A new kind of Christmas book

'The Star That Could Not Play'

By Ida Peters

What can black parents do to build positive images in their children?

What can teachers and parents do about images and values being taught our children through literature and educational materials?

Every year pre schoolers act out various meaningless Christmas plays which do not help our children's minds grow strong and stay healthy.

"The Star That Could 'Not Play' by OyamO, illustrated by Alex Oliver is a deeply beautiful story easily converted to a play and highly recommended for Christmas giving and a sure fire bet to start your young child reading.

OyamO Ujamaa, Inc. was formed by parents, teachers and artists and makes it home base at 858 E. 216th St., NYC or 3020 Cromwell Drive, Lorain, Ohio.

The book is 14 inches deep by 11 inches wide and is eight pages with beautiful illustrations and big print.

It tells the story of when the world was made and there was one black man and one black woman called Sun and Moon and they came from "Great Black Mystery".

As the children stars played one little boy, named "Always Watching" did not know how to play.

Unhappy he ran away. He then meets "Always Frightened", "Always Sleepy" and "Always Hungry".

He also meets River and "Always Cold". Papa Sun and Mama Sun look for him and finally he prays to "Great Black Mystery" and hears "Big Drum".

Little Star finally finds his way home with a new name "Storyteller" and a new usefulness at home.

Youngsters will enjoy the illustrations because they get tired of reading books with all white characters.

OyamO is best known as a playwright, having had several of his plays performed off-Broadway and in Harlem, his own community. His work has been included in anthologies by Ron Millner, Woody King and Ed Bullins. A father of three, in 1972 he received a Rockefeller Foundation playwright residency and was an O'Neill Playwright.

Alex Oliver is also the father of three sons and is a graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design. He is art supervisor of Young and Rubicon Advertising Agency.

What's Happening

Links Benefit at Garland

More than 300 Links and friends turned out in the rain Thursday night to support the Links, Inc. at their charity benefit at the Garland Dinner Theatre in Columbia.

The play "Impolite Comedy" by Joseph Hayes and directed by Robert Lewis Karlin is so poorly acted and unfunny and not up to the standards of previous dinner shows at the Garland. But this is one woman's opinion.

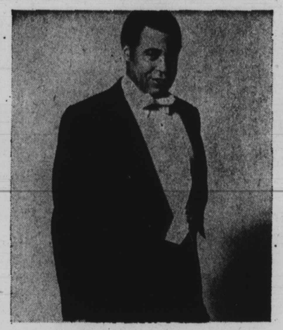
The food was excellent and was especially pleased to see those handsome black chefs in white... and so many of them and so courteous.

Mrs. William Hayes (Vera) is president of the Links and was recently elected Basileus of the Columbia AKA's. Mrs. H. Garland Chissell was chairman of the fundraiser. Members of the committee included Mesdames Simon Carter, David Glenn, Charles Howard, Charles Michael, Donald Patterson, Nathan Pitts, Ada Weaver and William Watts.

Other members of the group are Mesdames Maurice Adams, Frederick Adams, Albert Burell, J. Hirman Butler, Lionel A. Desbordes, Earlie Francis, James Griffin.

Also, Medames Bernard Harris, Mary Stephens Harris, William Hayes, Charles E. Hicks, III, Talmadge Hill, Thomas Jones, Albert LaForest, James Murphy, Glenford Mussenden, Lester Norris, Theodore Phifer, Bruce Russell, George Russell, Oscar Simpkins and Louis Weaver.

The art gallery at the Carl Murphy Fine Arts Center at organ State University will present an exhibition, "Cross Section of the Gallery of Art Collection," Dec. 4 through May 8. A preview will be held Sat. Dec. 3, at 3 p.m. and the public is invited to attend. The Pieriams hold black tie reception Sunday.



James Earl Jones plays the Mechanic Theatre in "Robeson" starting Jan. 10.

Morgan Choir Christmas concert

The Morgan State University Choir, under the direction of Nathan Carter, assisted by members of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, will be presented in its annual Christmas Concert on Sunday evening, Dec. 11 at 8:15 p.m. in Murphy Auditorium on the south campus. Admission is free and everyone is invited to attend.

Initiating this season, the choir journeyed to New York City at the invitation of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, to participate in the week long celebration of music by Black Composers.

Following their performance with the orchestra, the nation's critics were unanimous in their praise of the singers — prompting John Quinn of the Detroit Free Press to describe the group as "one of the finest college choral groups I have ever heard."

Recently, the choir returned to New York to present a full concert in Harlem. In between these New York engagements, the group has already presented two full length concerts and made numerous appearances in the Baltimore area.

Recorded Christmas Music by the choir has just been released by the Book-of-the-Month-Club — Classic Records Division under the title "College Choirs at Christmas." As a complement the Book-of-the-Month Recording, a new choir album is available from the university bearing the title, "Black Composers — Music of Praise." This record contains yuletide music from the Book-of-the-Month production along with other music suited for listening throughout the year. For purchase or further information, call (301) 444-3286

AFRO teen critic talks on

'Semi-Tough'

By Marvin Pittman
Walbrook High School

It's hard to put the director of "Semi-Tough," Michael Ritchie in any particular category.

He's done four films previous to this one and only one of these "Smile" lost money. His films are aimed at the mass market but they still show intelligence, know how and feeling.

"Smile" was the only one of his previous films that was not a star vehicle, because it wasn't a star vehicle, it turned out to be his best film.

"Semi-Tough" is a star vehicle (three of them if you please) and this proves to be his worst film.

It's a pity "Semi-Tough" turned out so bad because it has tremendous possibilities. Had it been a straight comedy it would have succeeded but the film gets bogged down in some type of psychological mumbo-jumbo called "It" and this turns all the smiling faces in the audience to drowsy ones.

Burt Reynolds, Kris Kristofferson and Jill Clayburgh star. These three actors are involved in a close three-way friendship with Clayburgh and Kristofferson romantically inclined.

Didn't Reynolds and Gene Hackman have this same type of relationship with Liza Minnelli in "Lucky Lady"? In this one, Minnelli was close to both men. So much for Hollywood's originality.

For people who see this film you're in for a slight treat. Burt Reynolds acts for a change but Kristofferson doesn't. He's miscast in a role that seems better suited for James Caan. Luckily, Jill Clayburgh and Roger E. Mosely ("Leadbelly") walk off (almost effortlessly) with their respective scenes. Carl Weathers, "Rocky" is also featured.

The comedy in "Semi-Tough" is a delightful, but one only wishes there could be more of it.

ENJOY

George Benson at Painters Mill this weekend.

Bill Withers at Painters Mill this weekend.

The Morgan State University music department will present Kenneth A. Keeling, clarinetist, in a faculty recital Sunday, Dec. 4 at 3:30 p.m. in the Carl Murphy Fine Arts Center. The public is invited to attend the free concert.

Dr. Keeling is the chairperson of the university's music department, and he has made appearances along the east coast and throughout the midwest. He will be accompanied by Elaine Cipriano and Patricia Springer, pianists. Betty Malkus, mezzo-soprano, will also perform.

Lou Rawls sings "Lady Love" on the "Dinah" show, Dec. 2.

Barry White on "Soul Train" Saturday

Top R&B Albums

1 In Full Bloom
Rose Royce
2 Live
The Commodores
3 Feelin Bitchy
Millie Jackson
4 Baby It's Me
Diana Ross
5 Reach For It
George Duke
6 Odyssey
7 Action
The Blackbryds
8 Barry White Sings For Someone You Love
9 Turnin' On
High Energy
0 Come Go With Us
Pockets

Baltimore's own Bill Elliott is back in this country from France where he has been doing concert tours. He spent Thanksgiving with his sister LaFatha and her husband Henry Mancini. They all long distanced with mother Mrs. Ann Doty, a Medical technician at Forest Haven Nursing Home. They Thanksgivened with son Chapple Elliott and wife, Rosie Lee Hooks,

arena players...

IF YOU HAVEN'T HEARD OF US

YOU WILL!

IT'S OUR SILVER ANNIVERSARY WITH TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF PRODUCTIONS BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 30, 1977

arena playhouse

IF YOU HAVEN'T VISITED US

YOU WILL!

WE'RE at 801 McCULLOH STREET between OR-CHARD and BIDDLE in Downtown Baltimore

WE WANT TO MEET YOU AND WE WILL!

Send us your name, address etc. for our mailing list.

NAME
DDRESS
CITY
STATE
ZIP

"Wise, winning and wonderful... a piece of pure pleasure."
Rona Barrett, ABC TV

A PIECE OF THE ACTION
A delightfully delicious dilemma!
HELD OVER! 9th GREAT WEEK!

CHARLES 1711 N. Charles St. 685-7773
NEW 202 Park Ave. 727-7108
$1.50 TILL 12:30 P.M. EVERY DAY EXCEPT SUNDAY

THE UNMARRIEDS

The Pros and Cons of "Shacking Up"

ON SALE NOW

At Your Newsstand or send $1.25 to EBONY, 820 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60605

7 HOURS! ALL NIGHT SHOW!
BLACULA
"THE CHINESE CONNECTION"
DEAD JOURNEY
Begins at Midnight!
FRI. & SAT. ONLY
NEW

Enoch Pratt

Fri., Dec. 2
Patterson Park Branch: Film — "The Fur Coat Club," 3:15 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 3
Central Library, Children's Department: Film — "Wreck Raisers," 2 p.m.
"Girl Shy," film at the Central Pratt Library 3 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 4
Ninth Annual Annis J. Duff Lecture. Guest speaker: William W. Warner, author of "Beautiful Swimmers" and 1977 Pulitzer Prize winner, at the Central Pratt Library, 3 p.m.

Mon., Dec. 5
"The Bedded Daddy in the Whole World," film at the Pratt Library's Kirk Avenue Center, at 4 p.m.

Tues., Dec. 6
"Ten Who Dared: Charles Doughty," film at the Central Pratt Library, 2 p.m.

Thurs., Dec. 8
"Lorraine Hansberry: The Black Experience in the Creation of Drama," film at the Pratt Library's Walbrook Branch, 6 p.m.

"PLEASURE PLANTATION"
PLUS
"SWEET TRASH"
NORTH AVE. CINEMA
NORTH & CHARLES 337-3335
FIRST SHOW STARTS AT 10 A.M. MON. — SAT.
1:00 PM ON SUNDAY

culture and involves the children in the telling of stores about Black people, where they come from, and how they came to the United States. Children use African properties in their play.

Enoch Pratt provides a program of Afro-American stories, songs and games for the Kennedy Center's free Children's Arts Series on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 2 and 3. The performances are recommended for children from kindergarten through fourth grade.

"Afro-American Story Telling" is an introduction to Black

Are black movies facing trouble in Hollywood?

By Ida Peters

"Black ain't beautiful out in Hollywood these days or even fashionable," say insiders at major studios in the wake of the hornet's nest stirred up by filmland commentator Rona Barrett

A week ago she announced on her ABC-TV network program "Good Morning America" that major film studios have entered into a tacit agreement to cease making movies featuring blacks.

In making the startling statement to a nation-wide audience, the saccharine-voiced movieland newswoman declared that Hollywood's largest filmmaker, Universal Studios, has decided "to abandon all future black projects".

Bill Lane of the World News Syndicate reports that Universal quickly denied the Barrett allegation.

Vincent Tubbs for Warner Brothers also denied the allegation saying," We have a number of projects starring black principals in the works.

Bob Goodfried of Paramount Pictures and Jake McKinney of AIP could not be reached over the weekend.

An effort to reach Universal's black publicist, newsman Paul Gardner, disclosed he is no longer employed there.

The AFRO is particularly interested in a statement from Paramount.

A month ago we reported that the movie "Com-Tac-303," starring Billy Dee Williams and Henry Fonda, produced by William Trowbridge, husband of Rona Barrett, had ceased production and run out of money.

From here, the report by Rona Barrett looks like a back-handed slap at movie makers for failing to pick up distribution of her husband's film.

Reports reaching the AFRO is that Billy Dee Williams got his money up front and that Paramount Pictures is supposed to have backed out of a distribution deal, which was denied earlier by Bob Goodfried.

"Com-Tac-303" is supposed to deal with the 32nd Flight Battalion and the 99th Pursuit Squardron headed by Benjamin O. Davis Jr.

The plot as leaked to outsiders, deals with the Italian woman and a black officer which was frowned on by former officers.

And, members of the 99th, which was based at Tuskegee, also were not too happy about the film.

Miss Barrett opened her early-morning TV commentary with these direct words:

"Attention, black Americans. The recent gains that have been made in terms of portraying the black experience on the big screen seems now to be a thing of the past."

Then she began detailing her revelations:

"There is currently an unofficial, tacit agreement among studio executives that movies focusing on black people will be ignored. Universal Studios, which produced "Car Wash," and "Which Way is Up?" and now has 'The Wiz' in production, has reportedly decided to abandon all future black projects."

The camera then cut to a photo of Sidney Poitier, whose movie "A Piece of The Action" is now showing nationwide.

Miss Barrett explained that "part of the problem is that overseas boxoffice potential of movies starring black actors is nil," observing that "where other movies can expect 50 per cent of their earnings to come from Europe and Asia, films with black actors in leading roles can expect only 10 per cent."

She said Italy, France and Germany show almost no black films, and that Asia and the Arab world often ignore them completely, adding that "Africa, which one might think would be an ideal market, is often out of bounds due to political unrest."

Black movies, she stated, must earn all of their dollars in the U.S. and Canada, "and the audience, according to the boxoffice figures, just is not there."

Cross-over films with black actors that attract white audiences she averred, are also a thing of the past. Then she added icily, "The only way to change studio executives' minds is at the box office. Prejudice, in thier case, is only dollar-deep."

Sid Sheinberg, MCA, Inc. president and chief operating executive at Universal, exploded in denying the Barrett disclosures.

"It is totally baseless," he contended. "I plan to sue Rona Barrett personally as well as corporately. She is charging us with a conspiracy not to make movies about black people. I have no idea where she got such crazy information!"

Universal is now making a movie called "The Wiz," said Sheinberg, "and it's costing us over 17 million dollars. It's also not true that films featuring blacks lose money overseas. "Car Wash" is going to do four million dollars outside this country.

"I admit films with black casts do not do extraordinarily well in foreign markets, but so what? The woman does not know what she's talking about."

Sheinberg said he would not call "The Wiz" a "black" picture, exclaiming, "I don't know what a black picture is."

He also took issue with an earlier Barrett statement that "The Wiz," directed by Lena Horne son-in-law Sidney Lumet, was running over its budget. "It's a lie," he said.

But Charley Powell, vice-president of advertising and publicity at Universal, said in a separate statement that it was true "The Wiz" was over budget and behind schedule.

"We make no bones about its going over budget," said Powell. "But it will be a runaway film at the boxoffice. It is an event film, however, not a black picture."

"The Wiz," which began filming amid complaints it was not employing black technicians, stars Diana Ross, Michael Jackson, Richard Pryor, Nipsey Russell and Lena Horne.

Universal is filming it in cooperation with Motown.

As to the Barrett report, Powell said "Her story is not true. We have not dropped one black project, black or white. Isn't Richard Pryor black? We have three more pictures with him to do."

But neither Powell nor Sheinberg commented on why for the first time in 10 years current Hollywood production news does not list a number of theatre films in preparation featuring black stars.

Vincent Tubbs, director of Community Relations for Warner Brothers stated," We have a number of project starring black principals in the works.

"One of the more important ones, starring Bill Cosby, is "Sitting Pretty," based on book by black author Al Young of San Francisco.

...and all that Jazz

By Bob Matthews

Well, it happened again. One of the most spectacular concerts of the season, and a crowd so small you could roll a bowling ball through the hall without hitting anyone.

Maybe the weather can be blamed — or maybe the Colt game on TV, but jazz fans should be wise enough to know that the Left Bank Jazz Society never puts on a bad show.

But be of good cheer, this time there is a reprieve.

On hand at the Sunday concert was a group of technicians from the Community College of Baltimore radio station, WBJC-FM, who were taping the entire proceeding.

It will be aired early next year on the "Jazz Alive" series which airs on WBJC at 11 p.m. Saturday nights. We'll keep you posted as to the date just as soon as National Public Radio publishes a schedule.

The artist? Though you'd never ask. 'Twas the Ted Curson sextet, and if the name isn't familiar, it will be.

The first tune indicated from whom Curson adapted his style. And — he made no bones about the fact that Clifford Brown was his idol.

Take it from me — that man did blow that horn. Beginning with a tune called "Graft and Corruption," in 6-8 times no less, Curson served notice on the Freddie Hubbards and Woody Shaws that here is a horn to be reckoned with.

Curson also had a sense of humor. At one point, he confessed he had to censor his patter because the concert was being taped. He did point out however: "Here's a song you don't hear too much, cause it's hard as hell to play."

Turned out that the tune was "I Didn't Know What Time It Was."

Besides regulation trumpet, Curson played flugelhorn and piccolo trumpet. In fact, the sextet did a tune featuring the piccolo trumpet, "Funky Blue Piccolo," which was in ¾ time.

Nick Brignola was on saxes. Note the plural, for Nick alternated between baritone, soprano, tenor and saxcello.

His was a hard-driving mainstream performance, complete with slap-tonguing. Oddly enough, the style was reminiscent of the yakity sax-type play of Boots Randolph. Difference being — Nick swung.

Beside Jeff Williams on drums, there was Montego Joe on percussion. Besides being fluid on the conga drums and timbales, Joe actually played a triangle — that's right — a triangle, and it all fit in perfectly.

Next week: The Don Patterson quartet, featuring Richie Cole, Vic Juris and Eddie Gladden. No superstar names, but check Rickie's playing against that of Phil Woods, Lee Konitz and even Paul Desmond.

You Can Win $$ Dollars IN THE AFRO IN YOUR HOME CONTEST

MR. FRO WITH DOUGH

WILL PAY YOU $10.00 WHEN HE FINDS THE AFRO IN YOUR HOME

• HE MAY CALL YOU ON THE PHONE
• HE MAY VISIT YOU IN PERSON

Mr. Fro with Dough wants to pay you $ $ to have the AFRO-In-Your-Home. Here's how: —

Mr. Fro and his Fromobile travel the streets of Baltimore every Wednesday and Saturday. When he stops in your area and you bring your current AFRO to the Fromobile, you or one of your neighbors will be a lucky winner.

The AFRO lucky number machine will determine the $10-winner in your neighborhood.

The lucky winner will also have a chance to win $20.00 or $100.00 by hitting their lucky number on the AFRO Lottery Calendar.

Ms. Fro calls on the phone

Additionally, Ms. Fro picks names at random from the telephone book and from Mr. Fro coupons that are mailed to the AFRO to see if you have the AFRO in Your Home. If Ms. Fro finds that you have the AFRO in your home, you win $10.00 and will also have a chance to increase your winnings to $20.00 or $100.00 by hitting your lucky number.

Mr. Fro also gives AFRO readers AFRO Tee Shirts and AFRO Lottery Number Calendars as consolation prizes.

★ You can be a $100.00 winner

FILL OUT AND MAIL TO: AFRO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS 628 N. EUTAW ST.

I WOULD LIKE MR. FRO WITH DOUGH TO CALL OR VISIT ME IN THE AFRO IN YOUR HOME CONTEST

NAME
ADDRESS
PHONE

It Pays to Read the AFRO

BLACK, PROUD, AND MAKING IT.

They don't make headlines. They're seldom seen on the evening news. Who are They? well, They are Us. The everyday man who works hard, and takes pride in the fact that he is making it on his own. Join reporter Curt Anderson for a five-part special report on what it's like to be Black, Proud and Making It.

Starts Monday 6pm

ACTION NEWS 11

THE LEFT BANK JAZZ SOCIETY
PRESENTS
JAZZ CONCERT EVERY SUNDAY
5 to 9 P.M.
THE FAMOUS BALLROOM
1717 N. CHARLES ST.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1977
DON PATTERSON
RICHIE COLE
QUARTET

MACEO'S
Restaurant — Cocktail — Caterer
1926 N. Monroe Street
For reservation call 523-3117
Make reservations for holiday parties
20-40 persons 3 hour-cocktail 1 hour-buffet $12.50.
Maceo's Special Holiday Party
Monday, December 26 - 4-8:00 p.m.
All You Can Eat And Drink $8.00 per person
New Year's Eve
No cover, No Minimum,
Continuous Buffet, Favors, Disco Music

By Vanessa Johnson

TV watching

FRIDAY

Evening Magazine: A profile of the Baltimore singing group Truth; a visit to No Fish Today, a nightspot in downtown Baltimore; information on the Peabody Institute concert series. 7:30-8:00 p.m. Channel 13.

CPO Sharkey: Sharkey considers giving Natalie the old heave-ho when his girl friend of eight years decides its time to get married. 8:00-8:30 p.m. NBC.

Donny & Marie: Milton Berle, Charo and the Sylvers are the guests tonight. 8:00-9:00 p.m. ABC.

Chico and the Man: Raoul's flamboyant aunt returns for a visit and promptly converts Ed Brown's garage into Monsieur Brown's Car Boutique complete with a chandelier. 8:30-9:00 p.m. NBC.

Midnight Special: Performing are guest hostess Diana Ross, with the Commodores, Jermaine Jackson, Tata Vega and comedian Franklyn Ajaye. 1:00-2:30 a.m. NBC.

Disco 77: Latimore and the Manhattans join host Walter Murphy. 1:15-1:45 a.m. Channel 2.

SATURDAY

Fat Albert: The gang meets Flora, a new classmate with an unhappy home life, her parents do not get along. 12:30-1:00 p.m. CBS.

Soul Train: Don Cornelius, the genial host-producer of television musical dance show, Soul Train, broke precedent and filmed today's show at the home of guest stars Barry White and his wife, Glodean, one third of the Love Unlimited trio. 1:30-2:30 p.m. Channel 11.

Movie: "Stormy Weather," fine all black backstage musical, without condescension or stereotypes about a struggling tap dancer (Bill Robinson) and his singing star lady love (Lena Horne) with Cab Calloway, his orchestra and Fats Waller. 8:00-9:35 p.m. Channel 5.

The Jeffersons: George actually encourages Florence to insult him after noticing how much her biting wit amuses a visiting big shot, (Thalmus Rasulala). 9:00-9:30 p.m. CBS.

SUNDAY

Santa Claus is Coming to Town: This cartoon begins with Tanta Kringle finding an abandoned baby she names Kris. 5:00-6:00 p.m. Channel 13.

Las Vegas Entertainment Awards: Honoring the year's best Las Vegas performers, Tina Turner, Seals and Croft, Donna Fargo and the Emotions are among the guests performing. 9:00-11:00 p.m. NBC.

TV-RADIO TUBES
COMPLETE LINE OF PHONOGRAPH NEEDLES
$2.00 UP (TUBES CHECKED FREE)
WE REPAIR PORTABLE TV'S
RELAY ELECTRONICS
311 S. BROADWAY • PHONE 675-0559
Open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.—Sat. till 7 CLOSED THURSDAY

IBM Presents Movies to Remember

Outstanding films, brought to you with only one commercial interruption.

Dec. 3: Stormy Weather

Lena Horne and Bill "Bojangles" Robinson star in this entertaining musical filled with songs, dances and the big bands of the Forties.

8 PM Channel 5

Coming attractions: Dec. 10, Show Boat; Dec. 17, It's a Wonderful Life.

IBM.