Hollywood's scary summer with mutants, monsters, zombies

'Phantasm', horrid happenings in a morgue

Skull Island! The Frankenstein Laboratory! The Borgia Pass!

Add a new setting for terror to those legendary locales. It's the Morninglside Mortuary, where death lurks in myriad fiendish forms and the dear departed are the liveliest corpses in town.

Morningside is the chilling environment of "Phantasm," the first foray into screen horror by acclaimed young writer - director Don Coscarelli.

The cast is headed by Michael Baldwin, Bill Thornbury and Angus Scrimm, a pseudonym for a classic actor who chose to follow the tradition of Lugosi and Karloff by assuming a new identity for his first terror role.

Don Coscarelli describes "Phantasm" as "a series of frightening images and sensations, woven into a very bizarre plot, with one and only one objective — to scare the h-l out of people."

Angus Scrimm, the unearthly undertaker in "Phantasm"

These images begin with the voluptous "lady in lavender," a wanton who hires her lovers to the Morningside graveyard and leaves an indelible mark on them — with a stiletto.

Equally macabre is Scrimm's role as "Th Tall Man," a funeral director dressed in black, with hollow, glowing eyes; a smile that would freeze the Medusa; and a knack for tossing coffins around as if they were kindling.

Add to that an ice cream truck which emits a primal mist; dwarf-like hooded spectres who inhabit the mortuary's embalming cellar; a polished steel ball with blood - dripping daggers; a buzzing demon which lives in the hair of its prey; and grave-diggers whose dismembered limbs have a life of their own.

Pitted against this litany of terror are two young brothers, Jody Pearson (Bill Tornbury) who has reluctantly returned to his home town after the death of his parents, and mike (Michael Baldwin) who idolizes his older, footloose brother.

When Mike claims to have witnessed a series of weird events at the Morningside Mortuary, Jody chalks it up to his sibling's overactive imagination. So Mike pays a midnight visit to the funeral home — and comes back with a grisly souvenir.

And the fun begins. A severed finger turns into a plying beast and the dead come back to life.

"There was a time, in the early days of horror films, when people were frightened by monsters," says Coscarelli. "But that's no longer true. Audiences are more sophisticated. They simply laugh at gruesome make-up."

Gas-less nights at Drive-ins

Eight Baltimore area drive-in theatres will kick off a summer - long energy saving campaign with a "gas-less nite" on Wednesday, June 20.

Moviegoers that night are invited to visit any one of the theatres in any kind of gas-less conveyance—bicycle, horse drawn carriage, little red wagon, wheelbarrow.

Prizes will be given for the most original gas-less conveyance and those who use such vehicles will be admitted two for the price of one. No walk-in patrons will be admitted.

There are eight drive-in theatres in the metropolitan Baltimore area, all located within short driving distance from most homes. And people don't have to run their engines at the theatre. They can enjoy several hours of entertainment not far from their homes and they wilp help conserve on gasoline.

Astronauts cross an uncharted planetoid.

Pulsating egg in 'Alien'

Get ready to start screaming your lungs out in happy horror this summer.

You've already had a taste of the hilarious spoof of the Dracula story, "Love At First Bite."

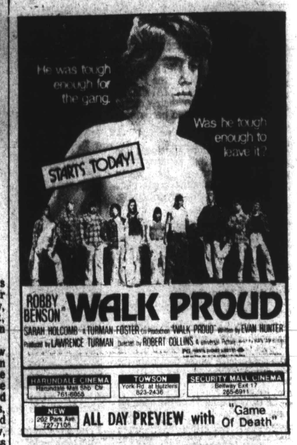
Next, you'll get the "$10 million dollar "Alien," an old - fashioned movie set in a highly realistic sci-fi future. It's a combination of "The Exorcist" and "Star Wars." In contrast to other glamorous adventurous outer - space life, movies, "Alien" initially presents a very ordinary commercial spacecraft with Yaphet Kotto bitching and moaning about wages and working conditions.

The tedium is shared by captain Tom Skerritt, his aide Sigourney Weaver and the rest of the crew, Veronica Cartwright, Harry Dean Stanton, John Hurt and Ian Holm.

The story is about how on a routine space mission they pick up a strange organism on a remote planet and bring it aboard ship where it disappears, metamorphoses and proceeds to eat the crew, one by one. Only actress Sigourney Weaver, as the tough talking astronette, is left to battle it out in T-shirt and panties.

The alien thing emerges first from a skeletal cavern as a pulsating egg to take you to new peaks of thrilling revulsion. This living pulsating mess turns itself from a crab with tentacles into an eyeless snakelike creature, into a giant drooling insect and finally into an almost humanoid slimy black gragon.

MORE - MORE - Audiences are turning out in droves to view these chilling flicks. Watch out for John Frankenheimer's "Prophecy" about a mutant in the Main Woods; bloodsucking bats in "Nightwings" and the ghosts of a murdered family in "The Amityville Horror."



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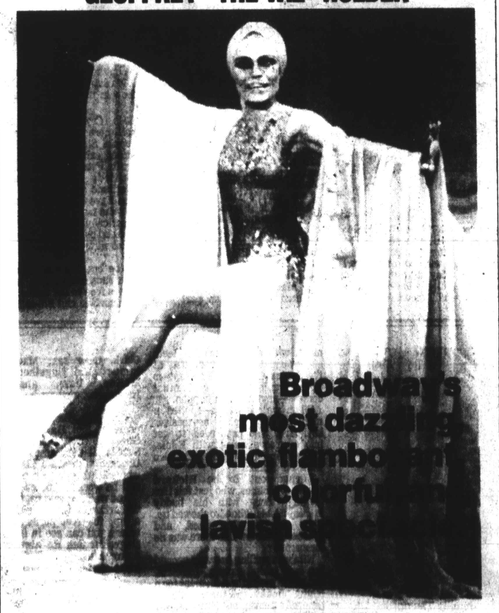

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Calendar

Fatima Fire Eater

Josina in Variety fund raising program June 20, Hamilton Recreation Center 7:30 p.m.

All Day Preview Friday, June15
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PROPHECY
The monster movie
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MAYFAIR

Meet Rudy Lowe, dancer in 'Chorus Line'

By Ida Peters

"A Chorus Line" now playing at the Mechanic Theatre is a show about every dancer's drram getting a part in a big dazzling Broadway musical.

"A Chorus Line" has 17 kids trying out for eighh parts and at the end the director chooses one black, who in this case, turns out to be Rudy Lowe.

He's a great supple dancer, 6'1" weighing in about 165 pounds. All the dancers are excellent but I sort of related to Richie (Rudy) when he drew a laugh from the audience with "My name is Richie Walters. I'm from Hersalanum, Missouri. I was bon on a full moon on June 13, 1949. And I'm black."

Who is Rudy Lowe?

Rudy is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Lowe Sr., of Philadelphia and he's been singing, dancing and acting professionally since he was eight.

His parents are not performers. His father is Jamacian and he comes from a family of four boys and two girls.

While attending Harrison Elementary School, North Central and Jefferson, auditions were held for boys sopranos.

He was selected for the touring choir. He toured Europe with the Philadelphia Musical Academy Boys Choir on tour with the Philadelphia Symphony Orchestra.

He attended Overbrook High School and started dance lessons with the Pennsylvania Ballet Company School under Barbara Weisberger.

His godmother, Hilda Morales, star dancer with the American Ballet Theatre in N.Y. and Howard Dando, his godfather encouraged his study in all facets of dance.

In 1974, he danced with the Pennsylvania Ballet in "Nutcracker" and later he went on to do Lloyd in "The Me Nobody Knows."

He next landed a part in "Miss Moffat" with Betty Davis which unluckily closed in Philly on the way to Broadway, because of Davis' back problems.

Rudy's face is familiar to television viewers because of his many commercials "from Spic and Span to Coca Cola.

He has played on the soap opera "Another World" and appeared in Douglas Turner Ward's Negro Ensemble production of "The Great MacDaddy."

Before "Chorus Line" he toured "all over Europe" in "Hair."

When he first auditioned for director Michael Bennett, he was told he was too young.

Then he auditioned and got the part and has been at it for 14 months, in Chicago, D.C. and Boston.

As for his future, Rudy Lowe plans to build his career gradually, invest money and wait for parts that are right for him.

He's not married but says he has a roving eye. He's only 24 and enjoying his work.

NAACP Radio-Telethon

The Washington Metropolitan area is coming together in support of the NAACP and will hold a NAACP Radio-Telethon on 1340 WYCB on Friday June 15, 6 p.m. live from the Harrambe House through Saturday, June 16.

WYCB is sponsoring 27 hours in support of the NAACP featuring celebrity hosts, co-hosts and outstanding entertainment.

And the NAACP Radio - Telethon continues on WDCA - TV Channel 20 beginning Saturday, June 16 at 10 p.m. until 5 p.m. Sunday June 17.

The NAACP Radio - Telethon hosts WYCB include Vashti McKenzie, Lou Hankins, Jacqueline Gayles, Mitch Clarke, Tony Madison and the entire WYCB staff, the only black owned radio station in Washington and the only 24-hour gospel station.

Celebrity co - hosts include Mrs. Marian Barry, wife of the mayor; Congressman Walter Fauntroy, Hon. Arrington Dixon, chr, D.C. Council, Rev. Edward Hailes, president D.C. NAACP, J. C. Haywood, WDDM-TV, Fail Berry, WJLA-TV, Jerry Phillips WHUR,

Gospel stars are Myrna Summers, J. C. White, N.Y.; Andrew Rowe, Micky Fowler, Baltimore;

Two services of song in support of the NAACP will be boradcast live from 10th Street Baptist Church 10th and R Streets N.W. on Friday June 15 at 11 p.m. and Saturday, June 16 at 6 p.m. The public is invited as this is a rare opportunity to see, hear and appreciate some of the areas's finest gospel artists for free and support the NAACP at the same time.

Mrs. Christine Moore

Judge Joseph Howard

Arena Players banquet

By Ida Peters

The Arena Players, realizing some of their "Possible Dream" held their 14th Annual Awards Presentation to close out their 28th Season at Blue Crest North last Saturday.

Samuel H. Wilson, president, presided and greetings were extended by Mrs. Camilla M. Sherrard, chairperson of the Board of Directors. The invocation was given by Mrs.cVerna L. Day, veteran member.

Irvin Turner, Managing Director presented the Lorraine Hansberry Scholarship Award of $1,000 to Miss Rhonda L. Lynch, graduating this year from Northwestern High School.

She will attend Howard University in 1979. She is the winner of a Gold Medal in the NAACP - ACTSO Competition locally and the winner of a Bronze Medal nationally.

Miss Lynch who participated in gymnastics, cheer leading, track and drama at Northwestern, also is Vice - President of her senior class and found time to take advanced college credits at Coppin and Johns Hopkins.

In her acceptance, she told the group "I hope to continue in theatre and make all of you proud of me."

Mrs. Vernice D. Matthews was presented the Shelton [illegible] Humanitarian Award by Samuel Phillips, retired principal. (See AFRO June 2, 1979 for her bio.)

Surrounded by tableful of friends, relations, clubs, The Chums and Hums, Delta Sigma Theta Sorors, colleagues and husband Marcellus, Mrs. Christine James Moore was presented the Arena Players Artistic Award.

The citation read:

"The Arena Players are rpoud of their Christine James Moore and grateful for the many years of service she has given to the Arena Players and the community. She represents the hallmark of the efforts and ambitions of the Arena Players, excellence personified."

Mrs. Moore is Dean of Admission and Registration for the Community College of Baltimore and appeared in the Arena Players first production," "Bell, Book and Candle."

The Arena Players presented the Civic Award to Judge Joseph C. Howard with humility, pride and inspiration, as a soldier, lawyer, educator, writer, judge and superior citizen.

He acknowledge his birde of 23 years and his brother, Charles and Audrey Howard who befriended him when he came to Baltimore in 1955 and it took him nins months to find a job. In the audience were other good friends including Judge Meyer Cardin, Mrs. Philathea Hall and Dr. Vernell Lockwood as well as members from the legal community.

Mrs. Myrtice Bennett is president of the Women's Committee that planned the dinner. Mrs. Etta Alsop, president of the Promotion Committee.

Outstanding guests acknowledged at the dinner included Sen. Robert Douglass, Senator Lapides, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Reich, City Planning Commission; Judge and Mrs. Robert Watts, John Douglass, Leon Bridges, and Mrs. Paulins Brooks.

Stan Shaw, 'Buffalo Soldiers' big hit at NBC

The Rev. James Cleveland and his famous singers just completed filming a segment of gospel music projection for the Rex Humbard television special, "You Are Loved." The taping was in the old - fashioned Rose Garden at the Arboretum in Arcadia, the place where many of the scenes of "Fantasy Island" are filmed.

BIG hopes rampant foc "The Buffalo Soldiers" pilot show which showed on TV recently, and which starred Stan Shaw and Richard Lawson along with Philip Thomas and others. The Nielsen ratings for the show were high, and we understand that Fred Silverman and Mike Weinblatt at NBC-TV in New York were movingly pleased about it all. Chances are "The Buffalo Soldiers" will get a chance to become a regular piece of entertainment soon on NBC.

DENIECE WILLIAMS, who recently added film acting to her talents of singer and writer, is now smack dab in the middle of a giant promotional campaign to introduce her newest lp, "When Love Comes Calling," and the album's top single, "I've Got The Next Dance." Miss Williams, this time out without Johnny Mathis (who reportedly refused to duet with her on the "Tonight Show"), sang two songs from the album on the Mike Douglass TV show, and did similarly on numerous other network and sundicated TV airers, including "Soul Train."

AND talk about promoting, singer Teddy Pendergrass, who's getting set to play Otis Redding in that movie, got set to appear this weekend in concert for women only. Not that he has not been staging such concerts for a time now, buh this one is unusually just what it says, for Pendergrass is singing for nearly a thousand woman prisoners at the California Institute for Women, in Frontera, California. The special concert will draw, in the most literal sense, an absolutely captive audience.

Bill Lane in Hollywood

Ethnic Festivals

June 16 — Norse - Scot Festival, Inner Harbor.
June 16, 17 — French Festival, Hopkins Plaza.
June 29 - July 1 — German Festival, Inner Harbor.
July 7, 8 — Irish Festival, Hopkins Plaza.
July 13-15 — Greek Festival, Inner Harbor.
July 21, 22 — Polish Festival, Inner Harbor.
July 28, 29 — Afram Festival, Inner Harbor.
August 3-5 — Italian Festival, Inner Harbor.
August 18, 19 — Hispanic Festival, Hopkins Plaza.
August 25, 26 — Ukrainian Festival, Hopkins Plaza.
September 2, 3 — Jesish - American Festival, Inner Harbor.
September 22 — Korean Festival, Charles Center Plaza.
September 29, 30 — American Indian Festival, Inner Harbor.

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INSIDE FACILITIES IN CASE OF RAIN

—Black Music Association

(Continued from Showtime)

In fact, the serious tone of the conference helped reaffirm the high hopes many association members have for the BMA. Around 800 people reportedly attended the conference.

"By virtue of its power the BMA can change the plight of the black performer," notes veteran singer Jerry Butler. "One of the things it can do is serve as a watchdog so that the black artist won't be treated as a second class citizen."

A similar expression of optimism came from a marketing director for Warner Brothers Records. "With a strong BMA behind them, black recording executives who have not spoken out in the past for fear of losing their jobs may now be in a position to do so."

A year old, the BMA already claims a membership of over 2,000 people and organizations.

As if to dispel fears of possible BMA timidness in its representation of black interests in the music industry, Edward W. Wright, co-founder and executive vice president of the BMA, assured attendes that "the BMA formed without any promises to the big money people who supported us.'

"The only promise we made," Wright said, "was to further the growth of black music."

The sessions and divisional meetings put together for the conference discussed job security in the radio industry, alternative merchandising, tapping the international music market and black concert promotions.

In what had to be one of the conference's liveliest meetings, the BMA was implored to pass a resolution supporting black concert promoters.

Noting the "big money" which concert promotions represents black promoters claim that top name black acts usually play for white promoters on their tours.

"This is one of the most prejudiced parts of the entertainment business," concert promoter Leonard Rowe told a meeting chaired by Smokey Robinson. "The problem is that the ticket buyers don't know what's going on behind the scene."

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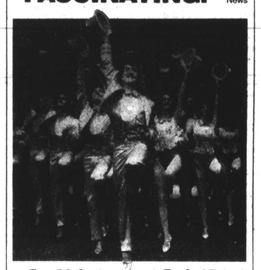

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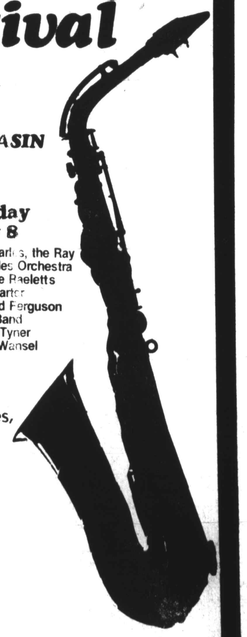

Friday July 6	Saturday July 7	Sunday July 8
Nancy Wilson	Sarah Vaughan	Ray Charles, the Ray Charles Orchestra & The Raelettes
Roy Ayers	Art Blakey	Betty Carter
Freddie Hubbard	Bobby Caldwell	Maynard Ferguson Big Band
Les McCann	Hugh Masekela	McCoy Tyner
Herbie Mann	Buddy Rich Big Band	Dexter Wansel
Stanley Turrentine	Lonnie Liston Smith	

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