Carol Channing here to preview 'Dolly'

By Elizabeth M. Oliver

Carol Channing's coming to Baltimore in December with the original "Hello Dolly" cast will probably be the high point of the entire Mechanic Theatre winter program.

Opening night Tuesday with Tony Randall in "The Music Man" was spectacular but a wee bit [illegible] the sudden appearance in the audience of Miss Channing, "The Dolly" of all time. And her press conference-brunch at the Hilton the following morning was a performance unforgettable.

Some playgoers prefer to remember "Dolly" as Pearl Bailey and they recall the longtime Broadway hit only in terms of Louis Armstrong singing the "Hello Dolly" theme somng which is now a classic.

But, do they know of the close relationship of Carol Channing and the late Louis Armstrong?

When the AFRO asked Carol to give us the story, she replied, "He was my best friend, a dear one."

Clasping her hands in deep remembering and closing her big, lion-like eyes, she went on, "He was my inspiration. He gave me courage. When I asked him if he thought I could play the part, he simply said 'Dolly is made for you and you for Dolly.'

We have heard that persons outside Broadway play fans do not like Carol Channing. They say she is artificial and "puts on" too much.

Nevertheless, you should meet her in person. You would become spellbound by her sincerity and high intelligence. She's a star, no doubt about it, an ageless star and one whom you know instantly as an artist without prejudice or color.

Her huge head with the blonde mane and bangs over her alarmingly deep-set and large eyes, is unbelievable, much less her thin, 6 foot, 4 inch height, "in heels" she says.

Unmindful of criticism she might risk from scores of media representatives, she talks on and on with no trace of aiming to please. Soon, she has captured even the hardest critic.

Demonstrating and accenting her point with her arms and hands, she tells how an actor or actress feels in front of an audience, "re-creating the role and the play with each performance."

Saying her part as Dolly is thrilling and comes with total ease, Miss Channing says the message of the story and the part she plays have become her very being.

The story is well known. It is the life of all women at the turn of the century when females were considered "not a part of the human race."

But, Miss Channing states, Dolly echoed the chant, that, "By golly, I'll make it as a woman, on my own and before it's too late."

There at this critical point comes the song — message, "Before the Parade Passes By," and Dolly becomes a winner.

Still known as the "Diamonds Are a Girl's Best Xriend" advocate, Miss Channing gave away a few fake diamond rings.

CAROL CHANNING and her best friend, Louis Armstrong, the late singer of the hit song Hello Dolly.

TONIGHT AT 8PM!

"The Music Man" dances to rave reviews! With Tony Randall as Professor Hill, "The Music Man" lustfully and prancingly opened the Mechanic Theatre's season!

R.P. Harris / News

Mr. Randall is a man of many talents and before the evening was thru he had completely won me over!

R.H. Gardner / Sun

TONY RANDALL

Meredith Willsons

NOW thru SEPTEMBER 23

THE NEW [illegible]

There will be no performance this week-end September 8, 9 and 10 at the Arena Playhouse.

"SHOWDOWN" has been rescheduled for September 14, 15 and 16.

For further information call:

728-6500

Arena Players restage Eubie's 'Shuffle Along'

Eubie Blake and Noble Sissle's "Shuffle Along," the first black musical produced on Broadway in 1921, will be restaged on April 20 through May 13, 1979 as a very special part of the Arena Players "Season Twenty-Six."

Sandy Wilson's "The Boy Friend," a musical spoof of the roaring '20s, complete with songs and dances in the style of the period, opens Sept. 29, 1978.

"Child's Play" by Robert Marasco, an original drama of suspense, set in a Catholic boys boarding school, is scheduled for Nov. 10.

The Youtheatre of the Arena Players have designed an original revue, "It's Simply Love," scheduled for Dec. 15.

Neil Simon's "Gingerbread Lady" opens January 1979. It's the story of a popular singing star who has reached rock bottom because of alcoholism.

Sidney Kingsley's "Detective Story" opens Feb. 2.

A double bill, Rudy Wallace's "The Philosopher-Limer" and Everett Marshburn's "Cleaning the Temple" winds up the Arena schedule, opening March 16.

Commodores' member robbed, friend raped

Bassist - trumpeter Ronald La Pread with the world - famous Motown group, the Commodores and his friend, Dr. Lemon McMillan were robbed and their female friend was raped on Aug. 24.

They were returning to McMillan's home at 5 a.m. in the Ladera Heights area outside Hollywood when they were confronted by two kids with guns who raped the girl, robbed them of more than $3,200 worth of jewelry and escaped in McMillan's $43,000 Rolls Royce, according to Bob Jones of Motown's publicity department.

'Good Times' season premiere

Florida comes home for Thelma's wedding

After a long separation from her children, Florida Evans returns home for the impending marriage of her daughter, Thelma, to a handsome All American football player, in the one-hour episode that launches the sixth season of "Good Times," Saturday, Sept. 16 (8 to 9 p.m.) on CBS.

Esther Rolle is reintroduced in her starring role as the mom of the Evans family, following a season's absence. Jimmie Walker continues in his starring role as Florida's oldest son, J.J., and in the premiere episode is confronted with devastating news that alters the direction of his life.

Ja'net DuBois again stars as Willona Woods, Florida's best friend and neighbor, who has been providing guidance for the Evans children during Florida's absence.

Ralph Carter stars as Michael Evans, the [illegible] son, now preparing for college.

Bernadette Stanis stars as Thelma Evans, Florida's beautiful daughter, who is on the threshold of marriage and a new way of life.

Johnny Brown returns in the role of Nathan Bookman, the superintendent for the Evans' apartment building. Young Janet Jackson continues as Willona's adopted daughter, Penny. And Ben Powers is introduced as Keith Anderson, Thelma's husband-to-be.

In the opening episode the Evans children and Willona are pleasantly shocked to learn that Thelma has been dating Keith, a Heisman Trophy candidate who is negotiating a $1,000,000 professional contract with the Chicago Bears.

When Keith proposes, it only remains for Thelma to phone her mother in Arizona to ask for her blessing. But happiness soon turns to heartbreak when Florida rushes home to be with her daughter, only to find a house in turmoil.

Norman Paul is the executive producer, Sid Dorfman the producer and Gerren Keith the director. The first half-hour of the premiere was written by Michael S. Baser and Kim Weiskopf and Wayne Klein, based on a story by Baser and Weiskopf and Norman Paul; and the second half-hour was written by Joe Bonaduce and Sid Dorfman, based on a story by Bonaduce and Paul. "Good Times" is a presentation of Tandem Productions.

Albums

1. Imagos — Crusaders
2. Sounds . . . And Stuff Like That — Quincy Jones
3. Feels So Good — Chuck Mangione
4. Sunlight — Herbie Hancock
5. Tropico — Gato Barbieri
6. You Send Me — Roy Ayers
7. Weekend in L.A. — George Benson
8. Priestess — Roger Humphrey
9. Friends — Chick Corea
10. Sugar Blue — Freddie Hubbard

Top R & B Albums

1. Bloom — Earth, Wind & Fire
2. Lightnessss — LTD
3. Love's A Song Worth Singing — Teddy Pendergrass
4. Natural High — Commodores
5. Get Off — Foxy
6. Come Get It — Rick James
7. In The Night Time — Michael Henderson
8. Sounds . . . And Stuff Like That — Quincy Jones
9. A Taste of Honey — A Taste of Honey
10. Lowdown — Boz Scaggs

Dancing exhibit

On Thursday, Sept. 14, 7:30 p.m. the Randallstown Library will present a demonstration of aerobic dancing by Jacki Sorensen Organization.

Admission is by free ticket, which may be picked up one week before the program.

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Baltimore Symphony, Sept. 17

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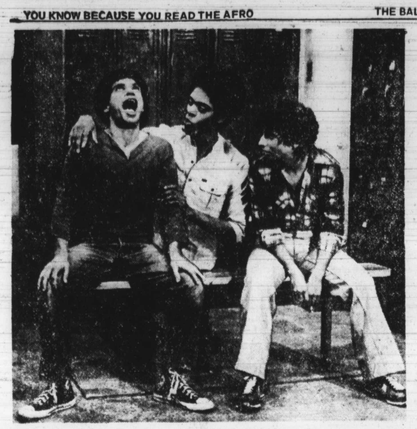

CLOWNING AROUND — Robert Hegyes, Lawrence Hilton Jacobs and Ron Palillo (L to R) star as three of the "Sweathogs" whose crazy antics will continue to disrupt the classroom of Mr. Kotter when the ABC comedy series "Welcome Back, Kotter" returns to ABC in a special hour-long season premiere on Monday, Sept. 11 at 8 p.m.

TV watching

What's on the tube this weekend?

By Vanessa Johnson

Friday

Billboard's Disco Party Side 1: Donna Summer is the hostess for a performance of disco music by the **Village People**, and **Linda Clifford**. 8:00-9:00 p.m.-Channel 5.

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Hot City: Guest not known at press-time. 8:00-9:00 p.m.-Channel 11.

—

Merv Griffin: Guests tonight are **Sarah Vaughan, Eva Gabor, Lonnie Shorr** and **Los Angeles Dodgers** peanut vendor **Roger Owens**. 9:00-10:00 p.m.-Channel 5.

—

Roots: Rumors of slave rebellion pervade part 4, as Kizzy, now 36, finds romance with a slave called Sam. Meanwhile, Sam's gamblerowner seeks to buy Kizzy's son "Chicken" George, so named for his reputation as a game cock-handler. 9:00-11:00 p.m.-ABC.

—

Midnight Special: Hosts K.C. & the Sunshine Band are joined by guests Paul McCarney & Wings, Donna Summer, Cheryl Ladd, Teddy Pendergrass. Including a salute to Otis Redding. 1:00-2:30 a.m.-NBC.

Saturday

Weekend Special : This children's drama series launches its second season with "The Seven Wishes of Joanna Peabody, in which Butterfly McQueen plays a modern day fairy godmother who offers her services to a young Harlem girl. 12:00-1:00 p.m.-Channel 13.

Soul Train: Performance by the O'Jays ("Brandy" and "Use Ta Be My Girl") and Etta James sings "Sugar on the Floor." 12:30-1:30 p.m.-Channel 11.

—

Wide World of Sports: Sugar Ray Leonard (13-0) meets Floyd Mayweather (14-1) in a scheduled 10 round welterweight bout telecast live from Providence, R.I. 4:30-6:00 p.m.-ABC.

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Hot City: Guests include **Eddie Kendricks** and **Lisa Hartman. Kendricks** sings "Ain't no Smoke Without Fire." 6:00-7:00 p.m.-Channel 5.

—

Spiderman: Spiderman unleases his arachnoid powers for a second season, this time to aid the occupants of a New York skyscraper under seige by a gang of terrorists. Starring **Chip Fields**. 8:00-9:00 p.m.-Channel 2.

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Love Boat: A proud black (**Vernee Watson**) is offended by the Uncle Tomfoolery of another black passenger (**Scatman Crothers**). Starring **Ted Lange**. 9:00-10:00 p.m.-ABC.

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Sunday

Ground of Faith: A profile of U.S. Ambassador to the UN Andrew Young. The program focuses on Young's childhood in New Orleans, his decision to enter the ministry and his involvement with the Southern Christian Leadership conference. 7:00-8:00 a.m.-Channel 2.

—?

Roots: In the conclusion of Alex Haley's "Roots," a free Chicken George is reunited with his family. They remain on the plantation as sharecroppers, but soon find that Senator Justin intends to make sharecropping into virtual slavery. 8:00-11:00 p.m.-ABC.

—

CBS Movie: "Guess Who's Coming To Dinner." An affluent San Francisco couple's liberal views are put to the test when their daughter announces plans to marry a black doctor. Starring **Sidney Poitier**. 11:30-1:30 a.m.-Channel 2.

—

Monday

Dinah: Guests today are Carol Burnett, Jane Seymour, Joe LaDue, High Energy and tennis professional Henry Hines. 4:00-5:30 c.m.-Channel 9.

SPINACH EATER RETURNS — Popeye stars this season on Saturdays in "The All-New Popeye Hour," 60 minutes of animated fun, premiering Saturday, Sept. 6 at 8 a.m. on CBS. Popeye fans can get an extra dose of spinach in "The Popeye Show," a special to be aired Wednesday, Sept. 13 at 8 p.m. on CBS.

Group opposes plan to expand Church Home

The staff of the Central Maryland Health Systems Agency has asked a committee to reject the proposed $16.5 million expansion of Church Home and Hospital because the number of unused hospital beds in the city is increasing.

The proposal went before the Certification and Review Committee Wednesday.

The staff opposed the expansion because it would have a "negative impact" on construction plans of Franklin Square, Johns Hopkins and North Charles General Hospitals.

The group also said last week that Church Home and Hospital would be unable to fill 90 percent of its beds if expanded.

The staff report said the occupancy rate of an expanded church Home and Hospital with 296 beds would be as low as 75 percent, 15 percent less than estimated as the basis for the hospital's feasibility study.

James R. Bobb, Church Home and Hospital's executive vice president, said the hospital plans to fight the recommendations.

"The staff has said our project has merit, but they have adopted a policy of regional concern," he said. "Essentially what they are saying is that too many beds have been approved at other hospitals. And to rectify that they're proposing to decertify beds here."

The hospital occupany rate set by the agency is 90 percent. The agency has warned that there could be 700 excess beds in the Baltimore area by the 1980s.

The staff also said rebuilding the hospital could encourage unnecessary admissions and the use of unreqiured services there. The report suggested that the expansion plans be modified to have between 218 and 276 beds.

Bobb said he understood the regional problems, but flet that the hospital has been a "very responsible problems, but felt that the hospital has been a "very responsible hospital citizen in the city" and "shouldn't be penalized now."

Catholics deny abortion reports

A consortium of five Roman Catholic Hospitals denied Wednesday a state report that 300 abortions were performed at the hospitals last year.

Sister Marie Cecilia, a spokeswoman for the Catholic Health Care Consortium, "physicians practicing in Catholic Hospitals treat patients who are having spontaneous abortions (miscarriages)," she said. "They do not admit patients to our hospitals for therapeutic or voluntary abortions."

"Since our right - to - life philosophy recognizes the sacredness of human life, we wish to emphasize to the community that no voluntary abortions are performed in our Catholic hospitals," she said.

She said the report by the State Health Services Cost Review Commission should have referred to them as miscarriages.

J. Graham Atkinson, a member of the Cost Review Commission, said abortion statistics in the report included therapeutic abortions, other induced abortions, spontaneous abortions and post - abortion complications.

The five hospitals listed were Bon Secours, Good Samaritan, Mercy, St. Agnes and St. Joseph's.

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