Meet the new Pam Grier

The new Pam Grier is realizing her ambitions to play a serious dramatic role far removed from the macho female, slave girl in Warner Brothers "Greased Lightning".

Pam Grier plays wife and mother of five to stock car champion Wendell Scott, played by Richard Pryor in "Greased Lightning".

The baddest chick of them all was Pam Grier opposite Bernie Casey in "Hit Man" and Bill Elliott, Booker Bradshaw in "Coffy".

What'S Happening

By Ida Peters

'Greased Lightning'

The movie world's first black female crime fighter, Pam Grier was in town this week on a nation-wide press tour for her new movie "Greased Lightning."

Pam went to Hollywood nine years ago at the age of 19 and has developed a solid fan following for her devastating karate chops, a deadly gun and distracting beauty in such films as "Foxy Brown," "Sheba Baby," "Coffy" and "Friday Foster."

A much softer lady, Richard Pryor's leading lady to be exact . . . visited the AFRO this week.

Pam has always been portrayed on the screen as a sex goddess and been called the "black Ava Gardner" or the "black Sophia Loren."

She hints to a sensitiveness about her crowning assets and commented over lunch that finally one day a sister looked her over and said, "my God, you're built just like a cow."

Pam says today her movie image is almost totally at odds with her true image. The heroines she portrayed always showed concern for the terrifying social conditions of their communities.

She's quick to tell you that she was an army brat, the daughter of Chief Master Sgt. Clarence (Gwendolyn) Grier and grew up on army bases around the world and in Denver, Colo. Her family wasn't rich, and she admits to having classmates who wore razors in their bushes and she has known about the world she portrayed on film.

But as she said, the films she made was all that was open to the black woman professional.

Talent agent Dave Baumgarten who discovered her nine years ago in a Colorado Miss Universe beauty competition told her to study her craft, start training now and be ready.

Pam says she has been studying and a recent illness made her take stock of her life and made her appreciate all the things she has taken for granted.

In "Greased Lightning" she is working with some of the greatest new professionals in the business including Richard Pryor who plays the title role; Beau Bridges and Cleavon Little.

The film was directed by Michael Shultz, the black director of "Car Wash" and produced by Hannah Weinstein for Warner Brothers.

Pam's role in "Greased Lightning" is that of Wendell Scott's wife Mary, who bears him five children and endures all of the anxiety and frustrations of having a husband obsessed with speed and a deathless determination to become champion in a dangerous lily-white sport.

Richard Pryor is Wendell Scott, the real life racing driver who fought hostility and prejudice to become the first black man to spin his wheels on the racing circuit.

"Greased Lightning" was filmed on location on the dirt tracks of Georgia and covers a 30-year period until Scott won the NASCAR championship in 1964.

For her visit to the AFRO In Baltimore on her way to D.C. press interviews Pam wore six inch blue high heels, a white drindle skirt (with no slip) multicolored halter top . . . leaving all her lovely shoulders exposed. Her curly hair was caught off-the-face in a soft hair-do.

At luncheon at Danny's, she's the first woman movie star to refuse Danny's luscious seafood . . . she only took some strawberries to eat on the run . . and she's down to under 120 pounds from 140

James Brown is the only male movie star (black or white) who refused food while being interviewed saying he could not talk and eat.

Pam's next serious movie, she hopes, will be the story of Mary Fields, a slave from Tennessee who was the first black woman stagecoach driver. Hopefully, Lonne Elder II will be the executive producer.

Good Luck Pam. In five years over four visits to our town, Pam Grier has grown to one of the most articulate and intelligent stars t come out of Hollywood, black or white, in a long, long time. Keep in touch.

More . . . more

More than 15,000 well-behaved fans turned out for The Brute Music Festival at the Take It Easy Ranch in Callaway, Md. Marring the three days of fun was the gang-land slaying of two D.C. men found in the ditch some miles away from Callaway in a white community.

E. J. Rice has been signed by ABC to join Harold Melvin and the Blue Notes.

Rock Hudsin opens in the Lerner and Loewe musical "Camelot" July 12-17 at Painters Mill.

Ray Charles has been signed to be a special guest on the television special "A Tribute To The Beatles" to be filmed in London Aug. 11-12.

Herbie Hancock at the Merriweather Post Pavilion in Columbia on Tuesday, July 12 at 8:00 p.m. with the VSOP tour.

VSOP is made up of such talented men as Wayne Shorter, Freddie Hubbard, Tony Williams, Ron Carter and last but not least, Herbie Hancock. Their dynamically different sound which soared to popularity during the sixties under the guidance of Miles Davis, is tempered with history and nostalgia yet contains an exciting immediacy.

• • •

And Now a Word. . .

Children's Television Workshop, well-known for its productions of "Sesame Street" and "The Electric Company," is turning its attention towards the adult audience with a new production to begin airing in October. The eight-part, primetime drama series, "the Best of Families," will be on public Broadcasting and will dramatize historical events taking place between 1880 and 1900 using the experiences of three families.

The Temptations and **Philippe Wynn** come to Shady Grove July 12.

Velvet Fire will make a surprise visit to the AFRO Clean Block meeting on July 15.

Polydor is entertaining the "Queen of Soul" of Australia Renee Guyer at the Holiday Inn in Silver Spring this week.

In Philly, **Harold Melvin** and his wife **Ovelia** are the proud new parents of a baby boy who weighed in at 8 pounds at Lanenau Hospital.

Cab Calloway is teamed with his daughter Cecelia at the Fairmount Hotel in San Francisco. They got standing ovations on songs such as "Millionaire" and "When the Saints Go Marching In."

"Sojourn To Victory: The Black Church In Baltimore" will feature Bethel AME Church, July 9, 8 p.m. on WJZ-TV. Directed and written by Michael Wall, the program explores the church as a cultural, political and spiritual force in the community.

Top Jazz Albums

1. Free as the Wind
   The Crusaders
2. Heavy Weather
   Weather Report
3. Friends and Strangers
   Ronnie Laws
4. Lifestyle (Living and Loving-
   John Klemmer
5. Elegant Gypsy
   Al Dimeola
6. Consquistador
   Maynard Ferguson
7. Flight
   George Benson
8. V.S.O.P.
   Herbie Hancock
9. Right on Time
   Brothers Johnson
10. Love Notes
    Ramsey Lewis

(AFRO photo by Fred Hines)

FEELING GOOD—Host Lawrence Taylor (L) and actress Sandi Hewitt enjoy themselves at a party given at Club Ca Prez in honor of the cast of "Bubbling Brown Sugar."

New movie on black pilots

The AFRO Magazine this Friday features the exploits of the black pilots during World War II in the 99th Fighter Squadron and the 332nd Fighter Squadron attached to the 15th Army Air Force. The men trained at Tuskegee.

Coming up next year and now in the works a new movie starring Billy Dee Williams, "COM-TAC 303." The filming will start in the Mojave Desert and continue throughout Southern California and in Italy.

Billy Dee Williams was only 8 during World War II and was not aware of the exploits of black pilots and the men of Col. B. O. Davis.

AFRO readers can learn more from AFRO war correspondent Art Carter and the stories he filed in the AFRO in 1944, 33 years ago.

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MAYFAIR TWO

Dale performs in 'Pops' opener

Clamma Dale

The 1977 season of Evening at Pops" opens with soprano Clamma Dale's dazzling verformance Sunday, July 10 at 8:00 p.m. on stations of the Maryland Center for Public Broadcasting — TV 22, 26,31, and 67. "Evening at Pops" also airs Mondays at 9:00 p.m.

The 28-year-old Ms. Dale joins Arthur Fiedler and the Boston Pops for a program ranging from grand opera to cabaret. She performs "Un Bel dl" from **Madama Butterfly**, "Habanera" from **Carmen**, a pair of Josephine Baker favorites, "Images" by Nina Simone, "Show Time" and "Nothing Can Hold Me." Arthur Fiedler conducts the Pops Orchestra in "On the Mall" and "A Fifth of Beethooven."

Clamma Dale, a graduate of the Juilliard School of Music and a member of the New York City Opera, recently won rave reviews in Boston and on Broadway for her role as Bess in this year's award-winning revival of Gershwin's "Porgy and Bess."

This year's season of "Evening at Pops" also features Tony Bennett, "Roots" actor Ben Vareen, violinist Itzhak Perlman, virtuoso flutist Jean-Pierre Rampal, the Claude Kinnis Mime Theatre as well as encore performances by Roberta Peters, Robert Merrill, ethel Merman, Judy Collins, Roy Clark, Pearl Bailey, and Louis Bellson.

Melba Moore has baby girl

By Jesse H. Walker

NEW YORK — "Melba and Daughter Melba Charli say THANKS!" reads the ad in Variety, the entertainment trade weekly, announcing the new little "spokesperson" for "Big Blue Marble." Melba Charlie Huggins was born to actress-singer Melba Moore Huggins at 4:02 p.m. on June 23 at 6 pounds 12½ ounces in New York University Hospital. Proud papa is businessman Charles Huggins. "I don't want to be a h[illegible] body," Melba has said. "Kids are always worth my time. That's why I'm working for "Marble" so hard. I want to stay active." So look to see Melba back on the scene —real soon.

• • •

Richie Havens, who plays a featured role in Warner Bros.' forthcoming film release, "Greased Lightning," sings "All Come True" on the sound track. He also has a new album due out in July on Mirage label.

What happened to Nina Simone and her exodus from the Newport Jazz Festival Best explanation was that she orignally became enranged when she had been barred from Carnegie Hall for a time by a guard who didn't recognize her. She couldn't find the artists entrance and reportedly went to front of auditorium where she was told to "to pipe down and get in line with the rest of others." Nine later split and returned to Switzerland were she's been living.

• • •

Jennifer Brice was a teacher of charm and dance for the D.C. Recreation Department when she was hired by Stephen Burrows the first time she walked into his showroom in November 1973 to show him her portfolio. Last month she was chosen best Model of the Year by International Mannequins, a promotional modeling agency. Past winmers of the award for back models, in its third year, are Naomi Sims and Beverly Johnson.

The FCC's payolaplugola probe is now holding closed-door hearings, since attorneys complained that constant press coverage discourages many potential witnesses from coming forward. And a clearance of past testimony by singer Al Green reveals that he testified that he dealth only with promoter William Washington for a 1975 concert at the Capital Centre and not the Geejays who visted his dressingroom and he agreed to accept less money only after a telephone discussion with his producer.

• • •

Backers of "Raisin," the hit Broadway musical of 1973-74 have been startled to learn that they may have to return money they had been repaid on their investments in the show. Producer Robert Nemiroff wrote letter expressing surprise at notice he received from IRS that funds returned to the backers on their investments are subject to recovery by the Government agency in payment of is claims as one of the creditors.

• • •

Two of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s children, Yolanda (as a young minister) have been added to the cast of NBC-TV's five-hour film base on King's life. Harry Belafonte has pulled out as Malcolm X because of schedule conflicts.

And now a word . . .

. . . and all that jazz

By BOB MATTHEWS

The Left Bank Jazz Society hosted its "first" last Sunday when the Don Ellis big band was presented in the weekly concert series.

And I do mean big band...21 members in all and that includes instrumentation more commonly found in a symphony orchestra

There were violins, violas, cellos, French Horns, and four drummers. Honest! Two regular drummers with full complement of snares, tomtoms and cymbals, plus a percussionist (mallards), and percussionist (Latin).

Tws interesting to note that five members of the band were women

The sound of the band is nothing short of tremendous. All of the stringed instruments were amplified, but was the sole electronic sound with the excention of the electric piano.

To many in the audience, the band was a total unknown. This is mainly because Ellis is more mainly known as a composer and arranger, than a band leader.

Actually Ellis and the band can be heard every morning for the theme song of TV's NBC Today Show was written arranged and played by the Ellis group.

As to the LBJS concert, the most noticeable thing was the almost total avoidance of 4-4 time.

Every tune leaned on polyrthymns and deviations. One tune "Scratt and Fluggs" was done in 7-4 time. Don also played a song from his upcoming album "Star Wars" in 9-4 time.

Of course, this makes for interesting listening, but played havoc with people who like to tap their feet.

Then, there were some interesting variations.

At one point almost the entire orchestra moved into the audience, and played their pieces from there.

The effect was to generate a surround sound...it was totally effective.

One of the highlights was a tune billed as "Sweet Shirley McClain" but in reality was "Sweet Georgia Brown". With this, the Ellis group proved they could play the hard funky swing that big bands are into these days.

Congratulations to Left Bank for bringing this group in. Ellis rarely does concerts in the east and when he does, LBJS should book him.

Philippe Wynn not hurt in accident

Al Green, announced from the stage last Friday at Painters Mill that the reason Philippe Wynn, formerly of th Spinners didn't show was because he was in an automobile accident outside Philadelphia on chis way to Maryland.

A check with Tom Lipsky at Painters Mill reveals that he received no details and got the accident call at 6 p.m. hours before the show started.

A spokeswoman for Atlantic Records says that Philippe was not injured but two of his musicians were hospitalized, drummer and the keyboard player.

Philippe is scheduled for Town Hall in Brooklyn, N.Y. Tonight, Friday. Next week, Philippe opens for The Temptations on July 12 at Shady Grove Music Theatre.

The local group, Nuevo, formerly called Trade Winds Act II did the opening act for Philippe and was graciously received by the audience.

Weekend happenings

By Frederick Douglass

July Fourth

Things were jumping in B-More this past Fourth of July weekend. Al Green was at Painters Mill Music Fair from Friday through Sunday. Carl and Earl Grubbs, two Jazz saxophonists who are relaedt phonist who are related to John Coltrane by marriage, were at the Marble Bar in the Cingress Hotel on Friday and Saturday nights.

Don Ellis and his 21-piece band Survivel were at the Famous Ballroom on Sunday for the Left Bank Jazz Society's weekly concert.

If you wanted to go out of the city limits, there was a four-day compout fesivat at the Take-It-Easy Ranch near Callaway Md. which began on Friday and ended on Monday. Continuous entertainment was provided by stellar entertainers such as the Brothers Johnson, Slave, Kool the Gang, the Commodores and myriad other performers of local, national and international acclaim.

Entertainment was provided around the clock and included disco, movies, local merchants peddling jewelry and art: people that you haven't seen for years and other outdoor sports that men and women engage in.

After leaving the spectacular Al Green show at Painters Mill Music Fair, my wife Beverley and I eased on down to the Congress Hotel to check out the Brothers Grubb. We caught them in the act, playing their saxes for all they were worth. Earl was wailing like a banshee on the tenor sax while an intense musical environment was being created behind his solo by Billy Mills on bass, Bernard Samuel on keyboards, Tom Sanders on percussion, and Rashied Rowkman on drums. The group got down on "My Favorite Things," a tune long associated with the Trane. Yet the Brothers Grubbs managed to avoid Trane's long shadow by doing there own thing on the tune. Of course the influence of Trane was present and could be heard in the approaches of both saxophone players, but the Brothers Grubbs are finally beginning to stand on their own innovative brand of music. They have made amazing progress since they appeared at [illegible] are well on their way to op-

Carl Grubbs took a particularly wicked solo on "My Favorite Things," huffing and puffing mirthfully on his gold saxophone causing the members of the audience to lean back in their chairs and intone approving "Yeahs."

Carl turned the stage over to Samuuel who nearly slipped the [illegible] eye of his piano as he sounded out complex [illegible] patterns contrenuntial to an articulately woven together solo line. Rockman was punctuating the solo lines with a crisp rat-a-tat-tat on the drums while Mills had his bass booming. What a show!

Sunday was a day of family barbeques and visiting friends, but I just had to break away from the food and drinks long enough to check out Don Ellis at the Famous Ballroom. Ellis is an outstanding trumpet player, but his fame of recent years is based on his abilities as a composer and big band arranger.

Ellis has scored several films including "Kansas City Bomber," "French Connection," "Nem Centurians" and has an album coming out in a couple of weeks music that was inspired by the box office smash flick "Star Wars." If the music he played Sunday is any indication, the forthcoming album should be a blockbuster.

Letters

Dear Mrs. Peters:

I read your article in the AFRO, Page 19, June 24. You stated that Avon Long graduated from Douglass High School in 1929 and the school at that time was located at Dolphin and Penna. Ave. That statement is incorrect as the school was located at Calhoun and Baker Sts. Rosa H. Dotson, 1701 N. Eutaw Pl.

Dear Mrs. Dotson:

Douglass High School moved from Dolphin and Penna. in 1925 to a new building at Calhoun and Baker. The cost of the building was $1.5 million.

Avon Long says he was in the class if 1929 but he did not graduate because he did not ever attend shop classes and never even found out where they were given.

Tom Hawkins, the California Hospital administrator who was in town for Lewis Jackson's funeral recalled he was in the February 1929 class and his uncle Dr. Mason Hawkins was principal.

Top R&B Albums

1. Commodores
   The Commodores
2. Gof For Yong Guns
   The Isley Brothers
3. Rejoice
   The Emotions
4. Right On Time
   The Brothers Johnson
5. Marvin Gaye at The London Palladium
   Marvin Gaye
6. Travelin' at the Speed of Thought
   The O'Jays
7. Teddy Pendergrass
8. The Floaters
9. I Remember Yesterday

Enoch Pratt

Monday July 11

"Roots: Uprooted: Chicken Gerge," films at the Pratt Library's Reisterstown Road Branch, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

"Roots: The African," film at the Pratt Library's Keyworth Avenue Center, 6 p.m.

Light Street Branch: Puzzles and games, 1 p.m.

Central Library, Wheeler Auditorium: Films — "Five on Treasure Isind." "The Music Box," and "Quebec Winter Carnival," 2 p.m.

Fells Point Center: Films—"The Golden Fish." "Moods of Surfing," and "Sea Sorcery," 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Tues., July 12

Canton Center: Films — "Peewee Had a Little Ape." "A Light in the Night." "Pigal," and "Millions of Cats" 10:30 a.m.

Gardenville Branch: Films — "Rocket and Roll." "Bluenose Ghost," and "Man, Monsters, and Mysteries," 1 p.m.

Fort Worthington Center: Film — "J.T." 3 p.m.

Light Street Branch: Surprise film, 2 p.m.

Morrell Park Center: Films — "That's All We Need." "The Smallest Elephant in the World," and "The Puffed-up Dragon." 3 p.m.

Central Library, Children's Department: Story hour for 6-12 year-olds, 4 p.m.

Govans Branch: Preschool story hour, 7 p.m.

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