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NURSING AWARD — Terri Denise Murphy (L), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur G. Murphy of Baltimore, was the recent recipient of the Fostine Glenn Riddick Award at Hampton Institute, Hampton, Va. The award, named for Mrs. Riddick (R), HI's Nursing department chairperson, is given to students selected for high quality academic performance, strong sense of professionalism and leadership abilities as nursing students. Miss Murphy, a graduate of Western High School, is a junior nursing student. Dr. Carl M. Hill (C), president of HI, offers his congratulations.

—Teen called

(Continued from Page 1)

Police reveal they have evidence that one of the accused boys had been close friends with Tony's sister but was barred by the stepfather from her home.

A relative refused to say what was in the letter. However, the AFRO learned that the letter came from Joseph Nolan, who lives down the street from Tony.

Sources told the AFRO the accused teenager stated in his letter that he wanted to talk to Tony's sister.

The AFRO also learned that the family of one of the accused boys is planning to move this weekend.

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SHOW TIME

Theatre, the Arts, Movies, Music

Dracula—passion, blood lust

By Ida Peters

You have to give the Mechanic Theatre a big fat "A" for creative public relations.

Hope Quakenbush invited the press to breakfast at the new disco, Girard's on Cathedral Street, to meet Raul Julia who plays the vampire, Dracula, coming to the Mechanic next week.

Raul Julia

Raul Julia was more than a hour late arriving but the press persons just sat patiently eating Quiche Larraine and nibbling on fruit cocktail in the semi-darkness while the disco lights flashed continuously seeming to hypnotize the press.

Raul Julia is in Baltimore to begin rehearsals for "dracula." He says that he hopes people will terrify themselves when they see in the play.

"I'm going to be sexy . . . and hungry . . . I'm working very hard at it," Julia said.

Dennis Rosa, the director, says that in this play he has tried to combine the themes of romance, mystery and death. He presents Dracula as an intriguing, seductive, even humourous and thoroughly appealing figures.

Producer Rosa wants us to feel horror when we are drawn into Dracula's nightmare of uncontrolled passion and blood lust.

The real Dracula, Vlad Tepes or Vlad the Impaler, was a fifteenth century Wallachian prince and while he was not a vampire, he was fond of blood.

He was nicknamed Dracula which means "son of the devil" or "son of the dragon." On one infamous day he killed 30,000 people.

He once invited a multitude of sick and poor to his castle then bolted the door and burned them alive. He was captured by the Turks in 1476 and decapitated.

Raul Julia says that audiences are fascinated by things that cannot be explained.

"I would like to see my audiences frightened out of their wits," he said.

"We are all characters in this reality and being a character, you're always working on yourself."

Raul Julia was born in Puerto Rico and has had a distinguished career in the theatre and in music.

Film-goers will remember him as an amorous Italian race-car driver in "Gumball Rally"; with Al Pacino in "Panic In Needle Park" and in "The Organization" with Sidney Poitier.

Julia has been nominated for three Tony awards; Proteus in "Two Gentlemen of Verona"; Mack the Knife for "The Three Penny Opera" and Charley in "Where's Charley?"

DUNBAR PRESENTS — Vanessa Stewart in the star of Dunbar High School's production of "Mame." Friday and Saturday, May 12, 13 in the Dunbar Theatre at 8 p.m. For information about tickets call 396-9624 or 396-9606.

Wanted: young talent

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On black classical music

Dominique de Lerma

Dr. deLerma is professor of music at Morgan State University. He also hosts a radio show, "Melodies, Notes and Lyrics," Sunday, 11 a.m., WEAA-FM.

Magnificent Morgan

On the evening of May 7, the Morgan State University Choir took over the Lyric Theatre. This is the first time the Choir's spring concert has not been held on the Morgan campus, and the move was symbolic: Baltimore is blessed with one of the finest choral ensembles to be found anywhere. Copenhagen and New York know it, and Baltimore is discovering it.

I doubt that Morgan's Murphy Auditorium could have held the crowd which attended the concert. When the word really gets around, the Lyric won't be big enough, either. But I will say that it is very bad and rude behavior to enter a concert late. Among other things, late comers interrupt the dramatic pacing of a serious concert, and this was a major event. More on this in the future.

Nathan Carter is more than a conductor. He is a "maestro assoluto" who demonstrated the most mature musical concepts in the "German Requiem" by Brahms and, no less, in the choral works by Undine Smith Moore and in his own setting of Thomas Dorsey's "Precious Lord."

I find a strong parallel between the way he moulds timbres and textures and the way he actually creates a special sonority when his approach is compared with the genuis of the late Leopold Stokowski.

I suspect virtually any chorus Nathan Carter might conduct will take on that special Carter sound. There are few conductors, instrumental or choral, who can hope for such distinction.

President Andrew Billingsley, who presented guest composer Undine Moore with a special "statement of tribute," began his tenure as administrative head of Morgan by urging strides toward excellence. The progress the Choir has made in the past few years, perhaps starting with the European tour of 1974, might be better termed "leaps."

The Requiem of Brahms is a sober work, a statement by this north German Lutheran on the meaning of life and death. Soon after it was completed in 1868, it has maintained a high position within the literature, requiring the finest voices and instruments. It is also a very popular work with major ensembles, so the heat is on any school chorus which is presenting the work to a discriminating audience.

Soloists for the Brahms were Alpha Floyd, soprano, and Benjamin Matthews, bass-baritone. I had heard Ms. Floyd only once before, in the 1972 premiere of Scott Joplin's only extant opera, "Treemonisha," when she sang the title role. She has a beautiful legato quality and a voice that can be as light and floating as a fine wine.

Perhaps it is my personal feeling, however, that her vibrato is just a bit too wide. In fact, it must be my own reservation, because she certainly has a major career in the United States and Europe.

As for Matthews, I have heard him many times, in New York, in Philadelphia, and here in Baltimore. He has a big, rich and well-focused voice which warmly fills any hall. I'd not have complained if Brahms had seen fit to include more solo writing in the Requiem so we could have heard both soloists a bit more.

Assisting the vocal forces in this composition were members of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. Since coming to Baltimore in 1976, I have been very pleased with the excellent standards of this orchestra which surely is almost ready to claim a position among the nation's top orchestras.

Although the Requiem is not a work designed to show off the instruments as individuals or as an ensemble, the BSO players performed very well, spurred on by the sonoric splendor of the choir and the sensitive conducting of Carter.

The second half of the concert, but for the finale ("The Battle Hymn of the Republic"), was given to the choir alone. Undine Moore's choral music in Baltimore, let loose, to offer all of the contrasting interpretive techniques for which the choir is so celebrated, particularly when dealing with black music.

Soloists Michael Tillman, Donald Sullivan, Joseph Spence, Gretchen Starks and Margaret Lindsay each gave reasons why the choir can produce its distinctive and magnificent sound.

We are in the golden days of choral music in Baltimore. Generations in the future will look back on these years with awe. Old timers will recount the glory of Carter's chorale in terms too glowing for belief, having to prove their points by the recordings the choir now seems to be making on a regular basis.

Next season's calendar, which is already getting filled up, promises us two performances with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra within its regular season (!) in the Beethoven ninth symphony, and the premiere of George Walker's Mass, plus a trip to Detroit for a concert with the orchestra there and, of course, the annual spring concert, again in the Lyric Theatre.

VOCALIST — Gayle Mazzone, a contralto with the U.S. Naval Academy Concert Band and Jazz Ensemble, will be the featured soloist when the Band presents a free concert in the auditorium of Towson Senior High School, Friday, May 19, 8:30 p.m. Ms. Mazzone is the daughter of Ed Holmes, vocalist and the sister of pop music performer Clint Holmes. For additional information, call 962-3134.

SCULPTURE FOR SALE — Ceramist Carlton Leverette, a Baltimorean known for the porcelain-like quality of his work, will be one of the 70 participants in the Jewish Community Center's Tenth Annual Affordable Art Sale, Saturday and Sunday, May 20 and 21 at 5700 Park Heights Ave.

THE GOOD LIFE

Theatre

"TWO BY TWO" — Barnstormers, Catonsville Community College, 800 S. Rolling Road, Humanities Theatre, Friday, Saturday, May 12, 13, 19, 20, 8 p.m.

"MURDER AT THE VICARAGE" — Theatre Hopkins, Johns Hopkins University, Charles and 34th Streets, Friday, Saturday, May 12, 13, 8:30 p.m.; Sunday, May 14, 2:15 p.m. Call 338 - 7159 between 1 and 5 p.m. for ticket information.

"SAVED" — University of Maryland, Baltimore County, 5401 Wilkens Ave., Friday, Saturday, May 12, 13, 8 p.m. Call 455 - 2476 for ticket information.

Movie

"OUR TOWN" — Pratt Central Library, 400 Cathedral Street, Wheeler Auditorium, Sunday, May 14, 2 p.m.

"THE LEARNING TREE" — By Gordon Parks, Playhouse Theatre, Charles and 25th Streets, matinees, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, May 15, 16 17, 18, 19, 10:30 a.m. Call 685 - 4170 for ticket information.

"WINGS TO SPAIN" — Central Pratt Library, 400 Cathedral St., Wheeler Auditorium Tuesday, May 16, 2 p.m.

"THE ORGANIZER" — Bread and Roses Coffeehouse, 426 E. 31st St., Sunday, May 14, 8 p.m. Sponsored by the New American Movement.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

NEIGHBORHOOD FESTIVAL— Mount Vernon Belvedere Improvement Association, Monument and Charles Streets, Saturday, May 13, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

TEDDY—BEAR PICNICS — Woodlawn branch library, 1811 Woodlawn Drive, Friday, Saturday, May 12, 13, noon. For preschool - age children. Bring a bag lunch, stuffed toy animal and a parent.

ART, CRAFT FESTIVAL — York Village Shopping Center, York Road, Sunday, May 14, 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

BAZAAR — Fort Worthington Elementary School, 2701 E. Oliver St., Saturday, May 13, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Music

Classical

"ELIJAH" — Featuring soprano Esther Hinds with the Baltimore Choral Arts Society, Lyric Theatre, 120 W. Mt. Royal Ave., Wednesday, May 17, 8:15 p.m. Call 889 - 0093 for ticket information.