SHOWTIME

★Arts
★Music
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Eubie gets standing ovations, love , cake, 96 roses

By Ida Peters

Eubie Blake has been somebody almost all of his adult life. He has been toasted all over the world and in September, 1978 he was hailed on Broadway for his show "EUBIE". The AFRO headlined "I'm just wild about "Eubie".

As he approached his 96th birthday he was honored by the New York cast of "Eubie" (Feb. 4) and his picture was flashed across the world.

Tuesday night, Dr. Eubie Blake actually strutted on stage before enthusiastic capacity audience including Mayor William Donald Schaefer, Governor Harry Hughes, Congressman Parren Mitchell, and producer Ashton Springer to celebrate his actual 96th birthday in his hometown.

Eubie is the ultimate showman. The opening night audience had already given sustained applause to the cast of "Eubie" and was posed on the edge of their seats to give the great man a standing ovation.

When the Mayor finished his remarks and Cab Calloway bounded to the stage to lead the singing of Happy Birthday . . . Eubie Blake indicated by his high stepping strut that he valued Baltimore's tribute above all that he has ever received in his lifetime.

Truly, it was Baltimore's finest hour and you'll be wild about his show "Eubie". Eubie's music will have your toes tapping through 24 of his own songs from "Good Night Angeline" written in 1919 and "Charleston Rag", 1899 thru the finale "I'm Just Wild About Harry", 1921.

When Cab bounded on stage he greeted Eubie with "Hi ya Dad". Eubie quipped back, "Whatya mean dad? You ain't as old as me."

When they handed Eubie a big knife to cut the three - tiered cake, rolled in by two chefs from the Community College of Baltimore in white coats and tall white hats . . . Eubie asked out loud . . . "How do you cut a cake?"

Eubie solved the dilemma by using the knife like a sword and plunging it deep into the cake.

The Dunbar Choir came on to present Eubie with 96 roses and he asked that the roses go to the many elderly persons in the audience over 70.

The Mechanic Management was very protective of Eubie and tried to hustle him off without having a good say. They really should have turned him loose.

As it is, he did get a chance to say that it takes a lot of work and money to get a show like "Eubie" to the stage. First you have to have the music, then an idea, then a producer like Ashton (he called him Ashley) Springer. "But it all ain't worth 10 cents without a great cast like the one here". And, in typical Eubie style, under his breath he added . . . "Let me get off — before I cut a hog."

Mayor William Donald Schaefer entertained the Blakes at dinner at City Hall before the show.

Guests included the William J. Browns, Dr. and Mrs. Shirley Clinton, Dr. and Mrs. Garland Chissell, the Mark Eisenbergs, the David Cohans, the Lenwood Iveys, Herbert Berkenheimers, Western Iveys, Quentin Lawson, Victor Frenkils, Edward Poturalaski.

Also, the Ed Garnetts, Robert Winchesters, Mrs. Hope Quackenbush, James and Lillie Myers, the Phillip Langners, the Ashton Springers, Cab and Nuffie Calloway, the Robert Hillmans, Clifton and Camilla Sherrard, the George Bereskas, Stephen Mullers, the Robert E. Michaels, the Robert Embrys, Congresswoman Barbara Mikulski, Mrs. Hilda Snoops and Craig Snoops.

Later the Mayor commented on Eubie's remarkable memory. Eubie was born Feb. 7, 1883. He remembered watching the great Baltimore Fire on his birthday, Feb. 7, 1904, from his home in East Baltimore. He also remembered when the Jones Fall was an open stream and he used to sit on its banks.

Every seat was filled at the Mechanic opening night. Spied Mrs. Lerraine Brown and daughter; the Leon Bridges, Mary and Charles Robinson, C & P Telephone Co's Carl Smith, City Solicitor Ben Brown, Assistant City Solicitor Elise Jude Mason, the John Stokes', Mrs. Marguerite Campbell, Mrs. Marie Henderson.

OCB president and Mrs. Rafael Cortada, Charles Tildon, Mrs. Gladys Daniels, Mrs. Alice Pinderhughes (she denies that rumour you read); Allen Quille (he just back from Jerusalem and suffering jet lag); Mr. and Mrs. Roland McConnell, the A. Paul Mosses, Mrs. Pearl Brackett, George and Bernice White;

Leonard and Thelma Cox, Mrs. Gwen Clarke, Mrs. Lydia Mussenden, McCormick's Howard and Dorothy Marshall, Mrs. Camay Brooks, the H.U. professor and daughter of Cab Calloway; the James Lewis', Clarence and Bernice Monroe, Cab's sister; Mrs. Mae Fortune;

Nikki Randolph and daughter Lisa, Arnetta and George Lottier, George and Myrtice Bennett to name a few.

Eubie and Marion Blake were too exhausted to carry on for the Cast Party held at the Ritz (the old Playboy Club) from 10 to 2 a.m.

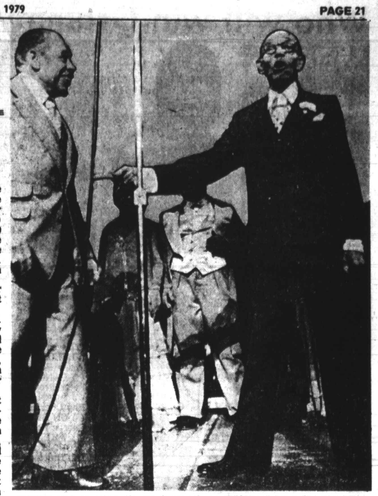
Hardy souls like Portia Badham, sporting a new hairdo . . . Norman Brailey, Sam Wilson, Lawrence Parker . . . he saying you gain a lot from a failure . . . Anita Cartwright, Simon Crumm, Carlos Hutchins and Marvin Sampson . . . all heartily discoed until 2 a.m.

And . . . Chris Calloway did join the disco crowd to sip and chat.

Eubie joins Cab to sing "Happy Birthday to me."

Congresswoman Barbara Mikulski chats with Ashton Springer, producer of "Eubie" with Mrs. Sandra Hillman, president of the Mechanic.

Mrs. Mildred Chase, Mrs. Hester Lee, Mrs. Rose Pino, Mrs. Marie Murphy, Mrs. Marguerite Dixon toast Eubie Blake.



Eubie Blake to Cab Calloway — "Who you calling Dad? You ain't as old as me!"

Mayor William Donald Schaefer, Cab Calloway, his sister, Mrs. Bernice Monroe and the honoree, Eubie Blake.

Eubie's songs 1899-1956

Good Night Angeline - 1919
Charlestone Rag - 1899
Shuffle Along - 1921 (Lyrics Noble Sissle)
In Honeysuckle Time - 1921 (Lyrics Noble Sissle
I'm Just Wild About Harry - 1921 (Lyrics Noble Sissle)
Baltimore Buzz - 1921
Daddy - 1921 (Lyrics Noble Sissle)
There's A Million Little Cupid in the Sky - 1924 (Lyrics by Noble Sissle)
My Handyman Ain't Handy No More - 1930 (Lyrics Andy Razaf)
Low Down Blues - 1921 (Lyrics Noble Sissle)
Gee, I Wish I Had Someone to Rock Me in the Cradle of Love - 1919 (Lyrics Noble Sissle)
I'm Just Simply Full of Jazz - 1919 (Lyrics Noble Sissle)
High Steppin' Davis - 1921 (Lyrics Johnny Brandon 1978)
Dixie Moon - 1924 (Lyrics Noble Sissle)
Weary - 1940 (Lyrics Andy Razaf)
Roll Jordan - 1930 (Lyrics Andy Razaf)
Memories of You - 1930 (Lyrics Andy Razaf)
If You've Never Been Vamped By A Brownskin, You've Never Been Vamped at All - 1921 (Lyrics Noble Sissle)

Dr. and Mrs. Rafael Cortada, president of Community College of Baltimore, and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Tildon at Eubie opening.

Night Scene Seen —Reviving AFRO After Hours Tradition—

With Bob Matthews

There's an old saying which goes: ". . . The Show Must Go On. . ."

Well, we are here to tell you that this is not necessarily so. Usually, this Night Scene column is researched and investigated on Wednesdays.

That's the night we visit various clubs and lounges throughout the city in order to bring you a graphic report on the happenings after dark in our town

But, if you remember last Wednesday, it snowed like there was no tomorrow.

Now the worst thing about a snow storm — as far as the night club business is concerned — is not necessarily the condition of the streets. No, the worst thing is the imposition of Phase Two of the Snow Emergency Plan.

Under it, of course, parking is forbidden on streets marked "Snow Emergency Route."

At any rate, we attempted to carry out the "show must go on" tradition. Lacing up our waterproof boots, snuggling a six - foot scarf around our necks, off we trode — an intrepid soul, sparing no quarter in order to bring you the story.

Well, we should have stayed in bed.

Knowing there was a picture available of Dorothy Knight, one of the barmaids at the Lorman House, decided we should stop by and check things out for you.

Of course the Lorman House is on North Fulton Avenue at Laurens Street, so we carefully searched out a reasonably snow - free place nearby and trudged to the club.

Pulled on the front door — it was locked. Checked my watch, thought maybe it was after closing time. It was only 11:05 p.m., and we could see about four or five people inside.

After a few minutes, a bearded young man walked past the door to adjust the overhead television set.

Tapped on the glass door, and shouted: "Are you open?"

There was a sort of growl from inside and the voice said while never pausing: "We're closed."

Ergo, no report on Lorman House.

Wasn't upset. Could easily understand closing early on a night like this. So, we trudged back to the faithful old machine, and headed toward Mount and Mosher to Phil's.

As always, the corner was brightly lighted with the various signs outside the club, and there was a small coterie inside. There was no barmaid on duty — one of the managers was pouring the potables.

One side of the room had the chairs stacked atop the bar, but the conversation among the devotees who braved the storm to sip with friends, was animated and warm.

Noted that the package goods side seemed to do a landoffice business on a night like this. Which is understandable. Noted a sign of the times on the package goods side.

Remember when you once bought some package goods, and a couple of paper cups, the cups were either free or cost a penny. A big sign in Phil's says they are now three cents per.

Also was a sign that claimed: "Wings and Things, $1.35". Will have to go back at a later date to check this out.

Through it all, Phil's seems to remain the same as we remember it through the years. Don't know if they still have live music in the back room, but the front bar seems to have stood still in time.

Well, we thought, there's a new thing cooking tonight at The Bandstand over in Fells Point, so why not drop in to see what's happening.

Wednesday nights are now called "Mike's Night," and this was supposed to be the kickoff. Mike had told me previously that Arnold Sterling would be on tap for the gig, that it would be a straight music evening, with no jazz jam for the fledgling musicians.

Actually, Fells Point was buzzing on this snowy night — but the Bandstand was closed — tight!

Decided to whip back to the west side, and while driving up Reisterstown Road, right at Park Circle, noticed for the first time a new billboard.

On top of the building where Reisterstown Road and Park Heights form a triangle is a billboard that for years was known as the "Jack Pollack" board.

Now, it proudly proclaims for all to see, an ad for Brice's Hilltop Inn.

Signs of the times.

Forgot to mention, that we intended to stop in at the Pagoda Inn en route, since we know it has a raft of devotees who wouldn't let a little thing like a snowstorm stop them from enjoying a "taste."

Was wrong — the place was closed.

Gave up at this point — went home!

MOSTLY FOR MUSIC

Got a call from Bob Haynes, who proudly told me that he will have Brenda Alford and a trio as the regular weekend musical group at the Sportsman's Lounge.

This is quite a coup for the Sportsman's because if you have not heard Brenda — it is a must. Just so you'll be able to say in later years, "I heard her way back then."

We predict, and are not alone in this, that she will be your next big jazz vocalist star.

For the Saturday afternoon jazz set, The Sportsman Lounge will have Lady Rebecca, backed up by Mickey Fields, Johnny Polite and Sonny Fowlkes.

Saundra Parker Wooten's Lounge

Rosalind High Club Oz

Dorothy Knight Lorman House

COOPERATION is the name of the game as demonstrated by David Cavanaugh's 6th grade tumbling class. 1st Row — William Mobley, Tye Evans, Alphonsus Bess; 2nd Row — Stephanie Hill, Adriane Baldwin, Andrew Knox, Randall Jones; 3rd Row — Gregory Pressley, Darryl Mitchell; TOP — Kristol Smith.

GIST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHOIR directed and instructed by Mrs. Barbara Blackwell includes (L to R) front row — Adriane Johnson, Tanya Jones, Betty Hyman, Vanessa Johnson, Robert Johnson, Teresa Moore, Darryl Mitchell, Charles Stanley, Troy Brockington, Dale Serbide.
2nd row (L to R) — Tommy West, James Lokeman, Rollin Garland, Mia-Conyer, Rachel Welborn, Dawn Cummingham, Christopher Whetstone, Phillip Smith, Ivan Lyles, Seam Brockington, Samuel Taylor.
3rd row (L to R) — Carl Brazil, Timothy Tacker, James Hardy, Lewis Tuggle, Dawn Tharrington, Yvette Kiah, Antoinette Cureton, Lisa Kiah, Kim Woodley, Greaetta Walker, Mary Everett, Tammie Boyd, Charelle Boone.
4th row (L to R) — Robin Rogers, Tarsha Jeffries, Era Bethel, Glen Stubbs, Reginald Johnson, Theresa Taylor, Latonia Battle, Gloria Freeland, Angela McCorkle, Ingrid Johnson, Cheri Davis, Kim Gault.

PALS AND FRIENDS — Vanessa Johnson, Teresa Moore, Charelle Boone, Michelle Kerry, Sharon Moore, Kimberly Johnson, Yvette Kiah, Candace Robinson, Tarsha Bradby and Robin Berkley.

READING RESOURCE classes with Mrs. Anita Blaine, teacher, has in front: sitting — people as (L to R) standing: Pierre Thomas, Rodnedi Brooks, William Dunlap, Dondae Mellon, Craig Crawley, Sammoni Merritt, Douglass Wilson, Sitting — Shawn Carroll, Lynette Colson, Lynette Pette, Kenneth Rice, Monique Peterson.

All photos by Glosco Ryles