Cab Calloway, Damon Evans to Mechanic

By Ida Peters
Entertainment Editor

Cab Calloway will return to his hometown July 24 to star in a one week return of "Bubbling Brown Sugar" in The Mechanic Theatre's summer stock season of musicals.

Damon Evans, best known for his role of Lionel in "Jeffersons" returns home in the musical, "The Me Nobody Knows" August 1. With him will be members of the original cast Jose Fernandez and Gerri Dean.

"The Magic Show" opens the summer season July 11 through July 23.

Things are all up in the air since Nancy Wilson's accident as to whether she will appear with the Duke Ellington Orchestra at a gala benefit at the Kennedy Center in D.C. for the July 30 opening of the 65th annual convention of the National Dental Association. It's a benefit for scholarship fund for needy dental students. Wild Bill Davis will provide music for the dinner-dance afterwards. Dr. Walter R. Tucker is president of NDA.

The Baltimore Dance Theatre gives a free recital at Dunbar Arts Performing Theatre (tonight) Friday, 8 p.m. under the direction of Eva Anderson. They will perform "Dance Word Interchange" under sponsorship of the Urban Services Cultural Arts program. For information, 276-4646.

The Richard Allen Center for Cultural Arts presents the Percy Thomas' Free Spirit Theatre in the original slave drama "None To Call Him Father" at the New York Arts Consortium, 38 W. 62nd St. June 23-24-25.

The works of Brahms, Vaughn Williams, Martinu, Benjamin and Walker will be performed in recital by Kenneth A. Keeling, clarinet and Elaine M. Cipriane, piano, Sunday, June 25 at Baker Hall, YWCA, K. Street N.W., D.C. at 3 p.m.

Wallace T. (Ed) Kirkeby, who managed the late Fats Waller at the height of his career, died last week in Mineola, N.Y., at the age of 87.

A leading theatrical agent for 50 years he managed the international singing group The Deep River Boys.

George Wein's Newport Jazz Festival-New York started June 23 and runs to July 2 with 28 programs in the New York City area and at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center after the White House kick-off last Sunday.

At Avery Fisher Hall, George Duke, Flora Purim, June 28; Herbie Hancock-Chick Corea, June 30.

Monday marks the start of the Arena Players Youtheatre. Classes are in session from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for young adults 14-20. Call 728-6500.

The "Miss Inner City Pageant" to give recognition to young ladies 15-19 will be held in memory of Wiley Daniels, July 23 at the Lord Baltimore Hotel. For information, Cleveland Brister, 225-7100 St. James Community Center.

Billy Wilson who recently choreographed and created the musical staging for Broadway-bound "Stop the World" for Sammy Davis Jr. has taken over the musical staging for "Eubie."

The new musical with music by Eubie Blake including such songs as "Gypsy Blues," "I'm Just Wild About Harry," "Honeysuckle Rose," "Memories of You," opened last week in Philly at the Walnut Street Theatre.

Billy Wilson is currently a professor-in-residence at Brandeis University and received a Tony nomination for his choreography of "Bubbling Brown Sugar."

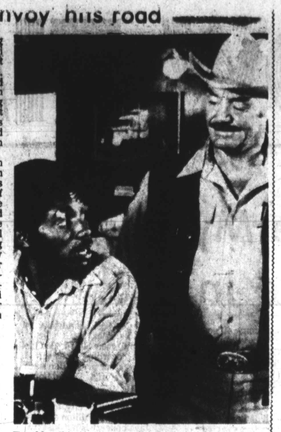
Debbie Allen didn't make it to Broadway. "Alice," Vinnette Carroll's musical version of Lewis Carroll's "Alice In Wonderland" folded June 11 in Philadelphia after two weeks of what was supposed to be a 16-week pre-Broadway run. The loss is estimated to be over a million.

Sidney Poitier's "A Piece of the Action" and CBS's "The Jeffersons" were the big winners at the 11th Annual Image Awards held for the first time under the sponsorship of the national NAACP and its Beverly Hills-Hollywood branch. Jim Brown was general chairman. Ben Vereen was named Entertainer of the Year.

Dr. Robert Thompson, Yale University specialist in Nigerian art, will speak on "Women and Yoruba Art" at 3 p.m. Sunday in the Graham Auditorium of the Walters Art Gallery. The show, "Nigeria Art and Everyday Life" with more than 100 objects representing various Nigerian cultures will remain on view through July 9.

Handsomely mounted, the show includes a color film and many pieces from the the private collection of James Lewis, Morgan professor.

Convoy hits road



Franklyn Ajaye is young 'Spider Mike' harassed by Ernest Borgnine in "Convoy"

"Convoy," starring Kris Kristofferson, Ali MacGraw, Ernest Borgnine, Burt Young, Madge Sinclair and Franklin Ajaye in an action drama about long distance truckers, will hit the road via 700 - plus theatres in the United States and Canada on June 28.

Kristofferson, fresh from his triumph in "Semi - Tough," portrays the leaders of a group of truckers who are protesting the rules and regulations set up by the states and federal government affecting their livelihood. Known by his CB name of "Rubber Duck," he becomes involved with a photo - journalist played by Ali MacGraw, making her first, film appearance in nearly five years. Borgnine reverts to his screen reputation as a heavy in the role of "Dirty Lyle," a lawman who harasses the truckers.

The picture was filmed on location in New Mexico, where Peckinpah captured realistic and action - filled scenes of this contemporary drama.

Top R & B Albums

1. Feels So Good — Chuck Mangione
2. Weekend In L.A. — George Benson
3. Modern Man — Stanley Clark
4. Casino — Al Dimeola
5. Rainbow Seeker — Joe Sample
6. Don't Let Go — George Duke
7. Love Island — Deodato
8. Say It With Silence — Hubert Laws
9. Live at the Bijou — Grover Washington Jr.
10. Levasseo — Lonnie Liston Smith

Top Jazz Albums

1. Natural High — The Commodores
2. So Full of Love — the O'Jays
3. Central Heating — Heshawze
4. If My Friends Could See Me Now — Linda Clifford
5. Thank God It's Friday — Various Artists
6. Showdown — The Isley Brothers
7. Life is a Song Worth Singing — Teddy Pendergrass
8. Smooth Talk — Evelyn Champagne King
9. You Light Up My Life — Johnny Mathis
10. Come Get It — Rick James

Top R & B Singles

1. Use to be My Girl — The O'Jays
2. The Groove Line — Heshawze
3. Reminiss Love — Linda Clifford
4. Shame — Evelyn Champagne King
5. Dukey Stick — George Duke
6. Stuff Like That — Quincy Jones
7. Close the Door — Teddy Pendergrass
8. Let's Go All The Way — The Whispers
9. Take Me to the Next Phase — the Isley Brothers
10. Daylight & Darkness — Smokey Robinson

Top Gospel Singles

1. Live at Carnegie Hall — James Cleveland
2. When Jesus Comes — Sara Jordon Powell
3. Love Alive — Walter Hawkins & The Love Center Choir
4. Is Ther Any Hope for Tomorrow — James Cleveland and the Charles Fold Singers
5. First Lady — Shirley Caesar
6. New — The King Temply Choir
7. Mama Prayed for Me — Sensational Williams Bros.
8. Tonight is the Night — Gospel Keynotes
9. The Comforter — Edwin Hawkins Singers
10. Where He Leads — Rev. Willingham

Staple Singers in "Last Waltz"

'Last Waltz' opens

"The Last Waltz," a Martin Scorses film depicting the final concert of the world - famed rock group The Band and more than a dozen internationally celebrated stars, opened area theatres this week. It is being released by United Artists, a Transamerica Company.

Produced by Robbie Robertson and directed by Scorsese, the film presents one of the most important pop musical event ranking with Woodstock and the Beatles' first American televison performance on the Ed Sullivan Show.

Starred is The Band comprised of Rick Danko, Levon Helm, Garth Hudson, Richard Manuel, and Robbie Robertson. Also starring are Eric Clapton, Neil Diamond, Bob Dylan, Joni Mitchell, Neil Young, Emmylou Harris, Van Morrison, The Staples, Dr. John, Muddy Waters, Paul Butterfield, Ronnie Hawkins, Ringo Starr and Ron Wood.

"The Last Waltz", climxing nearly a decade of performing by The Band, was filmed at Winterland in San Francisco, where the group was first featured as a major league rock act in 1969.

Vashti McKenzie says:

You'll find "The Wiz" in this limited engagement at the Ken Cen effervescent, witty and stimulating. The costumes are an eyeful, songs memorable, and lines laughable.

It's an excellent production to introduce the children to creative theater. There were many youngsters in the audience (including our 3½-year-old son) in rapture over a children's tale gone madly adult.

There is a message in all of this madness for both young and old to grasp. It doesn't come out and hit you over the head. It just eases on down your road, whispering, believe in yourself, believe in yourself, believe in yourself and everything is possible.

Patti LaBelle got four standing ovations at Carter Barron in D.C. last Saturday night. Place was a sell-out with standing room only.

She was really bad. Her fans threw flowers on stage to her. Applause was especially heavy after "Teaching Me Tonight" and "Little Girl" the audience rising and cheering after each.

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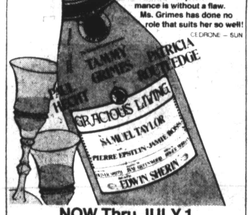
GRACIOUS LIVING
is a visual feast! Pat Routledge is superb!
C. POWERS — NEWS
It is one of the most entertaining shows to play the Mechanic. It is delightfully performed by an excellent company. Ms. Grimes' impish personality, incomparable nose, and inimitable voice seem perfectly suited to the role!
GARDNER — SUN
A nice way to end a season at the Mechanic. Paul Hecht's performance is without a flaw. Ms. Grimes has done no role that suits her so well!
CLARKE — SUN


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Remembering Sheldon B. Hoskins

Hoskins, December, 1933

By Ida Peters

The Arena Players (tonight) Friday will hold their 13th Annual Awards Presentation at Blue Crest North. The Sheldon B. Hoskins Humanitarian Award will go to Sam Phillips, retired school principal and a mainstay and founder of the Negro Little Theatre back in the 1930s.

Other Arena Players' honorees will be Sylvester Campbell, principal dancer for the Maryland Ballet; Howard E. Rollins Jr., coming star, recently on Broadway in "The Mighty Gents" and the late Jack Williams, former headmaster at Boys' Latin.

But who was Sheldon B. Hoskins?

Sheldon Bernard Hoskins was America's first black Ballet Master with the Carmen Jones Production back in the early 1940's. He was once striken with paralysis for nearly a year and was told he would never dance again.

He overcome his illness to become a leading dance master and a member of the Dancing Master's Association.

Hoskins made a lasting impression between 1930 and 1946 when he left Baltimore for New York. Most of the physical education and public school teachers became his pupils, many stage stars who left Baltimore and became famous studied under him.

His annual recitals became Baltimore institutions and churches, schools and organizations called on him to help direct the various festivals.

He was a founder of the Negro Little Theatre and director of the Youth Little Theatre, the parent of the Arena Players.

About 1941, he wrote a column for the AFRO, Stars on Parade and held weekly talent shows at the Royal Theatre.

About 1931, he became the producer for Ralph Matthews Sr., and his Adam and Eve Company.

Hoskins was born in Baltimore by chance because his mother was visiting from Philadelphia where his father was employed by the Baltimore Stock Exchange.

He was brought up in Philadelphia where his grandmother, Mrs. Sophie Morgan and her family were caterers and the pillars of Tindley Temple.

As a youngster he began his dance training under George White in Philadelphia where he developed his dance skill into an art.

While attending Columbia University in New York he became associated with and studied with the Lafayette Players Stock Company with noted actors Ethel Waters, Frank Wilson, Evelyn Ellis and Ida Anderson, (talked about in "Bubbling Brown Sugar").

He came to Baltimore to play the male lead in "The Little Whooper" and stayed to revolutionize dancing in Baltimore.

He was the first black to dance with the Baltimore Ballet and in 1939 was the first black to have a role in "The Petrified Forest" with the Vagabond Players.

For 15 years his Hoskins dance pupils put on recitals culminating in one of the most elaborate ever held in Baltimore, June 2, 1939, at the Maryland Theatre.

That year, Governor Herbert R. O'Conor and former Governor Nice were in attendance and Hoskins was assisted by a choir, the Negro Little Theatre and his concert group, Vernice Matthews, Cecelia Dennis, Llewellyn Husketh, Ruth Mitchell, Lois Browne, Parren Mitchell, Clarence Carter, Anna Mitchell, Adella Williams and Mildred Watkins.

Baum's Inc. of Philadelphia supplied the lighting and costumes and Julia Calloway and William Parrott were on piano; Catherine Adams, wardrobe.

The AFRO commented in an editorial the next week that Hoskins and his group of 200 had made a successful attempt to present the problems of everyday colored folk in dance and deserved city-wide attention. His number on lynching told in dance and song put the audience on the edge of their seats.

Right after this, Hoskins was selected by Broadway impersario Billy Rose to be Ballet Master for "Carmen Jones" and in 1946 he brought the cast and Murial Smith, the lead actress, to Baltimore for a benefit at Dunbar High.

Next week: Sam Phillips and his contributions to theatre in Baltimore.

Male dance group led by Hoskins, May, 1947 in performance at St. James' Episcopal Church sponsored by St. Cecilia's Guild.

TV watching

By Vanessa Johnson

Friday

Mike Douglas: From Hollywood, co-host Robert Conrad is joined by Florence Henderson, Jo Adams, Mable King, Lloyd Bridges and his daughter Lucinda. 4:30-6:00 p.m. Channel 13.

Baseball: The Orioles play the Red Sox at Boston's Fenway Park. 7:30-11:00 p.m. Channel 13.

CPO Sharkey: Sharkey jumps at the opportunity to spend a week in San Francisco, unaware that he's assigned to seven days of submarine duty. 8:00-8:30 p.m. NBC.

Don Kirshner's Rock Concert: Wings, the Brothers Johnson, Cheap Trick, and comedy group the Village People. 11:30-1:00 a.m. Channel 9.

Studio '78: Disco dancing and performances by some of the top names in music highlight this new weekly entertainment program. 12:40-1:40 a.m. Channel 7.

Midnight Special: Host Burton Cummings is joined by Patti Smith, Randy Bachman, Teddy Pendergrass and Ronnie Montrose. 1:00-2:30 a.m. NBC.

Saturday

Fat Albert: A tale about a neighborhood hero who gets into trouble and then shifts the blame onto Fat Albert. 12:00-12:30 p.m. CBS.

Soul Train: Guests today are Bill Withers, Odessey, and the Soul Train Gang. 12:30-1:30 p.m., Channel 11.

Baseball: The Orioles vs the Red Sox at Fenway Park in Boston. 2:00-4:30 p.m. Channel 13.

Baby, I'm Back: Ray turns to Olivia for help when his inability to pay off loan sharks gets him into hot water. 8:30-9:00 p.m. NBC.

Love Boat: A passenger turns cardsharp to pay for the cruise so his wife can visit her grandchildren in Mexico. Loving newlyweds become sparring partners after meeting a quarrelsome older couple. 9:00-10:00 p.m. ABC.

Saturday Night Live: Host Christopher Lee. is joined by comedian Richard Belzer, rock singer Meat Loaf and the Not Ready for Prime Time Players 11:30-1:00 a.m. NBC.

Sunday

Baseball: The Orioles vs the Red Sox at Fenway Park in Boston. 2:00-4:30 p.m. Channel 13.

FM: Comin' At You At The Speed of Sound — The movie "FM" is showcased through interviews with cast members, a performance by guest George Benson. 3:30-4:00 p.m. Channel 4.

Tony Brown's Journal: A discussion of interracial adoption focuses on the personality and IQ of black children raised in whites' homes. Guests include Janet Hutchinson director of the Children's Adoption Resource Exchange. 3:30-4:00 p.m. Channel 11.

Sportsworld: Amateur fighters from the Muhammad Ali Boxing Club square off against members of the Hanitsunga Boxing Club in New Zealand. 4:00-5:30 p.m. Channel 4.

World of Disney: Conclusion, "The Scarecrow of Romney Marsh" alias the gentle vicar Syn, punishes treacherous Joe Ransley as an example to all who would betray him. 7:00-8:00 p.m. NBC.

Monday

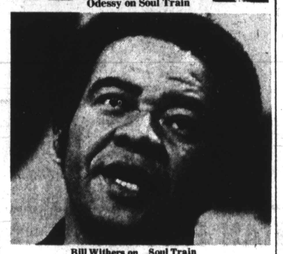
Mike Douglas: From Hollywood, co-host Lynda Carter is joined by actors Robert Wagner, Robert Mandan, Katherine Helmond, Chuck Berris and singing group The Sylvers. 4:30-6:00 p.m. Channel 13.

Evening Magazine: Paul Kimelman talks about how he lost 357 pounds in seven months; the first of four segments on "Eating Out with Kids." 7:30-8:00 p.m. Channel 13.

"The Jeffersons": The Jeffersons' marriage is doomed or so thinks a supersitious Louise when she can't find her lucky wedding corsage. 8:00-8:30 p.m. CBS.

Baseball: One of the following games will be aired. Royals-Angels, Red Sox-Yankees or Phillies-Expos. 8:00-11:00 p.m. ABC.

Odessy on Soul Train



Bill Withers on Soul Train

Sedric Ware, lecturer in the education department of the Walters Art Gallery conducts public lecture tours of the exhibit noon Tuesday June 27 and Thursday, June 29. Ware will also lecture for children 9-12 years, 11 a.m. Saturday, July 1.

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Harlem jazz festival

The first Harlem Jazz Festival, produced by Frank Weston, will occur in Harlem during the last two weeks of August (Aug. 17 - 31.) The leading jazz artists of the day have agreed to take part in this historic event.

Some of the scheduled sites for the festivities include Vincent's Place (55 West 125th St.), one of the newest, plushest clubs, with a very intimate setting. Also the new Smalls Paradise (2294 Seventh Ave.) one of NY's oldest landmark nightclubs, which has been over the past 50 years, the stomping grounds for such great as Billie Holiday, Lester Young, Louis Armstrong, Sammy Davis Jr., and Frank Sinatra, just to name a few.

Other locations include Harlem World (109 West 116th St., corner of Lenox Ave.), New York's newest and largest discotheque. Plans are being completed for additional sites such as the New Cotton Club (125th St.) and the historic 369th Regiment Armory (142nd St. and 5th Ave.) in Harlem.

The Festival will be international in tone, as Nightlife International Tour Company has contracted to bring in jazz lovers and tourists from such distant places as Japan, Germany, Africa, and diplomats and VIPs from all over the world. Many of the guests will be entertained at the distinguished United Nations Plaza Hotel, which is cooperating in this unprecedented and historical event.

The Festival is being produced to showcase many of the famous musical traditions of Harlem during the '20s, '40s, and '60s with special tributes for such luminaries as Billie Holiday, Lester (Pres) Young, Duke Ellington, Jimmy Lunceford, Fats Waller, etc. Also special musical salutes will be made to the many famous Harlem landmarks, such as The Savoy Ballroom, Golden Gate Ballroom, the Apollo Theater, and the Cotton Club.

Today's fusion music, such as jazz rock, loft music, cross over music, and other avant garde sounds will also be performed by many of the great musicians and current artists, providing the Festival with a total kaleidescope of jazz sounds for the enjoyment of music lovers everywhere.

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