'Queen' Aretha marries 'Prince' Glynn in $10,000 satin, silk, lace and mink gown!

'Ain't Nothing Like the Real Thing'

You remember that 1974 hit of the "Queen of Soul" Aretha Franklin . . . "Ain't Nothing Like the Real Thing?

Well! When Aretha Franklin married her "Prince" Glynn Turman in a traditional wedding in her father's New Bethel Baptist Church in Detroit . . . her wedding gown had an estimated value of $10,000.

Created by black designer Ruth West of Los Angeles it was in eggshell satin with silk appliqued lace and encrusted with 17,500 seed pearls . . . and trimmed in mink. It had a detachable seven - foot train and matching hat.

The engagement and wedding rings were hammered gold with ten diamonds.

Instead of the traditional wedding march, bridemaid Carolyn Franklin, sister of the bride sang a new song, her own creation and a gift to the bride, "I Take This Walk With You Down Life's Avenue."

During the ceremony the Four Tops sang "Isn't She Lovely," and "Ain't No Woman Like The One I Got."

All of Detroit had an opportunity to share in the Franklin - Turman wedding.

An announcement was made on a radio broadcast extending an invitation to the general public and the New Bethel, as a result, was filled to capacity of 2,000 and almost the same number was restrained by police barricades outside.

Because Stevie Wonder was expected, the ceremony was delayed almost an hour. When the ceremony did get underway, the bride's father, the Rev. C. L. Franklin completed the ceremony in 13 minutes.

The church was decorated by florist Ed Brazelton in white Chrysanthemums on cherub urns. The bridemaids carried an arrangement of Cymbidium Orchids, to highlight their gowns of yellow and turquoise chiffon.

Matron of Honor was Erma Dupree (wife of guitarist Cornell Dupree). She wore a peach gown designed by Jewel Richards of Saks in Beverly Hills.

Bridal attendants were Noreen Woods, vice - president, Atlantic Records; Ruth Bowen, Renaissance Booking Agency; Vanetta Fields, Brenda Corbett and Margaret Branch, Aretha's back - up singers.

Also bridemaids were Linda Brown of New York; Earlene Franklin, Erma Franklin (the bride's older sister; Sabrina Garrett (niece of the bride) and Doris Williams.

Kecalf Cunningham, Aretha's youngest son, 8, was the ring bearer; his cousin Cristal Franklin, 4, was flower girl.

Best man for Glynn Turman was artist Scott Farrington of New York. Other groomsmen included Louis Gossett Jr. and playwright Ron Milner.

Rounding out the roster chosen by the bridegroom was Wyman Turman Jr., brother of the bridegroom, Chicago; another brother, Charles Turman, of New York; William Turman, a cousin, from Atlanta; Clarence and Edward Franklin, sons of the bride; Jason Bernard, of Albuquerque, New Mexico, James Robinson, and, from Los Angeles, Bernard Hicks, and Mason, an actor.

It was the 36 - year -old bride's second marriage. She has four children. Her brother, Cecil Franklin escorted her to the altar.

The 32 - year - old bridegroom, father of three was making his third trip to the altar.

The family will live in California; either in Aretha's home in Encino or Glynn's home in Malibu.

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THRIRD KIND (PG) — About UFO's and other worlds contacting us. Splendid sound effects. Melinda Dillion as the terrified mother of Cary Guffy, a 4 - year - old kidnapped by visitors from another planet. Richard Dreyfus is the power company trouble shooter who also witnesses the night visitors and stumbles on the government trying to make contact with music.

WHICH WAY IS UP? Starring Richard Pryor as a triple threat. Audiences find it hilarious. Pryor plays a beleagurered farm worker, a farm worker randy old father and a hypocritical preacher. Stars include Lonette McKee, Margaret Avery, Morgan Woodward and Marilyn Coleman.

Movies

By Ida Peters
Entertainment Editor

'Youngblood'

Handsome, young Bryan O'Dell, in his first starring part, essays the title role in American International Pictures' taut dramatic release, "Youngblood," now playing area theatres.

A semi - regular performer on the hit television series, "What's Happening," Bryan shares star billing with Lawrence - Hilton Jacobs, star of AIP's 8th film, "Cooley High" and regular on the popular television series, "Welcome Back, Kotter," and vivacious Ren Woods, fresh from her smash stage triumph in the musical, "The Wiz," and the Emmy Award winning television mini - series, "Roots."

Prior to capturing the "Youngblood" role, O'Dell was featured in Sidney Poitier's acclaimed comedy film, "A Piece of the Action."

In "Youngblood," Bryan portrays a sensitive teenager struggling to overcome the handicaps of growing up in a ghetto — which presents a new acting challenge in his growing career.

The film features an original musical score, composed and performed by the rock group, WAR.

Directed by Noel Nosseck and produced by Nick Grillo and Alan Riche, "Youngblood" was written by Paul Carter Harrison. Hal DeWindt was associate producer.

Bryan O'Dell

'Pretty Baby'

The closing of a red light district in New Orleans during the beginning of World War I and the overall human conditions at the time, especially prostitution among very young girls this is the theme of Paramount's major new movie, "Pretty Baby."

Music industry Jerry Wexler who is an authority on the evolvement of New Orleans produced the movie soundtrack. The movie contains 19 songs including the early blues work of Jelly Roll Morton, rags by Scott Joplin and several pop tunes from the era. Included also the New Orleans Ragtime Orchestra and an impromptu band of New Orleans musicians with pianist Bob Greene to perform the pop tunes and the title track.

'Coming Home'

Jerome Hellman's "Coming Home" stars Jane Fonda, Jon Voight and Bruce Dern opening area theatres next week.

It's a melodrama about the affair between an officer's wife and a paraplegic, Vietnam veteran.

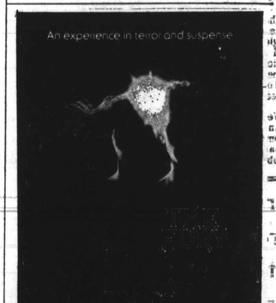
Set in California at the height of the Tet Offensive, Jane Fonda as the young officer's wife and Jon Voight as a wounded veteran become involved in an intimate and unexpected love affair, reflecting the change and adjustments the conflict brought into their lives.

Co - stars Robert Carradine and Penelope Milford.

'The Medusa Touch'

Another product of the mind - control genre, "Carrie," "The Fury," "The Medusa Touch" stars Richard Burton.

He's a man possessed with a telekinetic mental force by which he is able to will deaths, accidents, and destructive events of all kinds. Co - stars Lee Remick. (PG)



Theatre review

Packed houses see Arena plays

By Percy Thomas

Black theatre is alive in Baltimore!

The four one-act plays currently playing at the Arena Playhouse stand as living proof. "Aria Da Capo," by Edna St. Vincent Millay, directed by June Thorne heads the show bill with "The Sandbox," by Edward Albee and directed by Vonnie Covington. "Contribution" written by Ted Shine is directed by Robert Russell, and the "Everlasting Arm" by Fai Walker Davis, directed by Harvey Denmark, completes the foursome.

The story line of the first play "Aria Da Capo" is clear. People get so intensely involved in the games they play, they sometimes forget that it is a game. Such is the case in this play. Thyrisis played by Kit Carpenter and Corydon played by Irvin Turner become so involved with the game (the play) that they lose sight of the fact that they are just actors in a scene and murder each wother.

Pierrot (Antonio Carpenter) and Columbine (Penny Johnson) further stress the point by playing their scene while the two dead actors lay at their feet.

This play leaves us with a significant message and that is if the actor plays the part well the audience and the actor will tune out everything except the play.

The play suffers a bit from a rather slow pace. Affected delivery of lines by the actors at times was somewhat disconcerting as well as what appeared to be choreographed movements of the actors. Miss Thorne, in her debut as a director, may have restricted the actors just a little too much.

"The Sandbox" is a very heavy play that transverses the boundaries of life and the stage. The play is a social statement on how the elderly is treated in society. In this play a man and woman appear on a beach; the woman summons a clarinetist and commands him to play. They disappear momentarily returning with an elderly lady in their arms. They drop her in a sandbox, where she begins to prepare for death by covering her body with sand. A tall muscular athlete who has been standing near the sandbox exercising, giving the appearance of being an uninvolved observer, turns out to be intricately involved in the scenario. Lawrence Lowe, Irvin Turner, Kay Waters and June Thorne make up the cast of this very cerebral play.

"Contribution" is one of three short plays written by Ted Shine. In it we see the "generation gap" question being dealt with through the conflict between a grandmother and her grandson. In this play a black grandmother sends her son off to fight for his civil rights by participating in a sit-in. The grandson accuses his grandmother of being behind the times, old fashioned and a "Uncle Tom," because of her detachment from the civil rights movement.

What he fails to realize is that she has her own choice of weapons and it "ain't demonstrating" in a drugstore. Mr. Russell has done a good job directing this very important work. Christine Bryant as the grandmother stole the show and delighted the near capacity house. Other cast members were Jean Hill, and Floyd Gilliam.

The final play of the evening was "The Everlasting Arm." This is a poignant short play that is well written. Eleanor Welch does a fine portrayal of a lonely, dying old woman who has been rejected by her children and left to the tedium of reviewing a photograph album and cleaning house. Bonita Cartwright and Eugene Bullock, play the quarrelsome offsprings. Miss Cartwright is a newcomer to the Arena stage and with time she will certainly emerge as a very talented performer. The Plays will run four consecutive weekends.

—Al Jarreau

(Continued from Page 1)

Last time I caught Jarreau was in New York at the Lincoln Center where a sold - out advance audience gave him standing ovations.

I will assume you'll try to catch the concert since there are two shows, at 7:30 and 11 p.m.

So, be on the lookout for his imitation of drums and cymbals. No kidding. With his voice, this guy can imitate a drum solo that you won't believe until you can see it.

Then, there is his imitation of a guitar and Fender bass. Can you believe it?

On top of that, he's still riding the crest of success from his last album, "Al Jarreau," in which the Dave Brubeck standard, "Take Five" is prominently featured.

Al is a former social worker. He holds a master's degree and was actively pursuing his career on the West Coast. He headed a clinic which was trying to rehabilitate drug addicts.

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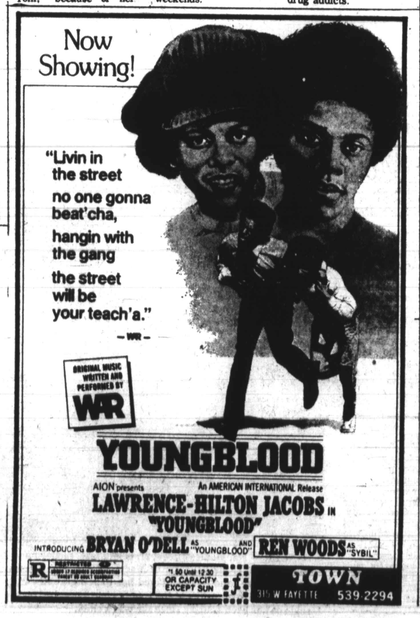

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On the way UP!

Enchantment

By Ida Peters

If you were one of the 15,000 screaming fans at the Capitol Centre last night in Largo. . .you had to meet Enchantment.

They're the opening act for Maze and War. The Detroit - based quintet who call themselves "the second generation of Detroit Soul" . . .appear on stage in floor length green capes with Mandrake - like - Magician collars and their trademark. . .the enchanted frog. . .on the back. Then as the lights go up they conjure up canes and top hats from thin air.

Then they smoothly slide into their first hit single, "Gloria," which sold over a half million copies. . . then "Sunshine", their second hit and on into "It's You That I Need."

We talked to Enchantment. . .Joe Thomas, David Banks, Emanuel Johnson and Bobbi Green...Edgar Clanton had other personal business. . .on the eve of their concert at Largo.

They have been on the road with major acts such as Maze, WAR, Peabo Bryson, Patti LaBelle. . since March 1 and end up their current tour on May 30.

To show what a small world this is. . .Stevie Wonder was lead singer Emanuel Johnson's best friend on the school bus in Detroit when the pair were only eight - years - old.

Smokey Robinson was Edgar Clanton's baby sitter and the Temptations used to rehearse in the living room of their cousin. . .Enchantment's Joe Thomas.

Even though their road tour is taxing. . .they have been all through Mobile, Montgomery, Nashville, Birmingham, Atlanta, Memphis, Houston and Pine Bluff. . .the group is working on new material. Their new single, "If You're Ready, Here It Comes" from their album, "Once Upon A Dream" will be out May 20.

Looks like the group has finally found the magic wand.

Enchantment began when high school student David Banks tricked fellow pupil Emanuel Johnson into joining a new vocal unit. Recalls Johnson, "David told me Berry Gordy was his uncle, and that if I joined the group, we'd all be going on tour in England in two weeks. I fell for it and joined, but the only tour we took was to the basement where we rehearsed."

Enchantment won WCHB's talent contest in 1969 and began to work Detroit's top clubs, then graduated to road dates with such artists like The Four Tops, Little Richard and Eddie Kendricks.

But national recognition eluded them until they met record producer Michael Stokes, who brought them to Roadshow Records and produced a debut LP that has given birth to three top hits.

Capes and enchanted frogs

Freak Frankie, Freakie Lady V at Gordie's

By Frederick I. Douglass

If you are one of the brothers or sisters who works nights, or if you are just looking for something different to do on your lunch hour, the day time disco scene at Gordie's Tower Inn just might be the answer to your prayers.

Located at the corners of Redwood and Eutaw Streets, Gordie's has been a popular downtown nitery since it first opened nearly six years ago. You can drop by any night of the week or weekend and find some serious happenings. The glass dance floor with built - in flashing and color - changing lights is always crowded, the prices are reasonable and the patrons are always well mannered.

Being an astute businessman, Gordon "Gordie" McQuige, a native Baltimorean, decided to capitalize on the thronging hordes of people who come downtown everyday to shop or to work at nearby University Hospital, various stores and factories, as well as locations of the Social Security Administration.

"I was getting a pretty good crowd in here eating their lunch as well as after work for the Happy Hour," states Gordie. "But things were really slow after say 2 p.m. until people came back after work. I started thinking that there must be a lot of people who work at night and don't always have something to do during the day. I wasn't making any money off the jukebox. As a matter of fact, I ended up putting a lot of my own bread into it to keep things moving. Besides, the music on the jukebox would always be behind what was popular on the radio."

"So I decided to hire my man Freak Frankie D to play the latest albums and 45's beginning at 11:00 a.m. up to closing time. On Thursdays and Sundays Freaky Lady V comes in to do her thing on the turntable. The response to this has been fantastic. People come in, order lunch, and have a couple of dances while they are waiting. If you want to keep physically fit, coming in here to dance is better for you than going to the Y or jogging."

"There is an interesting history behind this bar and the one next door. During the 1940's blacks couldn't come in here. The bar next door was known as Syke's Green Grill and was the only bar downtown that allowed black people to come in and sit down. Both of these bars were owned and managed by the same family — one was for whites and the other was for colored people, as they used to say in those days."

"My cook, Mary Jones, who everybody calls Miss Mary worked at that bar for thirty - three years - and then came next door to work for me six years ago when I bought the Tower Inn. She's very knowledgeable about the bar and restaurant business and she has been responsible for a lot of the success that I've had. I was also lucky to find Sunrise to manage the bar for me because he has nearly twenty years of experience in this business. Sunrise is here everyday at the crack of dawn to open up the doors and make sure everything is in order. I couldn't have made it this far without Miss Mary and Sunrise."

Next time you are looking for something different to do during the day or want to go to a place where you can get some fresh cooked, mouth - watering greens, spare ribs, or fried chicken (especially wings), check out the heavy action at Gordie's Tower Inn where you can get it on day or night.

TV Watching

By Vanessa Johnson

Friday

All-Star Anything Goes: Models compete against actors including Harrison Page, Charles Dierop and Dick Gautier. 7:30-8:00 p.m. Channel 11.

CPO Sharkey: Sharkey and Robinson hope to enhance their love lives by taking an apartment off base. 8:30-9:00 p.m. NBC.

Merv Griffin: Guest today are Chuck Berry, Buffy Sainte-Marie, Dich Shawn and Elayne Boosler. 8:30-10:00 p.m. Channel 5.

In Person: An interview with Isiah White, a long-time teacher and public school principal in Baltimore. 10:30-11:00 p.m. Channel 22-47.

Saturday

Pat Albert: The gang learns to make quick judgments about people. 12:00-12:30 p.m. CBS.

Soul Train: Harold Melvin & the Bluenotes and Roy Ayers Ubiquity are the guests today. 12:00-1:00 p.m. Channel 11.

American Bandstand: Millie Jackson sings "Back In Love by Monday" and "Cheatin Ia." 12:30-1:30 p.m. Channel 9.

Sports Spectacular: Rodrigo Valdes (40-0-2) puts his world middleweight title on the line against Hugo Corro (38-2-1) in a scheduled 15 round bout telecast live from San Remo, Italy. 4:30-6:00 p.m. CBS.

Soul Train: Herb Alpert and Hugh Masekela perform "Shoklanni" and "Happy Hanna." 5:00-6:00 p.m. Channel 5.

Hollywood Squares: Vikki Carr, Diahann Carroll, Karen Grassle and many other are the guests. 7:30-8:00 p.m. Channel 11.

Metro: Testing in employment and education is the topic tonight. Guest include psychologist James Outiz, Dr. Ruth King, president of the Association of Black Psychologist. 7:30-8:00 p.m. Channel 13.

The Jeffersons: George offers an excutive post to his laid-off and inexperience son. 8:00-8:30 p.m. CBS.

Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame: Black music in American films is saluted at the fifth annual Oscar Micheaux Awards ceremony taped Feb. 19 in Oakland. Hall of Ame inductees receiving the awards are Count Basie, Ella Fitgerald, Hazel Scott, Nat King Cole, Bill "Bojangles" Robinson. The hosts are Louis Gossett Jr., Nancy Wilson, and many others. 8:30-10:00 p.m. Channel 26-53.

Lace Boat: Michele Lee and Fernando Lamas play millionaires whose honeymoon may be capsized by thieves. 9:00-11:00 p.m. ABC.

Sunday

Three on Three: Schoolyard basketball gets national TV exposure in this series, which features NBA players (current and past) and celebrities from the world of show business. Julius Erving (76ers) and many others. 1:00-1:30 p.m. Channel 2.

Boxing: The U.S. Amateur Boxing Championships, taped at Biloxi, Miss. Past winners of this AAU sanctioned event include Joe Louis, George Foreman and Leon Spinks. 3:00-4:30 p.m. ABC.

Tony Brown's Jornal: Discussion and guests not known at presstime. 5:30-6:00 p.m. Channel 11.

Money Changers: Arthur Hailey's best-selling novel inspired this three part drama about greed and intrigue in a big city bank. 9:00-11:00 p.m. NBC.

Monday

Dinah: Phyllis Diller, Natalie Cole, Billy Preston and many others are the guests today. 4:00-5:30 p.m. Channel 9.

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Bill Lane in Hollywood

Stevie Wonder tosses party

Stevie Wonder tossed a party in Hollywood the other night. Fortunate he or his office staff selected a place as large and as spacious as the popular disco Osko's, considering all the people who had been invited and who attended, along with countless others. It was a wall-to-wall people affair, with disco music pounding away while hordes of guests swarmed over the towering tables of food and imbibing the continuous flow of drinks.

Only a few complaints could be heard among the multitudes in the many rooms of the place. One had to do with the caterer, who had supplied loads of boiled shrimp, without a trace of catsup or cocktail sauce around; towers of fresh fruits without ladles, spoons or forks, causing the guest to dig in with fingers everywhere. And guests could be heard all over the precincts asking: "What's Stevie staging this party for?"

They did not know, for the elaborate invitations had merely stated it was a special - special affair Stevie was tossing for his loving subjects, all of whom were still in a musical daze from listening over and over to selections in his "Songs In The Key of Life" album which was released in October of 1976, and which has sold some four million dollars worth thus far, it was announced.

Most persons surmised the party was to announce Stevland (Stevie Wonder) Morris' newest album.

So they danced, walked, sat, drank, ate, gossipped, sashayed and stared at one another well into midnight. Smokey Robinson was there. So was Marvin Gaye, Bobbi Humphrey, Bill Graham, High Inergy, Scott Wright, Cholly Atkins, Willis Edwards, Howard Bingham "and hundreds more" as actress Carrie Snodgress observed. The TV cameras and lights zoomed in, and out.

Some guests began leaving, even before the host himself arrived. Newsman Joe Harris hurried back in to seek out somebody from Black Bull Productions, Stevie's company, to weep sadly that his new car had been warped on the Osko parking lot. Others began to plead similarly. The parking lot, and its attendants, probably had never seen that many cars before. In fact, most cars were being parked down the street, around the corner and everywhere but on the crowded lot, it appeared.

Soon Stevie came out in the main show room. Taking over the microphone, he welcomed everybody, then had to keep on pleading for silence. Almost a futile plea, for about that time most people were too filled with joy juice to be quiet.

But through the din the mighty Wonder prevailed, introducing members of his staff and tendering awards to various persons for various things. A New York Daily News rep came out and vocally honored Stevie for his artful contributions to the filed of Rhythm & Blues. Ironic, some must have thought. Here was a universal and peerless music artist whose artistry transcends all man - made boundaries and most of those spiritual being lumped as a minority subaltern into a racial category. Sort of like being called "a credit to the colored race." As if music comes in colors.

Casualness is usually electric and entertaining, but in the case of Stevie's big party it could have been planned better, with more finesse, and more class. For Stevie Wonder IS class.

When one is going to give out honorariums and awards and talk to audiences the setting should be amendable, conducive and apropos. One cannot get respectful attention from a crowd of casual drunks. And one does not do like the late Prophet Jones — get the congregation frenzied, tired and then sleepy, then lock all the doors and preach a sermon at three o'clock in the morning. The party was still going strong, however, at three - thirty, we heard.

Anyway, Stevie Wonder's next album, "The Secret Life of Plants," is due out, soon, in conjunction with a documentary motion picture of the same title.

Lawrence Hilton - Jacobs of "Kotter" swears he's through dating new women pals. Says most women want to date the name and not the person. "Sort of like being exploited," he says. Anyway, he asked editors at Right On magazine not to mention him again, "As it keeps teenagers, banging on my door and phoning me at all hours!"

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