What's Happening

By Ida Peters

Patti Labelle has guts and joy and she puts her heart, soul and body into her music. Monday night she came to Baltimore for WMAR-TV and introduced tunes from her new CBS album "It's Right With Me" and songs from "Tasty," Patti Labelle" and "Lady Marmalade."

Backing her in an all-star production were James Ellison, leader and keyboards; Ron Smith and Ed (Rev) Batts on guitars; Darryl Jones on bass; Billy Johnson on drums; Miguel Fuentes and a real, real wild Phillip Woo on keyboards. Providing background vocals were Reggie Workman and Victor Orsborn.

Pattie's costumes were really a show. On stage for various numbers she sipped wine from a silver chalice. A dozen red roses decorated the table.

For her opening number she wore orange, purple, red and pink chiffon tulip caftan with red sequinned scarf while belting out "Don't Know What You're Doing." During the live TV break, she combed her hair for "It's Alright With Me" and "Music Is My Life."

She strutted the runway ringed with flashing lights and made love to the microphone. She changed to black tights, white butterfly hat and cape of 24 Ermine tails for an hour long after show for 200 WMAR-TV dinner guests.

She later changed to a tulip black lace top edged with sequins to belt out "Give Me Your Love" and "Joy To The People."

No doubt about it! Patti Labelle gives a great show and hopefully we'll see her again soon in a concert for the people, in Baltimore.

Calvin Brooks will be featured with Lionel Jiggetts and his band at Champagne King and Michael Henderson will entertain at the 1979 Miss Black United States Pageant, to be held Sat., Aug. 25, at the Westchester County Center in White Plains, N.Y. Proceeds are for the State Conference of NAACP Branches.

...more Patti

Behind the scenes

Pattie greets AFRO Entertainment Editor, Ida Peters in her backstage trailer at Convention Center.

Scott Charles, Labelle's road manager was there with Marsha Diggs of CBS Records, N.Y. and Lewis E. Logan, (R), Finance Director for the Baltimore Convention Center.

Veteran newscaster George Collins of Ch. 2 WMAR shares laugh with Pattie Labelle. She sports Ermine tail wrap and butterfly hat.

Ron O'Neal fights bare fisted with everybody including Kung Fu artist in "The Hitter" made in Baltimore, starring Sheila Frazier and Adolph Caesar. Percy Thomas, Ed Heath, Cornell Cottrell and Alfredine Brown have speaking parts.

Meet IA New to Breeze

New Breeze, Ltd. is a local fashion group unique in style and presentation. The group has been together for two years. The group first got started as an extra - curricular activity but after two years have developed into one of the top fashion groups in the city. The group features the designs of local fashion houses. At the performance on Aug. 5 at the fabulous Ritz Club, the group featured designs by Betty Fenner and Stephanie Taylor.

Members of the group from left to right are Wesley Robinson, Kamala Alark, Sharon Robeson, Tavon Sullivan and Marcus Whittaker; Shirley Robeson, Colletha Scott, Elmore Roundtree, Gloria Long, Chandra Pinder, Samuel Cobbs, Gina Dyson and Aletha Drumwright. Robert Mack, Adrienne Adams, Reginald Pinder and Linda Cornish. Photo appeared in last Friday's

more Happening

the Arena Players Showcase, Friday-Saturday-Sunday Sept. 7-8-9 to benefit their Possible Dream. Vocalist will be Raether Harris, Miss Black Universe of Maryland. Students from Maria Broom's Dance School will also perform.

The Baltimore Zoo is becoming increasingly unavailabe to poor folks living in the inner city. A recent visit shows fences going up surrounding much of the open green space families used to use to escape the deadly Baltimore heat.

Druid Hill Park has always been a free green open space in the heart of the city available to all citizens. It used to be that whole families would desert their hot boxes and sleep out in the park during the dog days of August.

Now, if we're not vigilant, this green oasis

Yusef Lateef at National Capital Park East in Oxon Hill, Md. Aug. 25.

is going to disappear.

Children will have an opportunity to conduct a musical ensemble when The Mount Vernon Brass Players appear at The Cloisters Children's Museum on Sunday, August 26 at 2 p.m.

The Mount Vernon Brass Players are a group of conservatory trained musicians dedicated to performing the finest in brass literature. Their programs at The Cloisters, specifically designed for children, will include demonstrations of the instruments and conducting by children in the audience.

The Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, head of Operation PUSH and an advocate of closer relations between United States blacks and the Palestinians, will be the guest on "Meet the Press" Sun., Aug. 26 (NBC Television Network live broadcast from Washington, D.C., 12:30 - 1 p.m. NYT.

Auditions for the Tempo Dance Company will be held Tuesday, September 18, 1979 at James McHenry Recreation Center, Hollins and Poppleton Streets.

Both male and female dancers are needed. Tryouts for potential participants, ages 9 through 14 will be held between 4:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Other interested dancers will audition from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Everyone must come prepared to dance and should bring a specially prepared selection and record with them. Applicants who have had two years of formal dance instruction are preferred, and should have skills in jazz, modern dance and classical ballet. However, no one will be denied the opportunity to audition, regardless of ability.

For further information, call Fannie S. Moragne, Supervisor of Performing Arts, at 396-5644.

Eartha Kitt in "Timbuktu" now playing in D.C.

Jesse Walker's N.Y.

...and now a word

NEW YORK — Melba Moore will be guest star and emcee and Evelyn Jiggetts and his band at distributing 100,000 maps of Harlem which it hopes will return Harlem to one of the city's biggest tourist attractions. It launched the Fifth Annual Harlem Week Festival, Aug. 18-26 and the tourist campaign is "Do It Up in Harlem." The Festival is expected to attract two million vistors.

Soul singer and minster Al Green was cleared in Memphis, Tenn. of assault and battery charges when his complainant failedsto show up for trial. Green, pastor of the Full Gospel Tabernacle Church, was arrested last June after Lovie Smith had a warrant issued alleging she "was beaten unconscious about the head, face and body witha tree limb by the singer."

Count Basie celebrated his 75th birthday, appropriately in Kansas City, Mo. at The Uptown.

"African Diaspora in the Americas: Caribbean Expression" will take place Sept. 6-29 at several NYC locations, including the Delacorte Theater, Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall. Focusing on the cultures of Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, Puerto Rico and Trinidad and Tobago, the program will have four aspects: conferences involving Caribbean scholars, theatre and musical performances, exhibitions by Caribbean artists and a crafts show.

T-Electric Records has been formed in NYC by Jim Tyrell, former marketing vice president for CBS' Epic-Portrait-Associated Labels, with a pair of black acts signed and worldwide distribution and marketing by Infinity and MCA Records. It's the largest single Minority Enterprise Small Business Investment Co. (MESBIC) syndication of its kind in the history of minority business development, result of a $5 million initial funding arrangement and longterm commitment between Tyrell, Infinity and four major corporate MESBICs.

The FCC is considering a policy that would base the choice of contenders for a radio station purely on luck. Under the proposal, the names of persons vying for an operating permit would literally be thrown in a hat and the winner's name drawn. It could affect three apllicents for WXUR-FM in Philadelphia: Roberts Broadcasting Corp., Greater Media Radio Co. and Alexander S. Klein Jr.

Wouldn't you know it had to happen. Just as Don King was announcing the Larry Holmes-Ernie Shavers heavyweight championship fight for Sept. 28 in Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, he is supstaged by Muhammad Ali who, friends (?) say they hope to draft him for U.S. Senator. Draft? Ali?

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Alton McClain & Destiny at the Capital Center

By Frederick I. Douglass

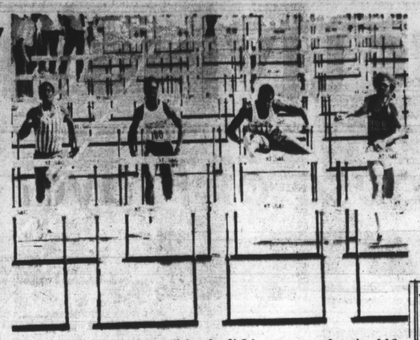
Alton McClain's voice soared through the crowd at the Capitol Center like the Samurai Warrior's sword this past weekend as she and the two other female members of Destiny romped through their blockbuster hit "It Must Be Love" and other hard hitting tunes from the "Alton McClain & Destiny" album.

Everyone in the Capitol Center was on their feet cooing "It Must Be Love" along with Destiny and Alton McClain's powerful alto-soprano voice sent forth a blitzkrieg of notes that reverberated throughout the hall and penetrated the listener's bones to the marrow.

Going on to prove that Destiny has the potential of transcending the category of being a "one record act," Alton jumped off on the soaring high notes of the tunes "Sweet Temptation," another up tempo rocker that could easily soar to the peak of the Top-40 charts if given the proper distribution and promotion.

Demonstrating her prowess with ballads, Alton McClain went on to sing "Taking My Love for granted" and "My Empty Room," two love songs that cooled out the pace a taste. Leter in the evening the group sang "The Power of Love," another ballad that gave Alton McClain a chance to show off the multiple octave range of her mighty voice.

One of the biggest crowd pleasers of the evening was "Push and Pull," an up tempo jam that definitely should be the next single release from the album. "Push and Pull" combines a throbbing bass line orchestrated contrapuntal to the voices while the drummer lays down a rollicking dance beat. Watch out for Alton McClain and Destiny, a group that on its way to becoming the nation's hottest female act during 1979.



Renaldo Nehemiah (179) will be the U.S.'s top entry for the 110 - meter hurdles at the World Cup Track and Field Championship from Montreal. He is acclaimed as the top - ranked 110 - meter hurdler in the world. ABC Sports will provide live coverage in prime time on Friday, Aug. 24 (9:00 - 11:00 p.m., EDT.) and will continue its live coverage Saturday, Aug. 25 (3:00-5:00 p.m., EDT) and Sunday, Aug. 26.

Morgan Choir 'On Stage Downtown'

The Morgan State University Choir with Nathan Carter conducting will perform at Hopkins Plaza on Thurs., Aug. 30 at 8 p.m. in a free concert of spirituals, operatic selections, popular tunes, and gospel compositions.

This group has distinguished itself as one of the most outstanding and active of American university choruses and serves as a fitting finale to "On Stage Downtown's" ninth season of free entertainment.

Earlier this season, The Morgan State University Choir assisted the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra in its opening concert performing Beethoven's "Ninth Symphony." On January 17, 1979, the choir sang for the inauguration of Maryland's Governor Harry Hughes. Later in February, the group appeared with the Detroit Symphony in a concert verson of "Porgy and Bess."

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Top Singles

1. Good Times — Chic
2. Turn Off The Lights — Teddy Pendergrass
3. Bad Girls — Donna Summer
4. After the Love Has Gone — Earth Wind & Fire
5. What Cha Gonna Do With My Lovin' — Stephanie Mills
6. Ring My Bell — Anita Ward
7. I'm A Sucker For Your Love — Teena Marie
8. Don't Top 'Til You Get Enough — Michael Jackson
9. Why Leave Us ALone — Five Special
10. Found A Cure — Ashfore & Simpson

Top Albums

1. Teddy — Teddy Pendergrass
2. I Am — Earth, Wind & Fire
3. Bad Girls — Donna Summer
4. Street Life — Crusaders
5. Winner Takes All — The Isley Btothers
6. What Cha Gonna Do With My Lovin' — Stephanie Mills
7. Devotion — L.T.D.
8. The Boss — Diana Ross
9. The Jones Girls
10. Minnie — Minnie Riperton

Top Disco Hits

1. This Time Baby — Jacku Moore
2. Here Comes That Sound Again — Love Deluxe
4. The Boss - Non One Gets the Prize — Diana Ross
5. Get Up and Boggie — Freddie James
6. Undercover Lover-Don't You Want My Love — Debbie Jacobs
7. Born To Be Alive — Patrick Hernandez
8. Found A Cure — Ashford & Simpson
9. Good Times — Chic
10. Come to Me-Don't Stop Dancing — France Joli

Top Jazz Hits

1. Street Life — Crusaders
2. Morning Dance — Spyro Gyra
3. I Wanna Play For You — Stanley Clarke
4. Heart String — Earl Klugh
5. An Evening of Magic — Chuck Mangione
6. Paradise — Grover Washington Jr.
7. New Chautauqua — Pat Metheny
8. Mingus — Joni Mitchell
9. Lucky Seven — Bob James
10. Livin' Inside Your Love — George Benson

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Bill Lane in Hollywood

TOM BROWNE, the trumpet ace, set a Roxy special here to debut his new Arista album, "Browne Sugar," (Aug. 22-23) along with A&M's profound saxophone artist, Gato Barbieri . . . Movie director Gilbert Moses, whose new film, "The Fish That Saved Pittsburgh," is due out in October, signed up with Emilie Black, Alicia Johnson and Judy Spiegelman's Modular Media Concepts to represent them to the media . . . Movie still shaping up featuring Aretha Franklin, Ray Charles and Cab Calloway, to be titled and featuring Ths Blues Brothers."

MICHAEL Pedicin, Jr. has played tenor sax for many Philly - International recording sessions. Now he's out with his new P-I album. A topper, especially with the selection "You." I'd like to hear Pedicin and Gato Barbieri in a sax battle—or maybe that's "axing" too much. And Marlena Shaw is outrageously great on her newest Columbia album, "Take a Bite." It chews up the whole spectrum of good music and good singing, exhibiting how important experience is in the life of a complete singer. A volcanic and mercurial as is Marlena herself, this sizzling production of Bobby Bryant and others, with booby patch cover photos by Scavullo.

ASHLEY BOONE, the shy millionaire bachelor who has for a time been the top black film executive in Hollywood as VP of worldwide marketing at 20th Century - Fox, is getting to be known fully now as THE real black topper. Boone has been named by 20th board chairman Dennis Stanfill to be one of the two successors of Alan Ladd, Jr., who steps down now as president of 20th to head his own film company. Boone, name a president of 20th, is now in charge of all film marketing and distribution. The second highest black film executive in Hollywood now is Willette Klausner, vice - president of marketing and coordinating of all major films at Universal Studios. Meanwhile, Universal declared its net profits for the first six months of this year totaled $93,282,000, an increase of 90 percent over that period last year. And that even after "The Wiz."

'Travel In Medieval Times' at Walters Art Gallery

In celebration of the vacation season, the Walters Art Gallery Manuscript Department has installed a small show in its third floor gallery from now through September on the exotic places most popular with medieval travellers and the modes of transportation used in getting to them.

Many voyages were motivated by the desire to see the sites in holy places — especially Compostela, Roma, Constantinople, and Jerusalem. Small badges were collected as souvenirs at the different places visited, just as tourists today collect decals and sew - on patches.

Several of these medieval souvenirs are included in the exhibition, along with ancient maps, and depictions of travellers and their patron saints. Numerous saints were invoked, among them the ever - popular Saint Christopher. Travellers prayed to them for protection against the perils of the wilderness which they believed was peopled by monsters, and against the very real perils of the sea.

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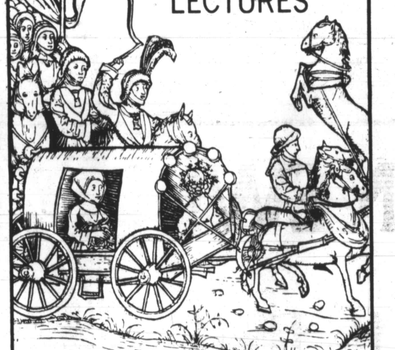

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