What's Happening

By Ida Peters
Entertainment Editor

A lot of area folks were disappointed by the weather man during this past long Fourth of July wet weekend.

Those not making the free Baltimore Arts Festival in the Inner Harbor, will trek to the Capital Center, Saturday 8 p.m. for the Kool Jazz Festival. On hand will be Gladys Knight and the Pips, LTD, George Duke and the Duke Ellington Orchestra with Mercer Ellington.

Our favorite singer, **Brenda Alford** is presenting something new, jazzy and blue at Gatsby's tonight on Charles Street.

Percy Thomas' Free Spirit Theatre of Baltimore chartered a bus for the cast and 25 friends for the late June performances at the Richard Allen Center for Cultural Arts, just a half block off-Broadway.

The slave drama "None To Call Him Father" was performed before near - capacity audiences and won critical acclaim. Mrs. Hazel Bryant was motivating force behind the invitation to perform in N.Y. Her daughter is director.

Members of the cast included Cassandra Jamison as the mother of Nat Turner; LaFonda Holley, the grandmother and Fred Mason.

Other members of the cast are Al Carwil, Wendy Domarecki, Cindy Landers, Michael Burrett, Keith Northern, Gordon Parks, Michael Kane, Bonita Cartwright and Darrell Taylor.

It's odd but sad that the TNT Festival and the persons booking casts for the movie made in Baltimore, "The Senator" choose to ignore Percy Thomas and his actors.

Jerry Schatzberg director of the movie came to see the play in New York and was impressed. He wanted to know why Baltimore agents are unaware of the talents of this company.

Folks came from Baltimore, Washington South Carolina to catch the N.Y. showing. Dana Manno actress "Leadbelly" and her husband film editor, Franklin Manno; Dea St. Lamont, "Roots 2" from Los Angeles; Sonny Jim and Myra Jo Arvin, film actors on "I know Why the Caged Bird Sings,"; Earl Christy of the 1968 N.Y. Jets Super Bowl team; Elmer Brooks, Morris Funeral Home, Cherew, S.C.

Hats off to Percy Thomas for coordinating this effort in New York.

They were able to mount the production from their own funds, their performances in Columbia, Md. and the sale of their yearbook.

Highlight of the bus trip up were the entertaining stories told by Ms. Shyrose Ridley a direct descendant of one of the slaves who participated in the Nat Turner revolt of 1831.

Also on the bus were Mrs. Lillian Sutton (Percy Thomas' mother) and Percy Thomas Sr. who gathered the slave artifacts for the play.

The summer exhibit at the Gallery in the Mechanic opens July 9 thru August 12 and reflects works of artists Howard Street storefronts and various neighborhoods throughout the city.

"The Magic Show" opens the Mechanic July 11 followed by Cab Calloway in "Bubbling Brown Sugar" and Damon Evans in "The Me Nobody Knows on August 1.

George Duke and his magic wand, "Dukey Stick" at Capital Centre.

theme "A Salute to You - The Best Is Yet To Be" is being prepared for Saturday - Sunday, Aug. 5 - 6. Sponsored by the Urban Services Agency of Baltimore, the Expo will feature opportunities in Tomorrow's World of Business Technology. Entertainers and musical groups are wanted. Call 276 - 4646.

The Charlie Byrd Trio is now playing at the King of France Tavern, Maryland Inn, Annapolis.

The summer nature program at the The Cloisters for 8-12 years-olds stars July 10 and runs through July 21. Program includes Ecology, Puppetry, Printmaking, Fiber Arts and Environmental Sculpture.

Watch for **Linda Hopkins** 'singing like you never heard' the songs of the legendy Bessie Smith on Evening Magazine WJZ-TV, July 10.

The Cultural Arts Institute opens its second summer dance session, July 10 through July 27 at the Village of Cross Keys. Faculty includes Jerdyn Holston, Audrey Terry, Harriett Lynn, Rita Abel and Deborah London.

Barbara Martin, supervisor of school programs in the education department of the Walters Art Gallery will conduct a series of special workshops for fifth and sixth grade students during the month of July starting July 11.

The workshops will illustrate the workings of a museum and new ways of looking at art. For information, 547 - 9000 Ext. 50. Here's a chance to give your youngsters an appreciation of art as well as give them a better understanding of their surroundings and their lessons in social studies.

The Baltimore Symphony's concert version of "Carmen," which was rained out on Sunday, July 2, will be performed on Sunday, July 9, under the baton of Leon Fleisher at Oregon Ridge at 8:00 p.m.

The concert originally scheduled for July 9 featuring the renowned violinist Berl Senofsky, will be performed at Oregon Ridge on Tuesday, July 25, at 8:00 p.m. Leon Fleisher will conduct.

The Mid-Town Music series begins its seventh week on Monday, July 10, with a concert by the Peabody Ragtime Ensemble performing dixieland and ragtime music by Scott Jopkin, Jellyroll Morton, George M. Cohan and others. The ensemble, formed in 1974, is comprised of students and alumni of the Peabody Conservatory. Members of the septet are Cindy Steigerwald, flute; Bill Blayney, clarinet; Jari Villanueva, trumpet; George Halsell, trombone; Steven Groat, bass; Larry Cione, piano; and Roger Cocking, drums.

The Walters Chamber Ensemble, under the direction of Robert Gerle, will present a program of chamber music at 8 p.m. Monday (July 10) in Graham Auditorium of the Walters Art Gallery. The concert, third in a series of four summer evening concerts to be given at the gallery, will consist of Quartetsatz in C minor by Schubert; String Quartet in F by Ravel, and Brahms' String Sextet No. 1 in B flat major. Besides Mr. Gerle, members of the ensemble George Orner, Victoria Werth, Mihaly Virizlay and Paula Virizlay.

CARL THE GIANT KILLER — All that training that Carl Weathers put in for his role as Apollo Creed, the heavyweight champion in the Academy Award winning "Rocky," stood him in good stead when he was picked by director Guy Hamilton to join the internationally famous cast of American International Pictures' "Force 10 From Navarone," filming in the mountain wilds of Yugoslavia. The Alistair MacLean adventure saga called for Carl to take on the 7'2", 315-pound Richard Kiel, pictured here with him, in hand-to-hand combat — and win!

Free films Enoch Pratt

"Asi Es Mi Tierra," Central Pratt Library, Monday 7 p.m.

"Shoe Door Canteen," Pratt's Mergen Park Center, Monday 6 p.m.

"Of Human Bondage," Central Pratt Library, Tuesday 2 p.m.

"Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" and "The Tell - Tale Heart," Pratt's Herring Run Branch, Tuesday 3 p.m.

"Pigskin Capers" and "Magical Mystery Tour," Pratt's Washington Village Center, Wednesday 3 p.m.

"Feet, Petite and Gone," Pratt's Broadway Branch, Wednesday 6 p.m.

"Elizabeth R: The Enterprise of England," Pratt's Highlandtown Center, Wednesday 6 p.m.

"The Rocking - Horse Winner" and "Oliver the Eighth," Pratt's St. Paul Street Center, Wednesday's St. Paul Street Center, Wednesday 6 p.m.

Feature - length film, Central Pratt Library, Wednesday 7 p.m.

"Safehouse," Pratt's Fells Point Center, Wednesday 7 p.m.

"Rashomon," Central Pratt Library, Thursday 7 p.m.

"The Art of Film: The Edited Image, The Director," "The Dove," "The American Film," and "The Movies March On," Central Pratt Library, Saturday 2 p.m.

Other

A workshop and idea exchange on learning how to make your own Christmas gifts, Pratt's Waverly Branch, Tuesday 7 p.m. For further information, please call 467 - 2980.

Exhibit

"This Gilded Age: Victorian Bookbindings." A selection of colorful and decorative examples of nineteenth-century publishers' bindings from the Peabody Collection, Pratt's George Peabody Department, 17 East Mount Vernon Place, through August 1.

'A Matter of Timing' by Baltimore Minstrels

The New Baltimore Minstrels will give three performances of the new play "A Matter of Timing" by Baltimore playwright M. R. Jones Sr. and directed by Sonny Clash. Performances will be held at the All Saints Church Auditorium located at Liberty Heights and Eldorado Avenues on Friday, July 14, Saturday, July 15, and Friday, July 21 at 8 p.m.

A brilliant new play that focuses on the painful experiences of a young married couple whose marriage is in ruin. Torn by love and their individual needs, Jr. and Lil Saunders wrestle with love, truth and their inner most emotions to save or destroy their marriage. Fiery, full of action, this warm passionate drama moves steadily toward the problem of some young marrieds. Something for everyone. "A Matter of Timing" will warm you with love and can make you cry with happiness.

Featured in the cast are Angela Brooks as Lil; Sigidi as Jr., Pam Brogden as Nikki; Sonny Clash as Bo - Diddley; Ezra Hill as Basie; Wendell Parham and Darryl Harcum as Guitar. Four - year - old Daineka Jones makes her stage debut as Rashalla in her father's latest drama.

"A Matter of Timing" will also be seen at the Arena Playhouse on Aug. 10, 11, 12, and 13 as a part of the Arena Players Silver Summer Series.

With all NYC upset over the racial situation in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn — where Hasidic Jews have had their own special patrol for years and blacks have just formed their own — it's the height of irony that total entertainer Ben Vereen, himself a native of Brooklyn, recently received the Israel Cultural Award, the highest honor given an American by the State of Israel.

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New books

Scott Joplin... his tragic talent

Original cover of Scott Joplin's "Maple Leaf Rag"

By Ida Peters

In the last three years, a lot of emphasis has been placed on Scott Joplin and the recent TV show starring Billy Dee Williams should whet our appetites for the real truth about his life.

Scott Joplin was awarded a Pulitzer prize in 1976, a half century after his death. So, we welcome a new book published May 26, 1978 by Doubleday "Scott Joplin" by James Haskins with Kathleen Benson which gives a solid, sober and informative biography of the man with a dignity and depth worthy of the tragic talent it describes.

Scott Joplin, King of Ragtime, died insane in 1917 at the age of forty - nine. His wife Lottie later said, "he was so far ahead of his time. You know, he would often say that he'd never be appreciated until he was dead." The plight of black musicians was great; no matter how talented they were; for many years Scott Joplin was dependent on saloons and brothels for an audience. And it was many years after his death before his name became known to more than a few avid ragtime fans. Then the 1970s brought a revival of Joplin's music, and the movie "The Sting" made his name gold.

Scott Joplin was born of musical parents and grew up in Taxarkana, Texas. When he was young, his mother bought a piano, and Joplin spent every penny he earned on sheet music. At twenty, he left Texarkana to seek his musical fortune. He wandered through the Southwest, settling for periods in Sedalia (Missouri), St. Louis and finally New York, where he died.

James Haskin's patient and extensive research has yielded much new information on the life of this brillian composer. Haskins presents the earliest known record of Scott Joplin's existence and comprehensive data on his family roots. He identifies his early music teachers, discusses Joplin's financial situation and his relationships with his publishers, and sheds new light on Joplin's last days.

The piano rags of Scott Joplin are, today, the most popular of the ragtime era. "Maple Leaf Rag," "The Entertainer," "Elite Syncopations," and "Harlem Rag" are classics. Joplin also wrote two ragtime operas; "A Guest of Honor" and "Treemonisha."

Author of numerous books James Haskins has also been an educational consultant and a teacher. He has taught at the New School for Social Research in New York, the State University of New York at New Paltz, Staten Island Community College of the City University of New York, Manhattanvile College in Purchase, N.Y. and Indiana University - Purdue University, in Indianapolis. Currently, Mr. Haskins teaches at the University of Florida at Gainesville.

His books include "Diary of a Harlem Schoolteacher," "The Story of Stevie Wonder" (winner of the 1977 Coretta Scott King Award), "Pinckney Benton Stewart," Pinchback," and the recent "The Cotton Club."

Kathleen Benson is a member of the education department of the Museum of the City of New York. A free - lance writer as well, she is a co - author of "The Great American Crazies."

Top R & B Singles

1. Use Ta Be My Girl — The O'Jays
2. Shame — Evelyn Champagne King
3. Runaway Love — Linda Clifford
4. Close the Door — Teddy Pendergrass
5. Stuff Like That — Quincy Jones

Bill Lane in Hollywood

Love Boat's Ted Lang to marry Sherry Thompson

THE love bug has finally bitten that "Love Boat" mixologist Ted Lange. Mr. Mustache will wed choreographer Sherryl Thompson comes the 23rd of July in San Pedro, California. The two met six years ago when Sherryl choreographed a play Ted was directing. The rites will be private, we have learned, with the "Love Boat" cast in attendance along with Ted's mother, Geri Lange, who conducts the popular TV talk show on Public Broadcasting from San Francisco.

Olivette Miller, the harpist, into "The Gingerbread Lady" here.

David Oliver, the Mercury Records artist, headed up a smash concert here at the Total Experience, featuring songs from his "Jamerican Man" album.

"For Colored Girls" starring **Trasana Beverly** in July 12 opener here at the Hartford Theatre.

Bette Midler stage two daytime concerts here at the Wiltern Theatre, to film the performances (and attendance) for inclusion in her upcoming movie, "The Rose." They're now calling Midler "The Divine One." We wonder why, and how.

Sarah Vaughn has long been called that, and she is still living. Something devilish afoot?

NANCY Wilson set to appear in court in San Pedro comes July 12 the same day Ted Lange gets married in that town. In preparation for answering the 502 (driving under the influence) charge, the famous singer took a solo rest in San Diego, dropped off there reportedly by her spouse, the dapper parson Wiley Burton. Meanwhile, in Detroit, members of one religious order are still holding prayer sessions for the singer, acting on what were said to be reports by the membership that the singer spoke during her recent Fairlane singing date that there was disorder on the marital border.

Lange stars as bartender Isaac Washington on popular TV series "The Love Boat."

LONETTE McKee, the former Detroit singer who scored heavily in the Richard Pryor movie "Which Way Is Up?" now out with her own self - produced music creation, an album titled "Words & Music," just released by Warner Brothers. And Gladys Knight nixxed the deal offered her by Casablanca Records and signed with Columbia Records, while awaiting settlement of her suit against Buddah and Arista. Meanwhile, at Casablanca they fired 22 hapless souls, right after new bosses Artie Mogull and Jerry Rubinstein fired 50 persons at United Artist Records here.

MOTOWN executive Suzanne DePasse got waylaid by the summer heat and June moons and such, and said yes. She's getting married here on July 14. The fellow's name is Paul LeMat. More later.

Another Motown personality, **Berry "Pop" Gordy**, all set to move into the nonagenarian ranks, when he observes his 90th birthday with a big celebration in his alltime hometown Detroit on July 12.

The Commodores began their new 65-city tour, with publicist Lester Mornay accompanying them. **Actress Tamra Dobson** in Detroit to confer with evangelist Martha Jean (The Queen) Steinberg. **Tamara** says she wants to study the day-by-day activities of The Queen in preparation for starring in an upcoming movie about a woman preacher. Meanwhile, The Queen is getting set to open her West Coast headquarters, checking out Bel Air manses now.

COMIC Jim Cato says it didn't hurt France a bit when its wines went sour. "The French are still leading all countries in selling us drinking stuff with its Perrier water. More people in America drink that water than ever did drink French wine." That should also be bad news to another local comic, Bill (Wine-Head Willie) Murray.

AND speaking of popularity, Muhammad Ali proved he's still the world's most popular person, in his recent visit to Russia. He's received like a champ everywhere he goes. Quite a feat for a fellow who was formerly a poo black youngster from Kentucky who fought the odds, and uncompromisingly, with dignity, and won.

MAXINE Weldon, possibly the best representative of the Bay Area's singing Weldon sisters, scored mightily in her opener here at Lainie's Room in the Playboy Club. A virtual singing machine. And probably one of the best lyric interpreters around. Miss Weldon graces the Playboy stand until George Shearing arrives (July 10) for a two-week engagement.

NORMAN Whitfield says he has a lot of big things ready to hit the music fan for his new artist, Junior Walker. The Whitfield stable of artists have their musical products distributed by Warner Brothers. Walker was a long time with Motown.

AND Mable John, who would probably love to hear how Maxine Weldon sings her late brother, Little Willie John's, "All Around The World," was named Business Woman of The Year by the Imperial Club here.

Epic recording artist, Melba Moore is joined backstage by Michael Jackson of The Jacksons, who also record on the Epic label. Pictured here is Michael congratulating Melba on her performance in the smash Broadway musical "Timbuktu." Michael was in the Big Apple recently to put the final touches on his debut co-starring role in the motion picture version of "The Wiz."

Jesse Walker's N.Y.

...and now a word

NEW YORK — A Harlem YMCA-Kentucky Fried Chicken "Super Stars" contest-featuring a one-mile run, standing broad jump, 100-yard swim and basketball shootout-will be held in August with at least 1,000 competitors expected to participate over a two-week period. Kentucky Fried is financially backing this program under the direction of Walter J. Simon, director of Urban Development for the company and himself a former Harlem basketball star before moving on to Louisville.

New York model **Beverly Johnson** now in Israel filming "Ashanti," an epic on modern-day slavery trade with William Holden, Michael Caine, Peter Ustinov and Rex Harrison may be seen on the screen before that film is released. She's also in Philip Fenty's completed "Baron Wolfgang Von Tripps," starring Calvin Lockhart and featuring such recognizable names as Raymond St. Jacques and **Charles McGregor**, with choreography by George Faison and the music of Scott Heron.

Former baseball star **Willie Mays** and Wes Unseld of the champion Washington Bullets appeared before the Senate parks and recreation subcommittee asking for more federal money for neighborhood athletic facilities in the inner cities, such as the highly successful Rucker — ITT Summer and Winter Leagues in NYC, supported by a $50,000 yearly ITT grant. Similar interest is the new Sport 'n Skill League in NYC sponsored by the Joint School Committee that requires youngsters to attend a class the day before a game. The Rucker League also conducts a tutoring service for the over 2,000 youngsters enrolled in its year-round program.

Reports have it that jazz great **Charile Parker's** life will be made into a movie with Richard Pryor contracted for the role of Parker. Richard Wesley is writing the screenplay. Other films upcoming include Bill Cosby and Richard Pryor in the film version of Neil Simon's "California Suite" and "Firepower," with O. J. Simpson. Sophia Loren and James Coburn, the latter shooting recently in NYC and New Jersey. Also **James Earl Jones** will play an American ship wrecked sailor in "Tai Bushido Blade," a movie filing in Japan.

HISTORY QUIZ: What was the first novel known to be published by an American black author? "William Wells Brown's melodramatic novel about miscegenation, 'Clotel: or the President's Daughter,' was first published in London in 1853. Brown was born a slave in Lexington, Kentucky, in 1815, and fled to Canada and finally to England. He published his first work, "Narrative of William Wells Brown,' in 1849." From "Black Culture Quiz," published by The Sperry & Hutchinson Co., 330 Madison Ave., NYC 10017.

Doug Williams, Grambling's all-time quarterback who was the 1978 first round draft pick of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers (a first), was in town last week at Yankee Stadium to help launch the 1978 Whitney M. Young Jr. Memorial Football Classic between Grambling and Morgan State on Sept. 23 in the Stadium. The game is co-sponsored by The New York Yankees and The New York Urban League and this year's game will start at 8 p.m. on a Saturday night at the Stadium.

...High Inergy

(Continued from Page 17)

throughout Pasadena about the excitement of the girls' performances. The teens are so successful, they soon find themselves performing the show some 500 times in hospitals, parks, day care centers and even prisons.

When Gwen Gordy, a backbone in the development of such performers as the Supremes, Marvin Gaye and David Ruffin hears the rich vocals of the girls, she arranges for an audition and changes the spelling of the group's moniker from High Energy to High Inergy because, "They (the girls) have so much energy coming from within their souls — God's energy — that we feel the name is appropriate.

With the signing of High Inergy to a recording contract, Ms. Gordy secures the talents of producers Kent Washburn, Dee Erwin and Al Willis; and the results, of course, are "Turnin' On" and "You Can't Turn Me Off."

As heavy airplay sends the album and single to the top of record charts, a blooming love affair with the public begins for High Inergy. The girls become the subjects of countless newspaper and magazine articles, and become the guest stars on such TV programs as Merv Griffin, Dinah!, Mike Douglas, Soul Train and American Bandstand.

Meeting the girls up close, Vernessa, who sings lead on "You Can't Turn Me Off," says Sarah Vaughn is her favorite singer. A Capricorn, Vernessa spends her spare time swimming, playing tennis and dancing.

Barbara, who shares most of the group's leading singing with older sister, Vernessa, is a very quiet Aries. She plays piano, drums and bass. Barbara and Vernessa are two of the 10 Mitchell family siblings.

Michelle, a Libra, loves dancing, tennis, swimming and listening to her favorite musical group, Earth, Wind and Fire.

An outdoors person, Linda likes to spend spare moments on the beach. A Libra, Linda's other interests are dancing, jogging and playing backgammon.

High Inergy — a pop music story of the year, is to become an even bigger story in years to come. The group's star is rising, and it shines even brighter with each new day.

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AL BELL is back in music and singing. He has produced, with the aid of arranger Monk Higgins, the newest album by longtime blues belter Bobby Bland. Except Bobby Bland is not showcased precisely as a blues artist this time out. The album on ABC, titled "Come Fly With Me," contains a star mover, "Love To See You Smile," and it's getting all kinds of play in national radio. Then there's the lonely assurance selection, "You Can Count On Me." But one of the most beautiful songs ever done by Bobby Bland is one of the album's goodies titled "Ain't God Something," a soulfully magnetic song sung with high feeling by Bland against a prismatic backdrop of choral counterpoint.

The Peebles Choir of the First Baptist Church of St. Louis is still getting top representation out in the national boondocks in the person of singer Ann Peebles whose new album from Memphis' Willie Mitchell's Hi Records is now on the stands. The album's songs probably take the cake for unique titles, among them "Old Man With Young Ideas," "Bip, Bam, Thank You, Mam" and "Living' In, Lovin' Out."

Symphony at Oregon Ridge

Friday, July 7 — Leon Fleisher, conducting; Marcantonio Barone, piano; Program: Mozart — Overture to "The Marriage of Figaro"; Beethoven — Piano Concerto No. 2; Brahms — symphony No. 2.

Saturday, July 8 — "All - Rachmaninoff Program" Leon Fleisher, conducting; Rise Horowitz, piano. Program. Vocalise, Variations on a "Theme of Paganini" Symphony No. 2

Sunday, July 9 — Leon Fleisher, conducting; Berl Senofsky, violin; Program: Beethoven — Egmont Overture; Schubert — Symphony No. 5; Brahms — Violin Concerto.

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