Reel world vs. real world in 'Being There'

Chance (Peter Sellers) a simple gardener raised on TV.

Already acclaimed as one of the year's Ten Best Films, "Being There" is a comic fable about a man called Chance whose naivete and essential innocence recipitate a series of hilarious adventures through the political labyrinth of the nation's capitol.

The Lorimer film is directed by Hal Ashby and stars Peter Sellers and Shirley MacLaine, as well as Melvyn Douglas, Jack Warden and Richard Dysart. The screenplay was adapted by Jerzy Kosinski from his 1971 novella of the same title.

Chance (Sellers) is without known parentage or background, having since childhood been cared for by an old man whose garden he lovingly tended. Unable to read or write, he has spent his many leisure hours watching television, and only from television has he gained knowledge of life outside the house.

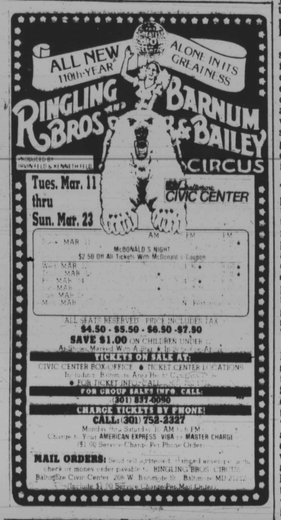
At the death of the old man, Sellers is sent away and the house is closed. He has only a few bewildered hours in which to discover the real world when he is hit by a limousine carrying Eva Rand, wife of the country's most powerful financier, a man of enormous political influence.

Taken to the Rand estate for medical attention, Sellers magically charms everybody, — Eva's dying husband, Benjamin, the President of the United States, other powerful personages and Eva Rand herself.

His invocation of simple garden metaphors to the country's complex economic ills is perceived by them as fresh and different kind of wisdom, and by the story's finale, Sellers the gardener has become a celebrity and man of influence.

Thematically, " Being There" deals with the pervasive influence of television in our lives; of the ways in which the medium alters our perception of the world, and its transforming effect on people and events. Its impact is felt perhaps most directly in the upper echelons of government, thus the story's setting in Washington, D.C.

On a different level, " Being There" may be seen as a parable about the power of simplicity. Seller's monastic existence has left him, in the words of the director, " with a childlike aura," and of the author, devoid of any particular will which might trigger a negative reaction." People respond to him thinking he has the virtues of wisdom and insight.



Metropolitan Baltimore Health Test

TEETH

Clip out this form and take the test with Tom Sweeney and Joyce Jefferson Saturday at 8 pm.

1. What percentage of Americans over age 35 have no natural teeth?
A 5%
B 10%
C 20%
D 30%

2. The loss of a tooth can lead to
A Increased decay
B Drifting of teeth
C Bite problem
D All of the above

3. The cause of most tooth loss is
A Heredity
B Infection
C Accidents

4. Bacteria on teeth changes sugar into acid within
A 30 seconds
B 10 minutes
C 30 minutes
D 2 hours

5. Signs of Nursing Bottle Syndrome are
A Chipped teeth
B Ulcers of the gums
C Decayed teeth
D Spaces between teeth

6. What kind of tooth brush is now recommended for most people?
A Soft bristle
B Medium bristle
C Hard bristle
D Mixed bristle

7. Fluoride helps prevent decay because it chemically changes the enamel on teeth
TRUE FALSE

8. Coatings for teeth called sealants are used to
A Reduce plaque build-up
B Prevent discoloration
C Smooth rough surfaces
D All of the above

9. The number one cause of loss of teeth after 35 is
A Decay
B Gum disease
C Oral cancer

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Bill Lane in Hollywood

Al Pacino lurking in back alleys looking for sex in "Cruising."

Leon Isaac Kennedy has long been known as the shadow husband of beat eous actress and TV lady Jayne Kennedy. But things have changed. There is now competition in the Kennedy house. Leon The Lover is for real. He made it by starring in the current film, "The Penitentiary". The film (and Leon) has been cleaning up in cities like Detroit, Cleveland, Boston, Houston and Washington, and is just opening in Chicago and New York. It opens here in the Hollywood area pronto (Feb. 29) at Mann's Westwood thea tre. In Detroit at the Palms Theatre it set a house record, and in St. Lo uis it set an area record for attendance. Some say it's the top-grossing independent movie on the circuit.

The bold, brash and brutal motion picture, written, produced and dir ected by Jamaa Fanaka, has been getting many praises from critics, many of whom say its major fight scene makes the Stallone-Weathers bout in "Rocky" look like a patty-cake waltz. In the flick Leon fights off p unk-makers in "the joint", and attracts female viewers in the "free world" like flies. The guy's swellering these days in fan mail, arduous and appealing.

When Jayne Kennedy appeared recently in Houston, female fans screamed at her: "You're pretty, we know. But go back home and send us your husb and Leon"!.

What price fame? Who knows? But it would appear that Leon Isaac

Mary Carter Smith on TV
Friday, Saturday

The Friday March 21 TV program from the Maryland Center for Public Broadcasting Channels 22,28,31 and 67) will feature Maryland's only girot (story teller) Mrs. Mary Carter Smith.

The program is due to be aired at 7:30 p.m. and repeated on Sunday, March 23 at 4 p.m. on the IN PERSON shows.

Mary Carter Smith is noted as a peaiess, dramatist and teller of stories about native black Americans and those from Africa's history. She has broadcast on TV and radio , on stage and from theatres across the nation for the past decade in a style and fashion all her own. Most of her appearances are devoted to children's

MARY CARTER SMITH
Maryland's only griot

audiences and toward the improvement of their education in a broad fashion to appreciate the customs and manners of all races.

The Public Broadcasting program, IN PERSON, is one half hour in length and features Marylanders whose careers or lifestyles influence life in Maryland as well as beyond the state's border borders.Dr. Rick Breitenfeld is director at the Owings Mills studios where Mrs. Smith will record the evening of March 18 on her career and experiences. Gerry Burlage is producer.

Mrs. Smith announces that her mission into the state's many schools has increased her love for children. However, to her regret she has noted increased misunderstandings between home and school, a condition she hopes to correct in her future speeches and appearances.

'The Rose' a briar patch of drugs

Gerald Wright
Guest Columnist

The list of nominations for the Academy Awards was published last week. "The Rose" won 6 nominations. This movie deserves a special honor able mention.

Young people aspiring to become musicians should take heed to the message conved in "The Rose".

Shakespeare once wrote, "A rose by any other name would smell as sweet". Well, the movie of the same title has the same distinct quality. The message in this movie rings loud and clear, "Drugs Kill".

"The Rose is a musical tribute to the musicians of the sixties who open bold new frontiers in electronic music, but could not escape the tan gled web of the drug scene so interwoven in their music and life style. A recent incident that drew a lot of attention last month vividly illust rated the drug-music connection. Ex-Beatle Paul McCartney was arrested in Tokyo for possession of marijuana. No one is surprised that McCartney smokes marijuana. They are only surprised how easily he was caught. Some people believe drug abuse comes with the job, rather than an occupational hazard.

The character portrayed in "The Rose" is like so many youths today who see only the glamour and the high polished gloss of being a rock star. The average kid is so taken by the on-stage antics, they never wonder what goes on behind the scene. They never ask "Are they just good actors on stage or are they caught up in their own act?".

Well, "The Rose" did not have this inner strength to see beyond the glitter. It was no surprise ending to see her wither under the pre ssure. A fitting title and a movie for all to see, especially young people aspiring to become musicians.

CALENDAR

CCB

Sat., March 8, "Women and Mortgage Credit" Workshop, 10 a.m. to Sat., March 8, "Women and Mortgage Credit" Workshop, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Liberty Campus, 2901 Liberty Heights Ave. For details call Sylvia Brown, 396-1850.

Saturdays, March 8 and 15, Real Estate Continuing Education class, Harbor Campus Lombard St. at Market Place, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., $25 tuition. Call 396-0380 or 396-1850 for information. Resale Care Training Program, 9 a.m. to 4.30 p.m., Liberty Campus, 2901 Liberty Heights Ave, $10 registration fee.

Wed., March 12, "Exercise, Nutrition and Diet", by Agnes M. Taylor of the Maryland Office of Physical Fitness, "Wednesday Afternoons at Caton Manor" series, Wilkens and Caton Ave., 1 p.m.

Cabaret

The HiWay Gents present a disco cabaret at the Gentlemen 10, Sat., March 8, 10 p.m.-4 a.m. Music by the T.B.G.'s Disco. Special attraction She Devils' Girls recording dance band. All proceeds goes to HiWay Gents softball team. The HiWay Gems are city employees. Tickets are $7.50 in advance and $8.00 at the door. For more information call Ran dy, 837-7278.

Pratt

Energy Month at the Pratt Library during March continues with a var iety of program of- ferings and exhibits. Highlights of upComing events in clude the following:

"Saving Energy In Your Home", an exhibit prepared by the U.S. De artment of Energy featuring illustrations, diagrams, and games will be on view beginning Mon., March 10, until the end of the month in the main hall of the central library, 400 Cathedral St. This exhibition may be seen during regular library hours.

Paul J. Guzzo, Baltimore Gas and Electric company, will speak on "Conservation in the Home" at 3 p.m. on Mon., March 10, at the Reservoir Hill Center, 2201 Park Ave.

A talk on "Saving Engery with Small Appliances" will be presented by Janet Shorey, Maryland Energy Policy office, at 4 p.m. on Tues., March 11, at the Pennsylvania Ave. branch, 1531 W. North Ave.

Free films

Films relating to the Pratt Library's Energy Month observance will be shown at various locations throughout March. For specific screenings, a calendar of Energy Month events can be obtained at any Pratt agency.

Other films scheduled at Pratt are as follows:

James Stewart and Donna Reed star in the 1947 comedy about an angel's efforts to earn his wings, "It's a Wonderful Life", scheduled for 6 p.m. on Wed., March 12, at the Clifton Center, 1030 S. Ellwood Ave.

Mon., March 10
Canton Center: Films — "When Knights Were Bold" and "Up the Creek", 4 p.m.
Central Library, Children's Department: Film — "African Odyssey: The Red Bicycle", 4 p.m.
Washington Village Center: Energy Book Bingo, 4 p.m.
Gardenville Branch: Preschool story hour, 6:30 p.m.
For more information call Miss Howard Hubbard 396-5494.

What's Happening

(Continued from Page 15)

Gospel Ansemble, the Young Adult Choir of Canaan Baptist Church, The Monroe Singers and Voices of Revel ation.

Samm-Art Williams, reatly Samuel Arthur Williams III, a native of Bargaw, N.C. and a 1968 grad of Morgan State University is the author of "Home" being presented by the Negro Ensemble Company at St. Marks Play- house in New York and drawing raves from all the media.

His play about a young man who leaves his Southern home for the North, opened last November and got such favorable reviews that the Negro Egsemble brought it back for another six weeks run.

Samm-Art who changed his name because Actors Equity said he couldn't use Samuel Williams says he first got the idea for "Home" in 1976 wh en he would take the Greyhound bus home to North Carolina. He noted all the black people going south at Christmas ... They were drinking and they were happy but "you could see a whole of of distress...and you knew what they had to come back North to".

Walbrook High School has four students listed in "Who's Who In Music" for 1979-80. Trina Trompson, David Dawson, Charles Butts and Tina Bonner are among the country's most outstanding high school music students. Ms Margaret C. Lindsay is Chairperson of Music.

John T. Bailey writes this week about a group at the Maryland Pen. "Free Spirit". He writes: Having been writing songs for about five years, I wrote them to help with the background music or in general producing some of my songs in return for this I offered to pay recording time fees if the Warden would let them out under guard to make this demo.

The Warden George Collins gave me a teacher at the facility to work as a go between between the group and myself to reach the goal of getting recorded, so it looks promising.

I think a feature on the group by you would be helpful in letting the public know of this Baltimore first and to prove that for the first time in Maryland's penal system a form of rehabilitation is being manifested. The group has already produced two of my songs titled; "A special Kind of Love" for my wife and the story of the ghetto, "Cement City".

The name of the leader if you would like to write him for their book of background literature, is Ricky Harris, 139-471, "Free Spirit" the address 954 Forrest St., Baltimore, Md. 21202.

The group is in need of new equipment, so, if possible you could plug this and that any funds or musical instruments in good conditon be forward ed to "Free Sprit", co Warden George Collins 954 Forrest St., Baltim ore, Md. 21202.

Thelma Houston—'Breakwater Cat'

After making nine albums and winning numerous recording industry awards including a Grammy, most singers get set in their ways. They've been through it before and the excitement of going after the huge pop music audience has worn thin. But for Thelma Houston, album number nine marks the beginning of a new chapter in an already rich career.

The new Thelmas Houston album is "Breakwater Cat", her first for RCA Records (White Diamond Productions). But "Breakwater Cat" also brings Thelma full circle in her recordings. The LP's executive producer is writerproducer Jimmy Webb, who also wrote and produced Thelma's acclaimed debut album, "Sunshower", a decade ago.

"I'm as enthusiastic as if it's my first record" says Thelma. "I've had more creative control on this album than ever before. We were given all the resources we needed and now I'm taking my shot".

"Breakwater Cat" is a concept album, with an entire side devoted to a suite written by Webb bearing the album's name. The suite tells the story of a character inspired by a newspaper account of several stray cats surviving on a California breakwater. It is Webb's collaboration with Thelma since her first album.

The other side of "Breakwater Cat" consists of songs by a variety of writers, including a sensational

cover of Elvis Presley's hit, "Sus picious Minds".

Thelma was born in Mississippi, the eldest of three sisters. There she taught herself to sing listening to the radio. When she was 10, her mother moved the family to Long Beach, California, where she studied for a career in nursing. After an unhappy early marriage, Thelma worked as a nurse's aide at Harbor General Hospital and later worked with elderly patients at Long Beach General Hospital.

On weekends, Thelma sang gospel with Art Reynolds, scarcely imagining it would amount to anything. But eventually the Art Reynolds8 Singers made an album and went on tour. "That's when I started think ing seriously about music as a career", recalls Thelma.

She began singing in nightclubs until she got her break playing The Factory. Marc Gordon, manager of the Fifth Dimesion, caught her per formance and signed her the same day. Soon Thelma won the respect of the music industry with her fist hit single, Laura Nyro's "Save The Country", and her Jimmy Webb album, "Sunshower", on ABC-Dunhill.

In 1972, Thelma split with Gordon and signed with Motown. There she recorded several albums, and enjoyed a string of pop, R 9 B and dance hits. She received her first Grammy nomination for "You've Been Doing Wrong For So Long" in 1974. Three years later, 1977, Thelma won her first Grammy for best R 9 B female vocal performance for her biggest hit to date, "Don't Leave Me This Way".

"I was totally surprised when I won", Thelma remembers. "I did n't want to be disappointed so I didn't even attend the ceremony. I was home mopping my kitchen floor when I got the news".

Throughout the '70's, Thelma has worked hard to polish her skills as an entertainer. She studied acting with Joan Darling and dance with Marie Bryant. Her film credits include "Norman...Is That You?"; "Bingo Long Travelling All-Stars 9 Motor Kings"; "Death Scream" and "The Seventh Dwarf". On stage, she co-starred in Dory Previn's musical, "The Amazing Flight of The Gooney Bird".

She has guested on countless TV shows. Her live performances have been limited the past few years, although she did perform at a benefit for the Black Business Association at the request of Andrew Young.

Singles

1. And The Beat Goes On — The Whispers
2. Special Lady — Ray, Goodman & Brown
3. Too Hot — Kool & The Gang
4. The Second Time Around — Shalamar
5. Working My Way Back To You — Spinners

Top Jazz

1. Every Generation — Ronnie Laws
2. One on One — Bob James & Earl Klugh
3. Fun And Games — Chuck Mangione
4. Hiroshima
5. Angel Of The Night — Angela Bofill

Top Disco

1. High On Your Love — Debbie Jacobs
2. Funkytown — Lipps Inc.
3. Evita — Festival
4. I Can't Help Myself — Bonnie Pointer
5. Dance of Life — Narada Michael Walden

Top R & B

1. The Whispers
2. Off the Wall — Michael Jackson
3. Gloryhallastapid — Parliament
4. Ray, Goodman & Brown
5. The Gap Band II — The Gap Band

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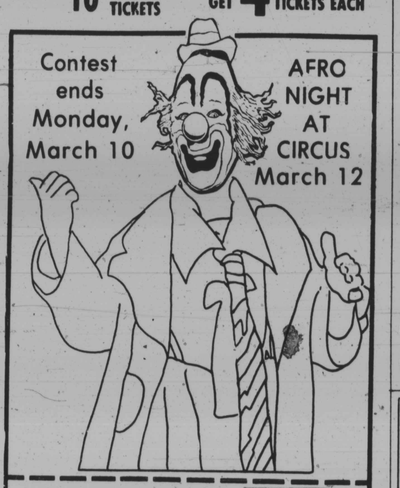

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3 There are 5 age categories: 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 11-12
4 There will be three winners from each age group These winners get 4 free tickets Top winner will be an honorary clown for one night and get 10 free tickets
Mail: AFRO Circus Contest, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore, Md. 21201

TV Watching

By Vanessa Johnson

Friday

NBA Basketball : The Bullets vs the Detroit Pistons at Pontiac, Mich. 8:00-10:00 p.m.-Ch. 20.

Mary Griffin : A show featuring millionaire guests, including hotel-chain founder Kemmons Wilson, cookie-entrepreneur Wally Amos. 9:00- 10:00 p.m.-Ch. 5.

'Salchmo : Film clips recall the career of Louis Armstrong (1900-1971) in this tribute to one of the most influential and best-loved jazz performers. 9:30-11:30 p.m.-Ch. 26.

Midnight Special : Host Mac Davis is joined by ABBA, The Whispers, and Thelma Houston. 1:00-2:30 a.m.-Ch. 11.

Fat Albert : A story about Dustin, who collects pornography. Host Bill Cosby. 11:30-12:00 p.m.-Ch. 2.

Hot Hero Sandwich : Guests are Stockard Channing, basketball's Dr. J., Julius Erving and others. 12:00-1:00 p.m.-Ch. 4.

American Bandstand : Guest Bonnie Pointer sings "Can't Help Myself" and other songs. 12:30-1:30 p.m.-Ch. 13.

Soul Train : Today's guests are Lou Rawls and Narada Michael Walden. 12:30-1:30 p.m.-Ch. 11.

Sports Spectacular : Leon Spinks (8-2-1) meets Eddie Lopes (132-1) in a scheduled 10 round heavyweight bout telecast live from Las Vegas. 4:00-5:00 p.m.-Ch. 2.

Wide World of Sports : Earnie Shavers meets Bernardo Mercado in a scheduled 10 round heavyweight bout telecast live from Great Gorge, N.J. Shavers is the top rated contender for Larry Holmes. 5:00-6:30 p.m.- Ch. 13.

Black Horizons : Host DeWayne Wickham takes a look at the Ku Klux Klan and its activities. 7:30-8:00 p.m.-Ch. 11.

One In a Million : Shirley and Duke take Stone to a disco to get his mind off his estranged wife. Starring Shirley Hemphill. 8:00-8:30 p.m.- Ch. 13.

Sunday

Kids Are People Too : Guests are Jimmy McNichol, Meadowlark Lemon and others. 10:00-11:30 a.m.-Ch. 13.

Sunday Live : Today's guests are Earl Graves, editor of Black Enter prise Magazine. Also singing group Ray, Goodman and Brown. 1:00-2:00 p.m.-Ch. 13.

Superstars: The Baltimore Orioles get another crack at the world champion Pittsburgh Pirates in the first Superteams competition taped in Honolulu. 2:00-3:15 p.m.-Ch. 13.

Movie : In the conclusion of "Sinbad and the Eye of the Tiger", Sinbad battles supernatural creatures, prehistoric beasts and witchcraft. 7:00-8:00 p.m.-Ch. 13.

Tenspeed and Brown Shoe : E.T. and Lionel are on the trail of a woman's missing brother until sev unsavory characters suggest that a bogus investigation might be better for all concerned. Starring Ben Ver een. 8:00-9:00 p.m.-Ch. 13.

The Jeffersons : Louise sends George packing to a hotel after she becomes jealous on their 30th anniversary. Starring Sherman Hemsley and Isabel Sanford. 9:30-10:00 p.m.-Ch. 2.

Movie : "A Raisin in the Sun", Lorraine Hansberry's prize-winning drama about a black family living in a cramped Chicago tenement. Starring Sidney Poitier, Ruby Dee and Claudia McNeil. 11:45-2:15 a.m.-Ch. 13.

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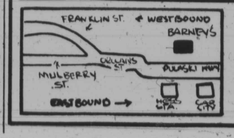

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