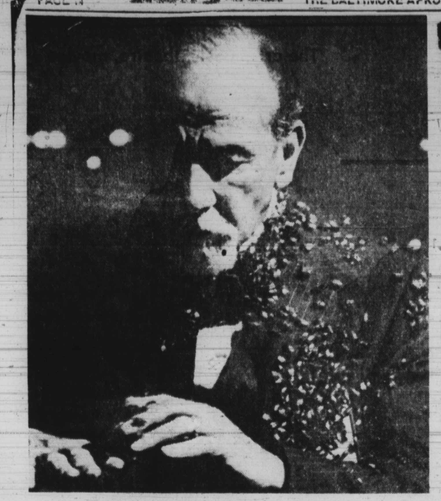

Crawling, biting, killing bees swarm over scientist, Jose Ferrer.

'The Swarm'

Cross any old bee with an African bee... and look out!

A prodigious motion picture — the entertainment triump of an imaginative and forceful movie - maker — has been created by Irwin Allen with his new Warner Bros. production, "The Swarm," a presentation which has already assumed event proportions across the nation.

It is high drama, dangerously frightening and awesomely suspenseful. It is a story of heroism on an intimate level and of action on a grand and heart - pounding scale. It is brought to life by a cast of highly respected stars, and above all, it is the block-buster of the '70s.

"The Swarm" is Allen's first big - screen venture since "The Towering Inferno," which, in turn, succeeded "The Poseidon Adventure" in Allen's continuing rise to the heights of showmanship. He is the Cecil B. DeMille of our times.

"The Swarm" is a project he has been planning and developing for several years. His abundant personal resources of creativity, sense of news and calamity and sensitivity to personal dramatics have been thrust into the conception, design and production of "The Swarm." His recognition as an innovator and money - maker elicited the full support and confidence of Warner Bros., for whom "The Swarm" is only one of many forthcoming Irwin Allen projects.

"The Swarm" is a story of survival — the survival of towns and people against the most deadly enemy of all — killer bees. It is a valid and harrowing account of the death and destruction, that could in reality overwhelm the Gulf and southwestern states before the century is out.

Africanized killer bees do exist and they attack and kill. They have already moved from Brazil where the mutants originated out of the escape of African forebears 23 years ago and are now northward bound. They have killed both man and beast in Brazil, Guyana, Peru, Venezuela; and throughout Central and South America victims have fled in terror from the incredible aggressiveness of the insects which appear to savor the plunge of their lethal stingers into animal flesh as they form themselves into great vicious swarms of winged assassins.

Armed with the facts and the research, Allen, as producer and director of "The Swarm," enlisted Stirling Silliphant, the distinguished writer, to dramatize the very real possibilities of an invasion of killer bees on the city of Houston, Texas. He expanded the drama of this eventuality with stories of the heroes that cowards may become under stress.

The cast of "The Swarm" is grade - A and large. The stars are Michael Caine, Katharine Ross, Richard Widmark, Olivia de Havilland, Henry Fonda, Fred MacMurray, Richard Chamberlain, Jose Ferrer, Patty Duke Astin, Lee Grant, Brad Dillman, Ben Johnson and Slim Pickens, most of whom have Academy Awards and - or Academy nominations on their respective honors lists.

The bees, of course, are the true villains, and in order to make the film, they were, to quote Allen, "leased, bought, borrowed and bred" to fill the screen with the horrifying whirr of wing and their fuzzy black and gold presence. Audiences will experience the menacing sight and sound that only killer bees on the rampage can evoke.

Allen estimates that he used 22,000,000 of them. They were under the perilous management and control of handlers and stunt people and even a crew of professional de - stingers who contrived in most cases to protect the actors from the hurtful unpleasantness of domestic bee stings.

Although the killer bees on their collision course with the city of Houston are the principal menace in "The Swarm," it is the havoc they create that leads the screen to erup in action sequences that set new standards in stunt and special effects imagery on the screen. There is a terrifying train wreck, an atomic plant blast, the burning of the city of Houston and a blazing Gulf of Mexico.

In his enthusiasm for the creation of disaster on the screen, Irwin Allen never loses sight of human involvement. In "The Swarm," each of his performers is involved in personal drama, not always directly related to the catastrophe.

Michael Caine, for instance, plays an entomologist in conflict with the military, as represented by Richard Widmark, in the role of an Air Force general.

Olivia de Havilland plays a small - town schoolteacher charged with the safety of her students and also romantically concerned with two gentlemen callers — Fred MacMurray and Ben Johnson. Caine's romance blooms in the person of Katharine Ross, an Air Force doctor.

Henry Fonda portrays an immunologist working on an antitoxin to help victims of the sting of African bees, while Richard Chamberlain plays an environmentalist, Lee Grant a reporter and Patty Duke Astin a waitress.

Bill Lane in Hollywood

About $15. concerts, albums

Everything goes up these days when it comes to prices of goods bought and sold.

In the entertainment field the prices of tickets have leaped upwards over the last three years. For concerts, theatre shows, and all. It used to be where ticket prices for the top concerts were priced at top prices of five dollars. But those days began disappearing during Nixon's term of office, moving up to seven and eight dollars. Now it is not unusual for average concert tickets to go for from nine or ten to fifteen dollars each.

And seemingly the price rises have had no bad effect on patronage. Concerts now draw more than ever, patrons crowding the four walls of indoor spots and cramping the aisles of the outdoor amphitheatres.

Movies are drawing long lines of customers, at often five - dollar ticket prices. Today movies do not have to tell a story, have a meaning or have saving graces. People just go, getting away from the television sets momentarily. Those souls who are fortunate enough to have cable television are paying nifty fees to see special movies on their home television screens, and others are buying assorted machines that show cassettes through their tv sets and record tv shows for later viewing. Soon they will be buying top movies at their supermarkets, making it possible for them to build new libraries to sit alongside their book shelves and stacks of recordings of music.

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Calendar

Arena Players presents 'Boyfriend'

The Arena Players are presenting Sandy Wilson's "The Boyfriend" at the Playhouse as part of their First Annual Invitational Theatre Festival, tonight through Sunday with a matinee Sunday at 2:30 p.m.

Jazz tonight

INNER HARBOR MUSICALE presents jazz at the Harbor featuring the "Cultural Arts Ensemble" this Friday, July 14 at 8 p.m. on the West Shore stage.

The Baltimore jazz group performs traditional jazz, jazz rock, and some original materials.

Sponsored by the Musicians Association of Baltimore and the city the Inner Harbor Musicale brings you easy listening music, free of charge every Friday evening through the end of August.

Beach chairs and blankets are suggested as seating is limited.

Music

Mid-Town Music concerts, free, daily in Hopkins Plaza. Dr. Leihj Martinet's 20-piece Concert Band, Monday, July 17. Al Lawson Quartet, July 19.

BSO Young Conductors' Competition Winner, Roger Nierenberg conducts, Oregon Ridge, Sun. July 16. Program: Rimsky-Korsakoff — Cortege from Mlada Suite; Paganini — Concerto for Violin in D major, Opus 6; Prahms — Symphony No. 4.

Tuxedo Jazz Band in concert, Friday, July 14, 8 p.m. Dunbar Performing Arts Center, Orleans and Caroline.

Liberated Wailing Wall presents special program Jewish Gospel Music, Poly-Western High School, July 18 7:30 p.m. The public is invited free of charge.

Great Guitars. Charlie Byrd, Herb Ellis and Barney Kessell and Tim Everman and East Coast Offering, King of France Tavern July 11-15, Annapolis and Eldorado, July 14-15. 21. 542-2003.

Free films

"Tell Me Where It Hurts." Pratt's Morrell Park Center, Monday 6 p.m.

"Life God." Central Pratt Library, Monday 7 p.m.

"Pygmalion," Central Pratt Library, Tuesday 2 p.m.

"Mrs. Amworth." Pratt's Herring Run Branch, Tuesday 3 p.m.

"The Little Princess." Pratt's Dundalk Avenue Branch, Tuesday 6:30 p.m. "Father Panchali." Central Pratt Library, Tuesday 7 p.m.

Art

City Hall Courtyard Galleries — Exhibit "Makig Medical Historv: A Baltimore Tradition." Free. Monday-Friday 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thru July 25-Information 396-4721.

Lectures

"Crime and Older Adults," a lecture program planned especially for senior citizens, featuring Specialist Clarice Brooks, Baltimore Police Department. Pratt's Walbrook Branch, Wednesday 10 a.m.

"CPR." "Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) a four-hour lecture-demonstration of life-saving techniques, co-sponsored by the Enoch Pratt Free Library and the American Heart Association. Central Pratt Library, Saturday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

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.

Theatre

The Magic Show, Broadway's first magic musical comedy, New Mechanic Theatre, July 11-23.

New Baltimore Minstrels directed by Sonny Clash presents "A Matter of Timing" at All Saints Church, Liberty Heights

Jason and the Argonauts

'Legend of Golden Fleece'

The legend of Jason and the Golden Fleece is as old as time itself. Famed in Greek mythology, it is known to millions throughout the world. For the first time in motion picture history, the Jason legend was recreated for the screen in all of its epic proportions in the Charles H. Schneer Production, "Jason and the Argonauts."

The multi-million-dollar adventure spectacle stars Todd Armstrong as Jason and Nancy Kovack as Medea. Filmed in 1962, it is a Columbia Pictures re-release and open area theaters next week.

Like more legends passed down through the ages, the Jason legend has no fixed literary or historical starting point. It began, as most legends begin, as part of the folklore of a people.

The ancient Greeks of the Homeric period knew the legend of Jason and the voyage of the Argonauts, which had passed from lore into literature of the time. Homer himself makes a passing reference to the Argo ship in the twelfth book of the Odyssey. Herodotus, who wrote in the fifth century, B.C., opens his book with reference to the voyage of the Argonauts.

The age of a legend is always open to conjecture. Historians believe the Jason legend dates back to the pre-Homeric period, between 3500 to about 1200, B.C. While the legend was familiar to most minds of the classical period, it remained for Appollonius Rhodius, who lived in the third century, B.C., to gather the details of Jason's fabulous search in his book, "Argonautica."

With the film production of "Jason and the Argonauts," the legend is colorfully brought alive for movie goers to experience the excitement of that heroic age, when gods like men, and men like gods, lived, loved and fought together.

The story of the film closely parallels the original legend. The events, names, places and characterizations are faithfully reproduced in the movie version. With only slight modification in time sequence, the story carries forward with Jason's return to Thessaly to claim his rightful kingdom twenty years after his father's murder at the hands of Pelias.

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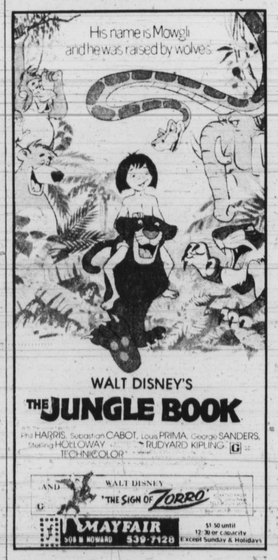

For The Record

Milt Matthews wails at Gatsby's

By Frederick I. Douglass

Milt Matthews, the vocalist and guitarist whose latest hit is "Stop that Train," was formally introduced to the Baltimore music loving public this past Monday night at the plush Gatsby's nitery.

Matthews' performance is part of an exciting and innovative concept known as "Celebrity Night" which represents yet another dynamic brainstorm of Rod Armstrong and Ernie Donaldson, the movers and shakers of A and D Booking Agency, Baltimore's most progressive talent and promotional agency.

Ernie Donaldson states "this is the first of many events designed to expose Baltimoreans to new talent that is deserving of wider recognition."

Rod Armstrong adds "we will be doing a wide variety of programs here at Gatsby's where the atmosphere and crowd is ideal for presenting new talent to open - minded people who are willing to try something different.

We plan to give exposure to local talent that has potential to go on to nationwide fame as well as to bring in some stars who have already established an international status. Furthermore we plan to pay tribute to some of the celebrities who work behind the scenes, that never get on stage, but who play an important role in the development and exposure of talent including disc jockeys, club owners, record store owners, the writers from important papers like the AFRO - AMERICAN, and others who have a major influence on the recording industry.

"Additionally, we will also be honoring other public figures including politicians and other leaders who have made valuable contributions toward making Baltimore the dynamic city that it is. In other words, we want to pay tribute to all of Baltimore's celebrities."

Milt Matthews

Armstrong and Donaldson are off to a magnificent start if the first "Celebrity Night" is a sign of what future ones will be like. Everybody on the scene had a ball, basking in the ritzy splendor of Gatsby's while Milt Matthews crooned a few mean tunes from his latest album which has his own name emblazoned across the cover as the title. Born in Fountain, N.C., Matthews plays mean guitar and croons in a manner that evokes images of Otis Redding, Johnny Taylor, and at times Sam Cooke with a modern twist to phrasing the lyrics as well as in the beat of his songs.

Matthews made a lot of friends at Gatsby's as he dramatically belted out the lyrics to tunes like "Trust Me", "This Is My Song," "Me and You and Love," and several other original compositions. He even did a serious Jimmy Reed and Muddy Waters inspired blues number which took the folks back to their roots. The ladies in the audience especially dug on Matthews' act, particularly when he got down on some serious ballads.

It was a fantastic and unforgettable night at Gatsby's, getting a disco saunder the swirling and constantly changing lights that illuminate the glass dance floor and digging on the galvanic sounds of vocalist - guitarist Milt Matthews. Celebrities attending this gala affair included Kweisi Mfume, Curtis Anderson, Moon Man, Gregory Scroggins, O. J. Phillips, Eric Henson, the members of First Class and the Softones, and Baltimore's premiere lady vocalist — Ms. Eleanor Mills! A tip of the hat to Armstrong and Donaldson.

Margie Joseph 'feeling my way'

By Vashti McKenzie

Margie Joseph is a recording artist and performer, a housewife and mother who has toured with Al Green, Spinners, Sister Sledge, Blue Magic, Major Harris and Jimmy Castor among others.

This month she has a new break-out hit, "Come On Back To Me Lover," taken from her new LP "Feeling My Way." The album was produced by veteran Johnny Bristol, who wrote or co-wrote all of the material and contributed rhythm arrangements.

"I Love Talking 'bout Baby," "He Came Into My Life" and "You Turned Me On To Love" are from Bristol's hit catalog. Bristol draws a strong current of emotion from Margie on the soulful "Discover Me (And You'll Discover Love" and joins in a duet with the songstress on "How Will I Know."

Members of Bristol's backing band, Wall Street, the vocal group Deshalyn and Earth, Wind and Fire's Al McKay lend stellar instrumental backup.

Margie Joseph says she has always wanted to be a performer as long as she could remember.

As a child growing up in Gautier, Miss., she would sing to herself in front of the mirror. Youthful fantasies of being an entertainer piqued her imagination as she glued herself to the TV set during the daytime.

"Watching all the different TV shows, seeing the beautiful gowns and hearing the applause-the fever of show business took possession of me."

Through her school years, she joined every play and talent show, sang in the church choir and became an active participant in the Sunday night get togethers organized by her mother for family and friend.

When she enrolled at Dillard University in New Orleans, enthusiastic friends arranged an audition with Larry McKinley, program director for WNOR.

That was the start of her professional career and he has guided her ever since and is now her husband.

Her first gig got her standing room ovations when she opened for Cannonball Adderly in New Orleans. Later her husband took her to Atlantic Records to producer Arif Mardin.

Jerry Wexler . . the man who nurtured Aretha Franklin's growth heard her and pronounced, "I think she belongs with the top ten female soul singers of our day."

So, here she is in all her lusty deep-Southern bred R & B. Give a listen.

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Mike Douglas: From Hollywood co-host Hal Linden is joined by John Byner, Danielle Spencer, the Fifth Dimension, fashion director of Gentleman's Quarterly magazine. 4:30-6:00 p.m. - Channel 13.

Hollywood Squares: Pearl Bailey, Hal Linden, Paul Lynde and many others are guests tonight. 7:30-8:00 p.m. - Channel 11.

Baseball: One of the following games will be aired: Twins - Red Sox, White Sox - Brewers or Giants - Cardinals. 8:00-11:00 p.m. - ABC.

TV Watching

By Vanessa Johnson

Lionel Hampton, whose innovations in the world of jazz on the vibes span more than four decades, teams up with Arthur Fiedler and the Boston Pops Orchestra Sunday, July 16, 8 p.m. on PBS.

Friday

CPO Sharkey: Sharkey fears that his sudden back pains will eliminate him from the CPO of the Year competition. 8:00-8:30 p.m. - NBC.

Don Krishner's Rock: Frankie Valli, The Jacksons, Lake, the Alan Parsons Project and comedy group the Village People. 11:30-1:00 a.m. - Channel 9.

Midnight Special: The fourth anniversary show with Helen Reddy as hostess, David Bowie, the Bee Gees, Captain & Tennille, Earth, Wind & Fire, Aretha Franklin and many other guests. 1:00-2:30 a.m. - NBC.

Saturday

Fat Albert: A prank gets out of hand when Cool Roy vandalizes a traffic sign and almost causes an accident. 12:00-12:30 p.m. - CBS.

Soul Train: The Brothers Johnson ("Strawberry Letter 23, "Runnin for Your Lovin") and Foster Sylver ("Don't Be Cruel," "Knockin on Your Door") and the Soul Train Gang are guests today. 12:30-1:30 p.m. - NBC.

Greatest Sports Legends: Hall of Famer Willie Mays, the childhood idol of series host Reggie Jackson, reviews films of his illustrious 22 year career in the major leagues. 2:00-2:30 p.m. - Channel 7.

Sunday

Evening at Pops: "Lionel Hampton in Concert." In 1930, Lionel Hampton was a promising drummer with a Los Angeles band when Louis Armstrong suggested he take up a relatively new instrument called the vibraphone. Hampton did and the rest is jazz history. 8:00-9:00 p.m. - Channels 22 & 67.

ABC Movie: Billy Dee Williams plays a cop on "The Take" in this melodrama about syndicate-busting in New Mexico. Also starring Tracy Reed. 9:00-11:00 p.m. - ABC.

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