1960 - Exotic singer Eartha Kitt looks kittin-ish in leopard coat and gown to match at film premiere of "Can-Can" in N.Y. FOR THE U.S. Olympic Fund. Whith her figure skating champ Carl Heiss and Zsa Zsa Gabor.

1958 - Eartha Kitt as the wayward Anna in "Anna Lucasta" for United Artists. She fights against the two men out to destroy her marriage, her father, played by Rex Ingram and Danny, played by Sammy Davis Jr.

What's Happening

GEORGE BENSON is the feature this weekend at Merriweather Post Pavilion in Columbia. If you've got the cas or can hook up with the folks at the Sphinx Club or Left Bank Jazz Society, . . Nancy Wilson, Ray Charles, Sarah Vaughn and Damita Jo are featured at the big Atlantic City Jazz Fest.

"G.O.R.K.", standing for God Only Really Knows, the courtroom drama about a woman accused of mercy killing continues by The New Players, 100 E. Madison St. through July 21.

WHAT'S FREE, lots of fun, and can be seen only in the dark? It's the Baltimore Summer Film Festival.

You can see family-entertainment, feature-length films and cartoons free, right in your own enighborhood, all summer long.

Catch stars like Clint Eastwood, Frank Sinatra, Rosalind Russell, John Wayne and many more — at any of the more than 100 summer film locations throughout Baltimore courtesy of the Baltimore Bureau of Recreation, the Baltimore Police Department, and Gino's Restaurants. For fetails, telephone 396-5638 or 396-2712.

* * *

IN A RARE evening for jazz buffs, four masters of jazz piano — Eubie Blake, Teddy Wilson, Marian McPartland, and George Shearing — will hold forth at Wolf Trap Farm Park in Virginia Saturday, July 7, in a live performance to be transmitted nationally to member stations of the Public Broadcasting Service beginning 9 p.m. EDT*.

"Great Jazz Pianos" will be the first presentation of "Summerfest' '79 a three-month season of performance programs originating from summer music festivals around the country

ON SATURDAY, JULY 14, the Maryland Inn will celebrate Bastille Day, the French day of independence An entire day of festivities is planned for those who revel in "la belle vie."

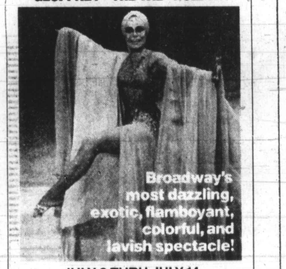
It was July 14, 1789, that French patriots breavely stormed the Bastille

Eartha Kitt shares luagh with Ida Peters AFRO Entertainment Editor and her husband, D. John Peters at July 4th party for the press at the Mechanic Theatre.

EARTHA EMOTES — She's caught with Sidney Poitier in a scene from her first starring film role, "Accused." Story revolves around educated and politically-minded African whose urge to spread terror or personal gain is tempered by his wife.

BALTIMORE'S most popular summer entertainment series resumes Thursday, July 12 at 8 p.m. when On Stage Downtown returns to Hopkins Plaza.

Heralding the return of this weekly series will be a performance by veteran stage, screen and television actor William Windom in "Thurber", a one-man performance based on the life and work of humorist James Thurber.



GEORGE Benson at Merriweather Post

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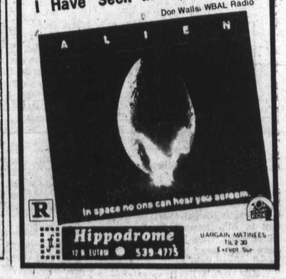

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BARGAIN MATINEES Til 2:30 Except Sun

. . . . and now a word

Jesse Walker in N.Y.

THOMAS A. TREHN, of Annapolis, Md. came in first in the time of 59.23 to win the first Martin Luther King, Jr. Brotherood Cup presented to the winner of the 35-mile men's race in the 7th annual Harlem Bicycle Championship. Trophy was donated by Con Edison and the Pepsi-Cola Bottling Group.

FOR FOUR DAYS WNET-TV broadcasted events at the NAACP's 70th Annual Convention in Louisville, Ky. Among those seen and heard was Ms. Hazel Dukes, president of the New York State Conference of NAACP Branches, discussing the Supreme Court's Weber decision.

A SOLID SUCCESS was that NAACP Radio-Telethon produced in Washington, D.C. by Howard Sanders, now manager of WCYB-AM radio, Dee Cee's only black-owned and operated station, along with WYCB-TV. A reported $405,000 was raised.

If, as expected, Washington's WOL-AM is sold to a minority group, then there will be no public airing of the FCC payola and plugola charges against the station. The purchaser would pay $1 million or more for the property, according to the attorney of Sonderling Broadcasting Corp., present owners.

ALLEN S. HAMMOND, formerly program manager of the U.S. Commerce Department's minority telecommunications development program of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, has been named general counsel for WJLA-TV, Washington, D.C.

HISTORY QUIZ: Who were the first Blacks to win Wimbledon tennis championships?"

"Althea Gibson became the first and only black woman tennis champion with her victories at Wimbledon and Forest Hills in 1957. She is also an outstanding professional golfer. Althea learned tennis on the streets of Harlem. In 1975, Arthur Ashe became the first black man to win at Wimbledon when he defeated Jimmy Connors in a stunning upset." Source: "Black Culture Quiz", published by The Sperry & Hutchinson Co., 330 Madison Ave., NYC 10017.

NEW YORK KNICKS broadcaster Cal Ramsey will receive the Humanitarian Sportsman Award for "distinguished contributions to the community" from United Cerebral Palsy of Westchester, July 16, at the Feenway Country Club in Scarsdale, N.Y.

Ed (Too Tall) Jones, who last week announced he's giving up pro football to become a professional boxer (at 28), has promoted several rock concerts, and appeared in three movies, including "Semi-Tough" with Burt Reynolds, the recently premiered "The Double McGuffin," starring Ernest Borginine and Elke Sommr, and "Squeeze Play" starring Ed and several of his Dallas Cowboy teammates.

AMONG THE MANY jazz highlights this week, the Newport Jazz Festival and the Universal Jazz Coalition are presenting a "Salute to Women in Jazz" at the Village Gate with various jazz greats every night, plus seminars during the day. Saturday night the Sarah McLawler Trio appeared, with Sarah on the organ, Wilone Batten on sax and Bernadine Warren on drums. Trombonist Melba Liston also put in an appearance.

PIANIST GLEN Covington is currently the only act appearing nightly at the reopened Jimmy Westons on East 54th Street.

AMONG THE TOP highlights of the current Newport Jazz Festival in New York was the "Salute to Black Broadway, 1900-1945" produced by painist-singer Bobby Short and Robert Kimball. Everybody raved over Honi Coles, Nell Carter, Eubie Blake, Adelaide Hall, John W. Bubbles and Short who also was host.

YUSEF LATEEF will be bringing his own brand of music, which he calls "Autophysiopsyche" to NYC at the Village Gate on July 6-7. "YUSEF LATEEF Ya'll" is composed of electric bassist Don Pate, multi-keyboardist Khalid Moss and percussionist Gregg Bandy.

THE MOROCCO Mid-Eastern Dance Company (July 0), Cookbook (July 11), International Folk Dance Ensemble (July 16) and Changing Times Tap Dancing Company (July 18) perform at the SWEET 14 (14th Street), a unique government-business-community coalition to improve the neighborhood, spearheaded three years ago by its co-chairmen Charles F. Luce, Con Edison's Board Chairman, and John R. Everett, President of the New School of Social Research. All concerts are at 12:30 p.m. in Union Square Park.

AMONG OTHER THINGS, an association of black attorneys specializing in entertainment law was formed at a conference at the recent Black Music Assn. meeting in Philly.

THE U.S. Commerce Dept. said last week it has made its first loan to a minority firm for the purchase of a broadcast station. The department's Economic Development Administration has earmarked $572,500 for a minority-owned company's purchase of KOXE-AM and KIOG-FM Phoenix, Ariz., from the Southwestern Media Corp. which filed for bankruptcy.

Jacob Lawrence America's leading painter

Honorary doctorate from Maryland Institute of Art

The Maryland Institute of Art conferred the Doctor of Fine Arts degree on Jacob Lawrence, painter, at the May 11, 1979 commencement.

Mr. Lawrence, who was born in Atlantic City, N.J. in 1917 now teaches painting, drawing and design at the University of Washington in Seattle. He is now serving a six-year term as a council member of the National Endowment for the Arts.

His citation read:

You were certainly not born with a silver spoon in your mouth, but perhaps the circumstances of your earlier years were even more important for the artist.

... You paint the black epic but these paintings speak for all people who have suffered, endured, struggled and lived life.

... Your paintings teach as they astonish and delight. You have also devoted much of your life to teaching the art that you have mastered. The doctorates have a little heavy about your neck tn now, but for your great contributions to art and to education, the Maryland Institute is proud to bestow on you its Doctorate of Fine Arts, honoris causa.

Jacob Lawrence enjoys outstanding fame in the art world. His style is called "expressionist" because he relates his inner feelings visually by means of expressive, grotesque figures and by the use of color.

His narrative paintings hang in many major museums and university collections. His first series was published by Fortune Magazine. Migration is a sequence of 60 pictures in which the artist depeits the migration of blacks to the North during World War I, and their subsequent life in urban slums.

His Toussaint L'Ouverture series, which captured the action of the struggles for the independence of Haiti, was recognized as one of the most symbolic narratives of its time.

In his series of life in the United States Coast Guard, or in one on hospital life, or in any of his works, Jacob Lawrence offers a vivid commentary on real life, neither idealized nor depressing, but faithful to the entire scope of human experience.

In 1974, there was a large retrospective of his works at the Whitney Museum in New York financed by an IBM grant.

In 1976, after executing a poster for an Olympic Games series featuring an international group of artists, Mr. Lawrence and his wife were invited to Munich, Germany for the games and other cultural events.

Earlier in 1970, Lawrence was awarded the 1970 Spingarn Medal by the NAACP for the expressive power of his creative paintings.

Dr. Jacob Lawrence admires his citation with Dr. Leslie King Hammond at Commencement '79 of the Maryland Institute, College of Art.

Richard Ward, actor dead at 64

Richard Ward, who recently completed major roles in "The Jerk", a film featuring comedian Steve Martin, and "Brubaker", a film starring Robert Redford in which he played a man who had been imprisoned for 40 years, died Sunday at his summer home in Cossackie, N.Y. at age 64.

He was born March 15, 1915, in Philadelphia and began his career when he was 11-years-old in a touring vaudeville show with his sisters.

As a youth he was a prize fighter. In World War II, he served in the South Pacific as a sergeant major. He also was New York city detective for 10 years before turning to acting.

Some of his better known TV roles were on such programs as "The Jeffersons", "All in the Family" and "Mary Hartman, Mary Hartman."

He began on television in the 1950's with parts in Playhouse 90, Studio One and the Hallmark Hall of Fame.

Mr. Ward is survived by his wife, Peggy, and stipson George Waugh of Troy, N.Y.

RICHARD WARD

Bill Lane in Hollywood

Village People to star in movie

THE VILLAGE PEOPLE are no village idiots. They know a good thing when they see it, and the good thing is themselves, a fantastic entertainment unit that has soared to international stardom message songs, grotesque onstage garb, good management and a cross-the-board reception from this country's sejays. And they have deliberately and successfully avoided being slotted into a black or white music genre. In some odd way they are universal. Their hits, "Macho Man," "YMCA," and "In The Navy", make hit appeal in all areas. Their recent series of shows at the Greek Theatre here was sold out from the beginning.

Now comes that master movie promoter Alan Carr with plans to feature The Village People in an EMI-backed motion picture with bubbly Valerie Perrine. The last time we saw a movie featuring a group of six performers was "Train Ride to Hollywood," featuring Bloodstone. A good movie, but one that ran into production-company difficulties that included Tom "Billy Jack" Laughlin. The film is still in the can.

But Alan Carr is not noted for failures. It was he who sold the bejabbers out of "Saturday Night Fever" and "Grease," turning Paramount Pictures into the twentieth century with more success than it it could handle. It was the movie "The Deer Hunter," and it is also Carr who has announced he has firmed all considerations and complications and will produce "The Josephine Baker Story" starring Diana Ross, for EMI.

Carr says he will begin production of the Ross starrer within the next 24 months, after he has produced the Village People film. The Ross flick, he told us, "will be an ultra-major motion picture."

It had been thought far and wide that when the Josephine Baker story reached the screen it would have as its star either Diahann Carroll or Shirley Bassey. But "thoughts" and facts don't always end up being the same.

EMILIE Blake, Alicia Johnson and Judy Spiegelman have opened their new Modular Media Concepts offices in Hollywood, all set with their various expertises to engage in image construction, marketing and public relations having to do more specifically with show business. The girls say their BJS firm uses a personalized approach, and "is equipped to educate, groom and expose talent with a sensitivity to the needs and goals of the client in relation to the trends in the marketplace."

ACTOR Erik Washington, who portrays Muhammad Ali's youngest son Marcus in NBC's television movie, "Freedom Road," was in NYC recently for modeling interviews, but his return to Hollywood was delayed by "Eubie" choreographer Lonnie McNeil who laid on him a firm offer for a starring role in another stage musical for which McNeil will be directing.

AND singer Teddy Pendergrass had a hard time getting out of jail. The "Teddy Bear" had gone to the California Institute for Women at Frontera, near Los Angeles, to perform for the durance vile residents, some 900 women inmates, but the feminine fans became so overwhelmed by the robust male singer that they didn't want to let him go. Pendergrass might be something like a king on a throne doing those "For Women Only" concerts in the "free world," but being cooped up as the only man among 900 women prisoners could be a fate worse than death.

THE COMMODORES' new album, "Midnight Madness," is topi. This time, however, the group's hit-making lead singer, Lionel Ritchie, steps aside and hands the spotlight to guitarist Thomas McClary, who stars singing a song he wrote titled "Still."

JERRY BELL, formerly of the group New Birth, celebrated his birthday here in a showcase concert at The Speakeasy, and a good time was had by all. And Alton McClain and Destiny had a rocking, spiritual good time performing at the Santa Monica Civic and along with Chic, the computerized singing group whose "Le Freak" recording has now brought in nearly twenty million dollars.

Jan. 27, 1945 — Jacob Lawrence was assigned as public relations specialist to cover the European invasion.

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HOBBIES: Tennis, piano.
LATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT: Reappointed to the Morristown Housing Authority Board of Commissioners.
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