'Moonraker' offers stunning world tour

"Moonraker" is not only one of the best James Bond pictures yet, its also one of the few hits of the summer and the least exhausting most cheerful world tour you'll ever likely to take anytime soon.

Because of the shortage of fuel and the grounding of the D.C. 10's, visit "Moonraker." You'll have the fun of going to exotic places without the fuss and muss of actually going there.

"Moonraker" locations are exotic. Filming first moved some 80 kilometer from Paris to the breathtaking magnificent Vaux - le-Vicomte — a mini Versailles with laundered lawns, marble statues and 17th Century engravings. Built for the ill-fated Nicolas Fouquet, the chateau served as one of the unscrupulous Drax's hideaways in the film.

In typical Bond fashion, the chateau is located in Southern California. Drax has moved it stone-by-stone from France to the Mojave Desert. It will also reveal exquisite interiors featuring priceless tapestries, superb paintings by some of France's most famed artists, all housed in authentic architecture some of which has remained unchanged for 300 years. There's further action at the splendid Guermantes Chateau.

One of the more memorable Paris-filmed scenes in "Moonraker" takes place in a circus Big Top during a sensational high-wire act. It involves the unexpected arrival of the character "Jaws" and typically the Bond filmmakers had to find the best tightrope walkers in the world to perform the feat. They did in the shape of the amazing Traber Family from Germany who have performed balancing acts over the Victoria and Niagara Falls and on top of the 9,731-feet Zugspitze mountain.

The family, whose lofty stunts date back to 1512, delight in scaring their audiences half to death with their 20th century versions by racing motor bikes and performing triple somersaults on slanting wires suspended 170-feet in the air and with no safety net.

Captained by 25-year-old Johann Traber (the six-strong family performed with Evel Knievel at London's Wembley Stadium in 1975.

Venice, the wondrous multi-faceted Italian city with its 118 islands and more than 400 classical bridges spanning the picturesque canals, came next in the list of locations.

With it renowned Rialto Bridge, the excellent Hotel Danieli and the grand St. Marks Square, it made a perfect place for the suave British agent to include on his latest itinerary. Without disclosing too many secrets the famous clock tower which dominates the normally peaceful pigeon-packed Square may well tick up some extra talk in an untimely scene featuring "Chang," Drax's henchman. Courtesy of the same assailant there's also a "smashing" time in a Venetian glass factory which should be well worth a look.

Before leaving Italy the Bond unit also visited the amazing 16th Century Benedictine monastery of St. Nicolo in Venice. This latterday Franciscan Order who themselves experiment with electronic and video equipment to tutor local youngsters in modern methods of radio and television technique, turned not a hair on their shaven heads when their premises (wherein the hallowed remains of Santa Claus himself lie buried) were temporarily turned into a secret field headquarters and testing ground for laser guns and other mortiferous contrivances.

—

On to Rio de Janeiro for some far from sweet scenes on Sugar Loaf Mountain, the world-famous 1296 foot high gum-drop shaped peak overlooking Guanabara Bay. There "Jaws" supplies more fun and games on the Funicular.

Rio itself with its beauteous Copacabana and Ipanema beaches is perhaps most famed for its frenetic Mardi Gras-style four-day Carnival just preceding Ash Wednesday in early February. There were, not unnaturally, some slightly unusual goings-on planned for this event. But mysteriously when the town reverberated to the sound of the Samba beat, the stars and the principal film unit were long gone and many of the resident revellers may have had an unexpected rehearsal!

The roaring, spray-drenching Iguacu Falls, with a one and a half mile drop into the river of the same name, itself marking a natural border between Brazil and Argentina was another location for one of the most dangerous chase scenes ever filmed. It will surely go for something when "Bullitt" did for cars.

—

Undoubtedly the most unusual location filmed was in Central America (Land of the Feathered Serpent) to the lost city of Tikal, site of the magnificent Maya ruins and set out in the jungle-lying jungle province of El Peten in Northern Guatemala. Its Pyramid Temple (Circa. 700 AD) covered an elaborate tomb containing priceless discoveries in jade, alabaster, shell and bone slivers inscribed with hieroglyphic texts.

Bond had good reason to visit Tikal where over 3000 buildings dating back to 600 BC, have already been excavated. It's thought that as many as 10,000 more are there but waiting to be discovered. There, the surroundings offered the most marvelous views of exotic wildlife with gloriously plumaged birds, spider monkeys, apes, ocelots et al. It's in these lush surroundings that he is captured by Drax who plans an "amusing" end for him — 007 finds himself in a Tikal fish situation.

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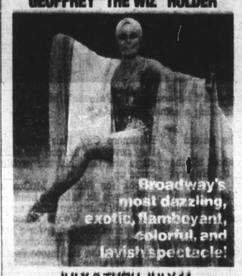

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Recording industry going thru changes

Bill Lane in Hollywood

The recording industry is, believe it or not, going thru some bad changes. Call it recession, slump, slowdown or beginning of a depression, employees are being laid off and companies are approaching the recording of new talent with a trepidation not evident for many years.

In its firing of some 50 employees Columbia Records lopped off some of its black markets staff in Hollywood. But, uncannily, the big firms are firing employees from their white departments mostly—as most of them did not have much in the way of black staff employees anyway. Truth is, the recordings of most top black artists are selling anyway; the only drop of any major nature happening with recordings of artists who had not become top sellers anyway. Depression or recession, artists like a Marvin Gaye, an Anne Murray or a group like The Commodores will sell. Ditto Stevie Wonder.

The market has been flooded of late with recordings of everything by anybody, more junk than Elgin. Bad part of it all is that most of them sound alike. Few new Bambo Brysons, Frankie Beverlys and trios and duos like Taste of Honey and O'Jays. No new Lou Rawls types at all. It had begun to appear that companies were recording junky artists to use their failures to write off taxes on their big-selling artists.

Beverlys and trios and duos like Taste of Honey and O'Jays. No new Lou Rawls types at all. It had begun to appear that companies were recording junky artists to use their failures to write off taxes on their big-selling artists.

But the slump is on, everywhere and in most things, the slump will grow, according to President Carter. And when the predictions of doom come from the top it's impossible to be —

The United Black Concert Promoters say they really mean it when they say they are going to organize nationwide radio, newspaper, poster and TV boycott urging against singers and groups, if they do not rearrange their booking practices to permit black booking agents and concert promoters in various U.S. cities to make money.

Said King: "With the help of these anti - black black stars the notion is spread that black promoters always run off with the money. Well, I'm always reading in the showbusiness trade papers where big white stars are always suing their white managers, recording companies and movie studios, and promoters, for money shortages. Stealing and accusations of it apparently isn't limited to blacks."

—

RUMORS became hard to disprove here that Toriano (Tito) Jackson of the famous Jacksons had moved away from home, his wife DeeDee Martes and their children and taken up residence, however temporary, with a member of the fairer sex. "It is not so," a member of the Jackson residence told this column. And that's where the rumors stand, for the time being.

What's Happening

'Daddy Goodness' new million dollar musical

By Ida Peters

Ashton Springer, the New York Broadway promoter who hasten-minded "Bubbling Brown Sugar," "Guys and Dolls," "Whoopee" and "Eubie," has a new million-dollar musical into production this Monday at the New York School of Ballet with a cast of 30.

Toplining the show titled "Daddy Goodness" is Clifton Davis, Freda Payne, Ted Ross and Rod Perry. The book is by Ron Miller with Shauneille Perry. Israel Hicks is making his Broadway debut and has adapted Richard Wright's play "Daddy Goodness." It was performed by the Negro Ensemble in 1968.

The composer-lyricist team are the Motown music men Ken Hirsch and Ron Miller who wrote Diana Ross' "Touch Me In The Morning" and Stevie Wonder's "For Once In My Life."

The world premiere of "Daddy Goodness" will be held at the Forrest Theatre in Philly August 14. It will hit the National Theatre in D.C. on Sept. 11 and open at New York's Winter-garden, Oct. 10.

Baltimore's male chauvinist attitudes toward women in the media surfaced this week in the case of WBAL-TV's Ch 11's "Baltimore At Ten" and the dumping of Maggie Linton.

Frankly, this column feels that Maggie Linton got a raw deal all around. Not only was she saddled with an inept co-host, Harry Martin, but on the one occasion we had a chance to view him up close, he had trouble reading the cue cards.

"Baltimore at 10" was a public service program and seemingly was dropped in the slot and forgotten. Maggie says "the station did not support us and we had to beg for earfare to bring a guest down on the Metroliner from N.Y." Oprah Winfrey and Richard Scher have "Dialing for Dollars" going for them, paid guests plenty of promotion, and a generous budget with limousine service for guests, we hear tell. "People Are Talking" is an entertainment oriented show.

How did WBAL expect to buck this kind of competition?

A News-American columnist this week, voted Maggie Linton one of the worst dressed females in town. That's like kicking a dog when he's down.

Maggie shrugs and says, "Heck, I don't care. Who are they to judge me? Anyway, some press is better than no press. I was dressed by a boutique in Towson and I wore what the consultant picked."

So, I still say Maggie Linton is a classy gal. She's had seven years experience in radio and TV. With her charming personality and ability to roll with the punches and keep a sweet disposition, she's going places. Baltimore ain't ready yet and some of us will miss her.

Maggie says that despite her show being cancelled she is thankful for the opportunity she has had here and the invaluable experience she has gained.

—

The Baltimore Business League holding their boat ride on the Port Welcome instead of a bull roast today, July 13 at 7:30 p.m. Chain Reaction will entertain.

—

When you take in "Timbuktu" at the Mechanic that's Kelley J. Muller, the sheriest one of the African princesses. A native of Florida, she came to Maryland eight years ago and attended the Peabody Institute Preparatory Department in voice and piano. She won a Senatorial scholarship to the Peabody Conservatory thru the efforts of educator, Mrs. Josephine Young.

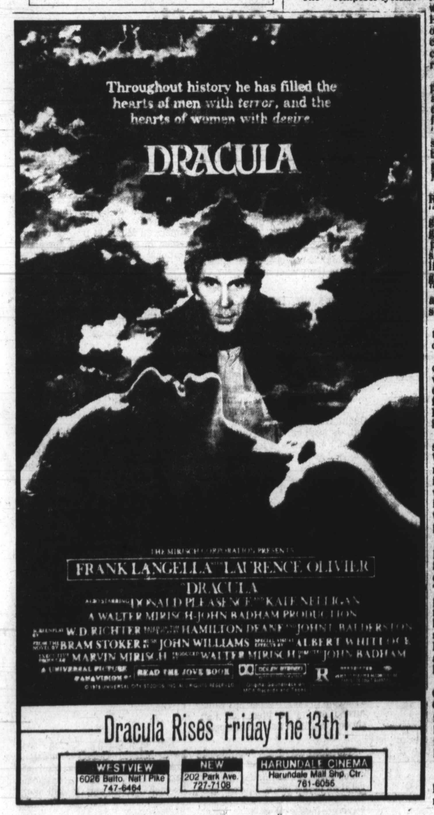
While here, teachers friends have entertained Kelley. She is remembered for her gorgeous voice and special talent in singing.

—

African Black Festival is being held Sunday, July 15 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the 900 blk of Belgian near the Alemeda and Argonne Drive sponsored by the Baltimore and African Heritage and Commitment Committee sponsored by the Fred Douglass-Paul Robeson Union — Belgian Support Committee. Jerry McCall is program coordinator; William and Monica Gaskins, co-chairmen.

—

J.C. Productions will give a program of drama, dance and song at City Jail, Sat., July 14 from 12-2 p.m. They will do a church scene from "Purlie" and from a selection from James Baldwin's "Amen Corner."



BEAUTY SALON

Miss Jeri Jones has joined our Catonsville Beauty Salon staff. Miss Jones specializes in perms and curl and perm relaxers. Jeri's here Thurs. & Fri. 9:30-7:30. At Monroe St. Mary Ramsey, Thurs. & Fri. Thelma Cooper, Mon. 12 to 8 p.m., Thurs. 10-1 p.m., Fri. 10-1 p.m., Sat. 10-6 p.m. Janet Ware, Tues. and Wed. 12 to 8 p.m.
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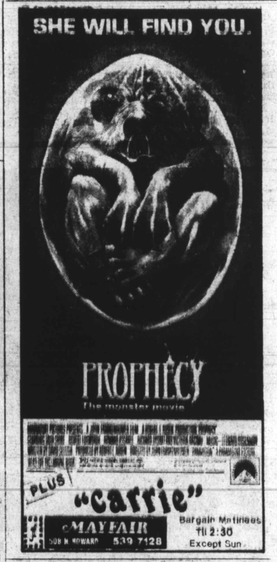

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"Timbuktu" is a sell-out at the Mechanic Theatre with Ertha Kitt above and Tony Carroll, who plays the Muscleman and Executioner. Carroll is the holder of the Mr. Universe Title for 1977-78. The city, Mayor Schaefer, Quentin Lawson, and businessmen Leroy Dyett, George Taylor and Jerry L. Royster are giving Eartha Kitt and the cast a party tonight.

CALENDAR

AFRO-Mrs. Peters - 628 N. Eutaw St.
For FREE Listing Write - Calendar

Films

The Enterprise finds a derelict spacecraft with seventy-two bodies in suspended animation in the Star Trek adventure, "Space Seed," to be shown at 3 p.m. on Monday, July 16, at the Herring Run branch, 3801 Erdman avenue. Free.

—

An Abbott and Costello comedy, a Gerald Durrell documentary on wild animals, and "Luke Was There," the story of a hostile and withdrawn boy and an understanding counselor make up a varied program for teenagers at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 17, at the Washington Village center, 906 Washington boulevard. Free.

Events for Children

Mon., July 16

Herring Run Branch: Preschool arts and crafts; 10 a.m.; Arts and Crafts Club, 2 p.m.

Cherry Hill Center: Games, 12 noon.

Edmondson Avenue Branch: Film — "Hunted in Holland," 1 p.m.

Central Library, Wheeler Auditorium: Films — "The Cow-Tail Switch; A Folktale of Africa," "Dragon Stew," "Blinded Sunday," and "Clever Village, 2 p.m.

Morrell Park Center: Magic show featuring Officer Charlie the Magic Cop, 2 p.m.

Canton Center: Film — "The Wild Ponies of Chincoteage," 4 p.m.

Tues., July 17

Reservoir Hill Center: Preschool story hour, 10:30 a.m.

Cherry Hill Center: Games, 12 noon.

Edmondson Avenue Branch: Film — "Hunted in Holland," 1 p.m.

Fort Worthington Center: Feature-length film starring Mr. Magoo, 1 p.m.

Light Street Branch: Story hour, 1 p.m.

Pennsylvania Avenue Branch: Films — "Evan's Corner" and "The Cricket in Times Square," 1 p.m.

Dundalk Avenue Branch: Arts and crafts for ages 6-12, 2 p.m.

Herring Run Branch: Jug Band, 2 p.m.

Patterson Park Branch: Films — "Abbott and Costello Meet the Mummy" and "Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein," 2:30 p.m.

Highlandtown Center: Film — "Rabbit Hill, 3:30 p.m.

Waverly Branch: Preschool activities, 6:30 p.m.

Social

TOP OF THE WORLD — Grand opening "Top of the World," 27th floor of the World Trade Building, Sunday, July 15 3:30 p.m. For information TOUR-8687

—

THE LITTLE PEOPLE'S PROGRAM continues with The Baltimore Actors Theatre's presentation of "The Emperor's New Clothes." This age-old tale is the story of an emperor who believes he is something other than his true self. The performance will begin at noon at the Inner Harbor's South Shore Pavilion. Free.

Auditions

BOOTH THEATRE — will be auditioning actors, singers and dancers for the tenth season's opening production, The King and I on July 30, 31 and August 1 at 7:00 p.m. at the College Center at Harford Community College. Musicians may audition on August 1 at 8:00 p.m. Performances dates of the classic Rogers and Hammerstein musical are October 10-14, 17-21 and 26-28. This lavish musical production requires a large cost of all ages. No previous stage experience is necessary, and a large backstage crew will be needed, as well as costumes, lighting technicians and set builders. Director Michele Nelson hopes to involve over 100 people in The King and I, and anyone auditioning should bring a prepared song to sing for the music director.

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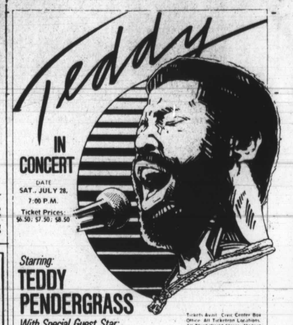

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Young, talented, black

Shelton Becton Associate Conductor

By Gerry Harewood

At 25, Sehlton L. Becton is the associate conductor - accompanist of the successful Broadway musical "Ain't Misbehavin'" currently at the Warner Theater downtown. And this is just another step in his climb toward being "one of the top performers and-or writers" in the country's music industry.

The young man who was born in Kinston, N.C. and began toying with the ivories at the tender age of 4, joined the touring company of "Ain't Misbehavin'" in Philadelphia shortly before it began its D.C. run. Prior to that, he had been with "The Wiz."

Between 1972 and 1976, he had gone to Howard University as a piano major, graduating cum laude. While at Howard, he was leader of a group, Shelton and Company, and performed at some night spots in and around the Washington area.

—

Following graduation, Shelton Becton taught piano at Howard for one year and later at the Duke Ellington School for the Arts.

While is main emphasis has been on gospel and pop, he has also spent some time on classical piano and this is standing him in good stead with his "learning experience" on the stage of "Ain't Misbehavin.'"

He has one regret about his musical education while in college. "In black colleges," he said, "you don't get all the music of black composers that you should get."

For example, he pointed out, "no one stressed the importance of "Fats" Waller when I was in school," and it is only recently that the capabilities of black composers and black music are beginning to be recognized for what they are worth.

"Blacks," the talented young pianist asserts, "have something equally important to say as Bach and Beethoven, and that's what I want to do with my music and hope it will get its due recognition."

—

In addition to his music, Becton is also a playwright. His first play "Tapestry: A Woven Legacy," was performed in 1976 at the Kennedy Center and his second "Run, Sugar Foot, Run," a story about a high school track star, is yet to be produced.

For the young composer, pianist, conductor, the musical future looms large and "Ain't Misbehavin'" might just be the launching pad that

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