Movie stars, singing stars, hot air balloon ...

... queens, bands, V.I.P's mark AFRO's birthday

Hot air balloon will be on hand at AFRO festivities.

Jayne Kennedy 2. Christopher Joy 3. Miss Charm City, Miss Lois Holcomb 4. Miss Talented Teen Maryland, Miss LaVern Whitt. 5. Miss Towanda Boone 6. Miss Joyce Pendergrass and Miss Dominque Schofield 7. Billy Paul 8. Bobbi Humphrey 9. M's Pat Taylor, attendant, Miss AFRO; 10. Mrs. Loretta Bolling, Miss AFRO.

What's Happening

By the time you read this column on Friday afternoon, it may have rained on the AFRO Prade and as they say in Murphy's law, 'if anything can go wrong it will go wrong.'

And, if it does rain the AFRO Birthday party will be held inside the War Meorial Building opposite City Hall.

This morning, AFRO Board members, employees, city and state officials, branch office managers have had coffee and buns in the AFRO's Executive offices at 9 a.m.

Buddah Records star Phyllis Hyman, who will sing the Negro National Anthem in War Memorial Plaza, arrived in town Thursday night.

Philadelphia International singing star Billy Paul also arrived Thursday night with his wife Blanche. Harold Preston and William Hatcher.

Bobbi Humphrey arrived this morning at 9 a.m. at Baltimore - Washington Internation Airport.

The 85th Anniversary parade formed at the AFRO at 9:30 a.m. and moved off promptly at 10:30 a.m. to War Memorial Plaza.

More than 500 blocks representing 38 square miles in the city either marched or sent representatives to War Memorial Plaza.

A huge hot air balloon is already inflated in War Memorial Plaza and the AFRO's Birthday cake is made in the form of an 1982 front page and a 1977 front page.

John H. Murphy III, chairman of the AFRO gave the occassion, a salute to the AFRO chain; Mrs. Arnetta Lottier presented AFRO Honor Flags to 65 blocks; Mrs. Ida Peters, presided.

Christipehr Joy and Jayne Kennedy stars of the Movie "Big Time" were already in town but Smokey Robinson didn't make it last night because he has a virous.

MORE...MORE.

..MORE — The Mills Brothers are at Painters Mill this weekend.

The Gene Smiths are quite excited. He took the place of Harry, with the famous group, when Harry went into the service in 1944. It should be quite a reunion.

Thanks go to Bob Matthews and Archway Ford providing cars for AFRO parade and to Gino's, George W. Larkins who provided 1,000 ballons for the party. See next week's AFRO for pictures of winning marchers and bands.

Phyllis Hyman

Jayne Kennedy sees 'Big Time' as another step upwards

"Jayne Kennedy is the face that launched a thousand ships in her role as one of the most attractive ladies of Dean Martin's "Golddiggers." She captivated TV audiences worldwide.

She regards every film role that comes her way as just another step up the ladder of stardom.

"All steps are not upwards," she explains. "But when an actress is accepting and playing film roles she tries to accept roles that do something to enhance her acting abilities, her popularity and her positive acceptance by the film-viewing audience."

The statuesque Miss Kennedy, who is now starring in the new Smokey Robinson comedy motion picture "Big Time," added that she has long held to the idea that in achievement enhancement every little bit helps.

"I felt that way," she declared. "When I was appearing for two years on the Dean Martin television shows as a mere Ding-A-Ling Sister. But the work gave me a chance to be active in entertainment, and gave the public a chance to get to know me."

The Dean Martin appearances were not all for her on network television. Jayne Kennedy was a party regular for one year on "Laugh In," was one of the Stars and Pulchritude on a Bob Hope Thanksgiving special for TV and a Hope Christmas Special. She was one of the Hollywood stars on a giant USO tour, headed up a Super Comedy Bowl show and was guest star on a Flip Wilson television special.

Then there have been her numerous appearances in acting slots on network television, like parts in segments of "Starsky and Hutch," "Six Million Dollar Man," "Kojak," "Ironsides" and "Sanford & Son," among others. Recently she starred in a TV pilot for NBC's Movie of The Week," in a feature film titled "Cover Girls, which is being set, it is reported, for regular airing as a television series.

Jayne Kennedy says variety is also her spice of life.

"An actress," she avers, "cannot sit back and try to regard herself these days as contemporary Bette Davis, choosing only those very top and meaty dramatic parts, no matter how good she is or how great she feels she is. An actress must work all the time, or lose the genuine acting spirit and grasp. That's why many of us often accept TV commercials.

"Sure, it's a steady source of income, but , agains, it also means you are getting out before the public with what you have to offer. The public see you in a Dodge or Coca-Cola commercial, and somebody says at once, 'Why there's Jayne Kennedy, or Jayne something or other.' It gets around."

Miss Kennedy has filmed a good batch of TV commercials, including some for McDonald's, Maybelline, Chrysler, Ultra Sheen, RCA, Foster Grant, Vitalis and Excedrin.

The auburn-haired, brown-eyed actress really left her native Ohio to become a movie actress. And an actress she is in "Big Time," the current hilarious film hit starring her, Christopher Joy, Tobar Mayo and guest star Roger Mosley. The soundtrack music for "Big Time" was written by composer - singer William "Smokey" Robinson, who is also executive producer of the film.

Miss Kennedy was also in the Sidney Poitier film hit "Let's Do It Again," and she had an acting share in "Lady Sings The Blues."

And now a word . . . .

"A Piece of the Action," that new funnier than ever Sidney Poitier-Bill Cosby film will have its New York premiere on Friday, Oct. 7.

The Second Annual "Chink Cunningham Memorial Golf and Tennis Tournament will be held Monday, August 8 at the Englewood Country Club in Englewood, N.J. "Chink" was one of the first black students accepted in NYC prestigious Townsene Harris High school and was active in track and basketball.

George Scheck has just sold a movie outline of "The Adam Clayton Powell Story" to Universal Pictures. He is business manager to pianist Hazel Scott, the late congressman's one-time wife, and her son, Adam Clayton Powell III, who's head of CBS radio network news.

New York Knicks Coach Willis Reed is Honorary Chairman and president of the Deux Youth Foundation, the organization now running the Green Apples Tennis League, cosponsored by the New York Apples World Tennis Champions, and Con Edison.

Woodie King, Jr., is now presenting Ron Milner's "Season's Reasons" at the Henry Street Playhouse.

Kenneth Brown, who drew the original sketches for Bill Cosby's "Fat Albert," "Old Weird Harold," "Mush Mouth," "Crying Charlie," and "Dumb Donald" won't be able to share in their profits. A act suit he filed in U.S District Court in Philadelphia was tossed out because the statue of limitations had run out.

"Exorcist II: The Heretic," starring Linda Blair, Richard Burton, Louise Fletcher, Max von Sydow, Kitty Winn, Paul Henreid and James Earl Jones has opened at Showcase theatres throughout the New York metropolitan area.

Top Jazz Albums

1. Free as the Wind . . . The Crusaders
2. Lifestyle (Living & Loving) . . . John Klemmer
3. Lifeline . . . Roy Ayers Ubiquity
4. Staircase . . . Keith Jarrett
5. Heavy Weather . . . Weather Report
6. Al Jarreau live in Europe-Look to the Rainbow
7. Friends and Strangers . . . Ronnie Laws
8. Finger Paintings . . . Earl Klugh
9. More stuff . . . Stuff
10. In Flight . . . George Benson

Top R. & B. Albums

1. The Floaters
2. Rejoice . . . The Emotions
3. Commodores
4. Right on Time . . . The Brothers Johnson
5. Go For Your Guns . . . The Isley Brothers
6. Travelin' at the Speed of Thought . . . The O'Jays
7. A Real Mother For Ya . . . Johnny Guitar Watson
8. Marvin Gaye at the London Palladium
9. Slave
10. Teddy Pendergrass

Dr. Henderson operates with trumpet

By Frederick I. Douglass

Watch out Miles Davis and Freddie Hubbard. There is yet another killer trumpeter on the international jazz scene.

His name is Eddie Henderson and he gave up a promising career as a doctor to become a full time jazz artist. And can Dr. Eddie Henderson operate with his horn?:)?

Why the man is highly skilled at performing frontal lobotomies on his patients while performing mental surgery on them with his golden horn. Henderson was lured away from the medical profession by keyboard wizard Herbie Hancock who featured the man's trumpet fireworks on albums such as "Mwandishi," "Crossings," "Sextant," and the soundtrack to the flick every black man should see, namely "The Spook Who Sat By the Door."

While Henderson got down as he rebounded the sounds on his earlier albums "Realization," "Inside Out," "Sunburst" and "Heritage," none of these albums allow Henderson to achieve the totally musical mastery that can be heard on his new Capitol label LP "Coming Through."

I was cruising down the Pennsylvania Turnpike toward B-More when I first heard Henderson wail on the danceable "Return to the Source." At the time I didn't know who I was listening to because I caught the jam in medias res. I immediately recognized the distinctive basophonics of Paul Jackson who was laying down a granite foundation sturdier than the Rock of Gibraltar.

EDDIE HENDERSON

When Henderson soloed I first thought he was Miles, perhaps even Freddie Hubbard with a smattering of Donald Byrd thrown in.

After listening more closely, I realized that I was hearing some new revolutionary, space age jams from slickaphonic trumpeter Eddie Henderson. The man shook up all brass players when they heard him belt out "Gazzy," "Explodition," and "Kumquat Kids" on the "Sunburst " album.

When the announcer came back on he confirmed that I was listening to Eddie Henderson and that the name of the album was "Coming Through." The cut I was hearing was "Return to the Source" which is referred to as "Source" on the LP cover.

The jam's funky beat could make this tune popular in the hipper discos where people want to groove to jazz flavored, but danceable music. Paul Jackson's bass can be heard throbbing and pulsating in the background while Mtume is mammering on the conga drums.

Patrice Rushen can be heard spanking the keyboards as well as playing bass guitar and singing. The lady is really talented. Julian Priester is huffing and puffing on trombone contrapuntal to Lee Ritenour's fleet fingered guitar playing.

But the kicker of the album is a Top-40 potential tune named "The Funk Surgeon" which features Paul Jackson playing a futuristic bass riff similar to the one that Boolsey Collins can be heard screaming maniacally on his instrument on "Psychoticbumpschool" from his "Stretchin' out" LP.

Indeed, the melody of the tune shows that the Parliament - Funkadelic experience is making an impact on the jazz world. This jam could really go places if released as a single backed by "Source." But the people at Capitol will probably just let this album collect dust in the bins without promoting . . . the fat of most jazz albums released in this country.

But Dr. Henderson is only beginning to operate on your minds. Just wait until you hear "Say You Will," yet another jam with Top-40 potential. This number is a smoker that highlights Henderson's scorching approach to playing the trumpet which combines intelligent phrasing with skillful use of silence and appropriately spaced pauses.

Yet that's not all because Henderson does it in a really big way when he gets down on "Morning Song" which features brilliant interaction between the percussive, brass and chordal axes.

The album continues to groove as Henderson eases into "Movin' On," a lighter than air jam that will have you bouncing on a cloud. Eddie Henderson's "Comin' Through" is one of the best efforts I've heard by a trumpet player in the past two years.

Two concerts at Dunbar

A dance concert has been set by the Cultural Arts Project to wind up their Expanded Summer Arts Workshop on Friday, August 12 at 1:00 and 8:00 p.m. at the Dunbar Performing Arts Center on the corner of Orleans Street and Central Avenue.

The production will include works which range from the Romantic Classical of "The Sleeping Beauty Waltz" with music by Peter Tschaikowsky to the most current jazz and modern as exemplified by "Satan's Dance," choreographed by Tyrone Smith with music by Peter Brown entitled, "Doy You want to Get Funky With Me?"

There will be a piece which was choreographed by the group dancing it called, "Improvisation" which was arranged by Eva Anderson to the Music of Edgar Varese.

A romantic ballet, "French Suite" was choreographed by Annette Holt to the music: "La Petite Rien Suite" by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

An "African Suite" is danced by the group and includes: "Joba," a West African play dance; "Harvest Dance," a celebration of the harvest in West Africa, and "Samba," a West African social dance.

KAREN BROWN and MARCIA PURNELL

John Taylor choreographs two pieces: "War is Coming" with music by S. Allen and the piece, "Carnival" with "Was A Dog A Doughnut" by Cat Stevens and "Let the Children Play" by Santana comprising the music.

Orville Johnson presents his piece, "Dance for Four" with music by Horace Silver.

This seasonal mini-festival is presented to the public by the Urban Services Agency Cultural Arts Project.

TV Notes

By Vanessa Johnson

Friday Aug. 12

Mike Douglas: Red Skelton, Vincent Price, Bill Macy and Deniece Williams, 4:30-6:00 p.m.-ABC

Sanford and Son: When Lamont comes up with tickets to a B.B. King concert, aspiring song writer Fred gleefully plans to peddle his new material backstage. 8:00-8:30 p.m.-NBC.

Donny and Marie: Guests are Bob Hope, Ted Knight and the Harlem Globetrotters. 8:00-9:00 p.m.-ABC.

Chico and the Man: A high school crush has a late blossoming as Chico is reunited with a former cheerleader, whose tomboy daughter meanwhile discovers common cause with Ed. 8:30-9:00 p.m.-NBC.

Bill Lane in Hollywood

That Richard Pryor is a busy, busy man. Not only will he have an NBC-TV variety show next season, he'll also play the title role in the movie, "The Wiz." Also cast are Diana Ross as Dorothy, Lena Horne as Glinda, the Good With; Michale Jackson as the Scarecrow; Ted Ross as the Cowardly Lion, and Mabel King as the Wicked Witch. Shooting starts in New York Sept. 30 under the direction of Sidney Lumet, Lena Horne's son-in-law.

The First Balck American Film Festival will be held in NYC, October 29 through November 19. Deadline for submission of films in September 16. Inquires should be addressed to: The Film Seclection Committee, The First Black American Film Festival, 41 Union Square, New York, N.Y. 10003; (212) 255-2202.

Rep. John Conyers (D., Mich.), has accepted the chairmanship of the Associate Membership Committee of the Institute of Jazz Studies, an archival collection housed on the Newark (N.J.) campus of Rutgers University. Others include Senator S.I. Hayakawa (R., Calif), Rep Frak Thompason (D., N.J.), UN Ambassador Andrew. Young and writers James Baldwin, Charles Gordone and Ron Milner.

WABC-TV is the NYC outlet of ABC now the dominating network in radio and Television which recently issued info on some of its top shows, local and national, featured was the award-winning "Like It Is," the longest running and the first of the black-oriented public programs to run on commercial TV in the NYC metropolitan area. It first aired in 1968, co-hosted by actor Robert Hooks and news reporter Gil Noble. Noble continues with weekly show as producer-host.

Poitier-Cosby

Clean as whistle... ... crooked as corkscrew!

HOLLYWOOD — They are back and they are all cleaned up. Sidney Poitier is wearing a vested suit and monogrammed shirts. Bill Cosby is clean shaven and even turns up in a striped velvet tuxedo when they go out to see a concert by the Dance Theatre of Harlem.

Those intrepid laugh merchants who set moviegoers to laughing in "Uptown Saturday Night" and repeated the ribaldry with "Let's Do It Again" have gotten a new game together. Though crooks, frankly, they could be called reluctant Robin Hoods since they rob the rich without intent of giving to the poor — temporarily.

Their newest caper is titled "A Piece of the Action" to be released by Warner Bros in October and certain to mark another milestone in entertainment for film fans aged eight to eighty.

Significantly, "A Piece of the Action" is not a sequel to the pair of hit movies that introduced Poitier and Cosby as the world's newest cinematic comedy team. While just as fast-paced, funny and full of surprises, "A Piece of the Action" moves up several notches in dramatic content and intent, apparently in answer to public demand for movies that combine relevance with ribaldry.

According to Poitier, who directs as well as stars, it has been his intent to make a film which "Deals with poignant subjects of the day with comedic overtones." A noble purpose indeed.

Thus "A Piece of the Action" deals with crime and countercrime, bridging the generation gap and human survival in a megaloplis while the reluctant Robin Hoods are involved in hilarious confrontation with a passel of underprivileged youngsters. It brings a lot of fresh, new faces to movie screens in doing so.

Bill Cosby and Sidney Poitier

Half a dozen seasoned young actors, including Ernest Thomas from cast of TV's "What's Happening" and Edward Love from the Broadway cast of "The Wiz, Eric Laneuville and Bryant O'Dell, New York-born Sheryl Lee Ralph and Dianne Dixon 20-odd other young newcomers in the cast.

Bolstering them all are Poitier and Cosby's co-stars James Earl Jones, Denise Nicholas, Hope Clarke, Tracy Reed and Titos Vandis, with Francis Foster, Jason Evers, Marc Lawrence also starring, and J'Net DuBois from the cast of TV's "Good Time" in a special role as Aunt Nellie.

Based on a screenplay by Charles Blackwell and Timothy March, "A Piece of the Action" is produced by Mel Tucker. Kris Keiser is associate producer.

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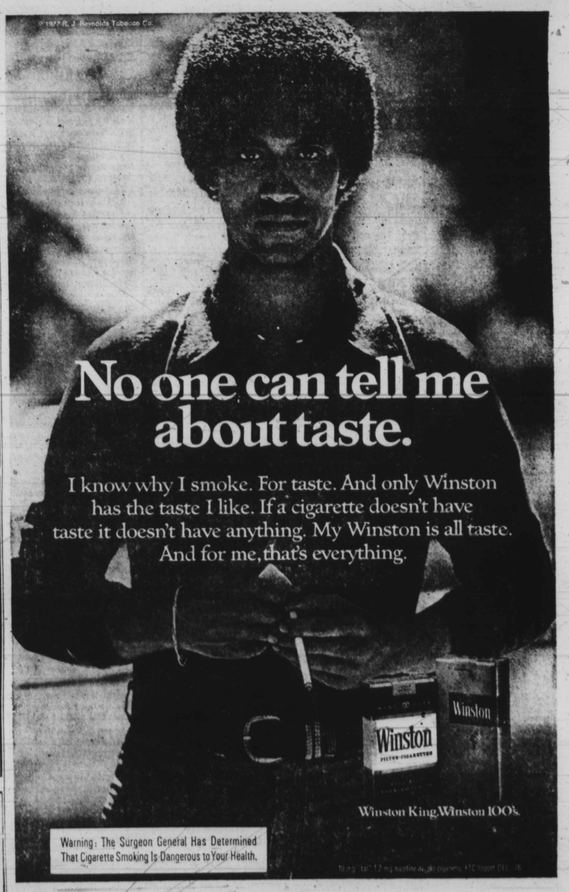
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