weston produced.

Currently Stanley is being considered by producer Abby Mann for a role in his Martin Luther King bio-feature for NBC-TV.

In "Minstrel Mann", Stanley portrayed the role of Rennie, one of two surviving sons of a minstrel father, struggling to maintain their dignity and livelihood at a time when minstrels were slowly being banned as entertainers.

Clay, a native of Chicago, was reared in Los Angeles where his family moved when he was 12. He is the second eldest of eight children. After graduation from high school he bypassed a journalism scholarship and initiated his acting career.

Clay starred in "Minstrels"

From there, he attended acting classes under Nina Foch and actor Raymond St. Jacques. This led to working at the Ebony Showcase Theatre in Los Angeles, where he was discovered by a producer for the Medical Center series, and provided him with his first professional acting job in the pilot.

Although he didn't get a running role in the series, he gained the attention of actor agent Lil Cumber, the first black female to book blacks into films, who has been responsible for Stanley's uphill career movement.

Since that time, Stanley has appeared in television's 'Room 222', 'The Bill Cosby Show', 'Good Times' and the Emmy Award winning special, 'The Blue Knight', starring William Holden.

Stanley has also made his mark in movies. He co-starred as young Sam in the Parradine Production of James Michener's "Dynasty", and he also appeared in such acclaimed motion pictures as, "Man Friday", "The Klansman" and "Cleopatra Jones".

Looking back Stanley is quite happy that he turned down that journalism scholarship. "It is very hard to look ahead in the acting profession and say in five years I am going to make it big. There are a lot of great actors who have the talent and never make it. I am fortunate and delighted that I was able to get the opportunity to express my talent."

Modest as he may seem, Stanley is talented, articulate and good at what he does. With his roots firmly planted, stardom is not too far away.

More Preakness happenings

Down at Two Charles Center the eight annual Baltimore International Film Festival is winding up, at the Tower Theatre, Charles and Saratoga.

Music is playing, tables are set up, the "Steam Screen" is operating and at midnight tonight (Friday) see John Waters "Female Trouble."

The Mayor's Regatta is happening in the Inner Harbor Saturday and Sunday with all kinds of musical happenings.

The young swinging crowd will be at the Capitol Center Saturday night for the Capitol Boogie Showdown featuring Average White Band, Slave and T-Connection, sponsored by Compared To What?

This is a benefit concert/dance sponsored by Compared To What? to benefit D.C.'s youngsters with The Summer Hut, Human Kindness Day, art educational and recreational programs.

Fashion Follies '77, "The Evolution of Fashion 1920-1970 is a free presentation at Golden Ring Mall May 20-21 7 p.m.

Bill Lane in Hollywood

NATALIE Cole is reportedly perplexed about a 50-G lawsuit lodged against her by a Mexico show promoter. The fellow says he'd booked Natalie into a sharp new Mexico City nightclub, but she bowed out because of illness but consented to a rain check. But when the rain check was due, the promoter had turned over his contract with her to another Mexico promoter, who wanted to bring Natalie in to sing at a theater. Again Natalie oowed out. Came the suit. But Natalie says you can bet she'll be at the Kool Jazz Festival in San Diego come June tenth, and for the nonce that's about as close as she'll get to the Mexican border.

NOBODY does it like Ali. Always the greatest in whatever he does. He will never go unnoticed.

Take, for instance, the way he set his big movie premiere in Holiywood. With his film starrer "The Greatest" opening at the Pitt Theatre in ABC Entertainment Center in Century City, Ali told the premiere planners to forget that limousine-arrival, ballyhoo for him — he'd arrive in a helicopter, while the 100-member USC marching band played welcome music. Then he'd ascend a platform and be interviewed by the press and people, the whole event being broadcast over high-flying radio station KDAY for listeners who had been listening to KDAY telling for two weeks about the premiere. People everywhere! "Look! In the sky! It's a bird...NO! It's Ali — The Superman!"

WARNER Brothers all set to come out with the new Richard Pryor-Pam Grier-Julian Bond starrer, "Greased Lightning."

BILLY Daniels has become star Number 1682 on Hollywood's famed walkway of the stars. They implanted a star bearing his name in the sidewalk movement in front 6819 Hollywood Boulevard. Latest reports say Daniels' recording of "That Old Black Magic" has sold over nine million records to date, and that's real magic — black-wax magic.

DIAHANN Carroll, who has opened with Cleavon Little as stars of "Same Time, Next Year," at the Huntington Hartford here, became one of the stars of the evening for the Central Los Angeles NAACP's May 30 tribute to a triumvirate of famous important persons. The program will honor Pulitzer winner Alex Haley, comic of renown Richard Pryor and retiring (July) NAACP standard-bearer Roy Wilkins.

THE Muhammad Ali-Veronica Porche wedding, set for Father's Day, June 19, at the Beverly Wilshire hotel here, is shaping up to be a mighty big affair, although the guests are being selected highly selectively. Mayor Tom Bradley is set to officiate, and on hand will be the couple's nine-month-old daughter, Hana Yasmeen. Time marches on!

"THE ICEMAN" is not a movie about singer Jerry "Iceman" Butler, but it does have in its cast Freda Payne, Franklyn Ajaye and Madge Sinclair are in "Convoy," Lou Gossett is in "The Choirboys," a police story by Joe Wambaugh. Please — no cops sounding like Brooklyn cab drivers! In "Return to Witch Mountain" Stu Gilliam has a role, and Scatman Crothers is in "Mean Dog Blues." And in Sidney Poitier's "A Piece of The Action," everybody has a piece of the acting action, including Gammy Burdett.

JOHNNY Mathis does a handsome job singing the title song for the TV documentary film, "Once Upon a Time...Is Now" It airs on NBC's "The Big Event," the night of May 22.

HERE in L.A. the South African Theatre Project's production "Survival" is reopening May 27 at the Ebony Showcase. In Las Vegas they're all set to build another fabulous hotel-gambling emporium, the Sheik Gamal, at a cost of many millions, with money from Kuwait. It will be located directly behind the MGM-Grand, and will offer jobs for about three thousand persons.

SONJA Dunson has something new. She's come up with the area's first black casting magazine, a bi-weekly periodical which tells what jobs are available, where and when and who and what's wanted. Called "Black Hollywood," it's due out June 13. She says the publication will also feature pics of actors and actresses, and other performers, plus film crafts people, and ads soliciting work. Says she'll now have to resign her speech therapy teaching job.

Week-end TV Watching

By Vanessa Johnson

Friday: May 20

Madison Square Garden will be filled with a new kind of music on May 20 when **Andrae Crouch and the Disciples**, the nation's leading soul gospel group, headlines at the 4,500-seat Felt Forum.

* * *

Donny and Marie Tonight's guests are Don Knotts, Keely Smith, Paul Lynde and The Osmond Brothers. 8:00-9:00 p.m./ABC.

* * *

"The Hawaiian Connection" (Part II)-The Sanfords finally get him to the reason behind their unexpected Hawaiian vacation and are involved in a desperate effort to escape the villains. 8:00-8:30 p.m./NBC.

* * *

Lou Rawls is the host and Earth, Wind and Fire is saluted on NBC-TV's "The Midnight Special". Leo Sayer, Gordon Lightfoot, Andrew Gold, Donna Summer, Gino Vanelli and Melanie perform. Wolfman Jack is the announcer.

Lou Rawls: "See You When I Get There" and "Someday You'll be Old"; Leo Sayer: "When I Need You"; Gordon Lightfoot: "Race Among the Ruins"; Andrew Gold: "Lonely Boy"; Donna Summer: "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot"; Gino Vanelli: "Summers of My Life" and "Love of My Life"; Melanie: "Cyclone"; Earth Wind and Fire: a medley of hits. 1:00-2:30 a.m./NBC.

Saturday: May 21

"Miss, Mrs., or Ms.- What's It All About?," another in a series of CBS News special broadcasts for young people. (1:30-2:00 p.m.

"CBS Sports Spectacular." World light heavyweight championship (WBC) champion John Conteh vs. Miguel Cuello in a 15-round bout. Tom Brookshier and Jerry Quarry will provide the commentary. 5:00-6:00 p.m.

Lou Rawls "Midnight Special"

* * *

Detective Fish and his wife, Bernice, take on responsibilities as "foster parents" to a group of underprivileged kids and move into a dilapidated group home in "The Really Longest Day." (6:30-9:00 p.m. ABC.

* * *

Sunday: May 22

"Ben-Hur," the immensely popular epic film which won 11 Academy Awards, including Best Picture of 1959, will be a special film presentation, 8:00-11:30 CBS. Charlton Heston stars in the title Messala.

Johnny Mathis will sing the original title song for the 90-minute special, "The Story of Princess Grace...Once Upon a Time Is Now," 9:30-11 p.m./NBC.

* * *

"Good Against Evil" The dramatic story of a young couple who fall in love in San Francisco and plan to marry, although a priest realizes that the young woman is possessed by evil forces. 9:30-11:00 p.m./ABC

Monday: May 23

"Great Day" A group of lovable bums who love their "free and easy" life style in a Los Angeles mission face the problem of raising money for their facility without taking that most desperate of steps-going to work. 8:00-8:30 p.m.

* * *

Barbara Streisand stars as Dolly Levi, the matchless match-maker, and Walter Matthau stars as Horace Vandergelder, the cantankerous merchant of Yonkers, Louis Armstrong as the Orchestra Man in "Hello, Dolly!" (8:00-11:00) CBS.

* * *

Richard Pryor, described by The Washington Post as "one of the hottest and most sought after talents in movies, television and records"-who will star in his own NBC-TV series next season-has entered into an exclusive five-year personal services contract with the NBC Television Network, it was announced today by Robert T. Howard, president, NBC-TV.

In addition to the series, each year Pryor will star in two specials. He will also serve in a creative capacity on a third special specifically designed to showcase new talent.

The NBC World Premiere movie. "JJudge Horton and the Scottsboro Boys," was the only network television winner in the 1976 Sidney Hillman Foundation Prize Awards competition.

* * *

LeVar Burton, who was featured in the television production of "Roots," stars in the title role of Billy," a 90-minute NBC World Premiere movie now in production.

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