SHOWTIME

★Theatre ★Arts ★Music

Prince...coming our way!

Prince coming with Rick James April 13

The Album credits on Prince's second LP for Warner Bros. Records "Prince" tels the whole story: produced arranged composed and performed by Prince it says. As the heir apparent to the title of musics boy wizard Princes accomplishments are all the more impressive when considering that he is not yet 20.

With two stunning albums and a smash single under his belt Prince is already a proven commodity, an artist with limitless creative drive and a musical imagination that knows no bounds. And hes coming to Baltimore with Rick James on April 13.

Born and raised in Minneapolis Prince is the son of a jazz band leader. His mother also sang in the familys band and it was on his dads piano that Prince picked out his first tunes at age seven-playing themes from popular television shows.

At the age of 12 he was heading up his own band Champagne playing hotels and high school dances performing both original material written by Prince and the groups bass player Andre Cymone and Top 40 material. When the group finally split after five years together it was to move on to bigger and better things "I figured if I was going to be serious about a music career "Prince recalls "I better start getting busy".

Needing a demo tape to showcase his writing and playing abilities but without a backing band Prince went into a studio where an engineer friend of his worked. The engineer was also a lyricist and in exchange for studio time Prince wrote music for his friends words. Without instrumental support a producer or arranger the task of creating a salable demo on his own was one that Prince met with flying colors. With the entirely self- made product in hand he went to New York returning to Minneapolis two months later with two concrete promises from major labels.

"I didnt take either one of them "Prince says because they wouldnt let me produce myself. They had a lot of strange ideas...tubas and cellos and such. I knew Id have to do it myself if it was going to come out right".

Back in the studio Prince cut another demo three songs this time which he took to Warner Bros. The resulting contract yielded an entirely solo debut album "For You" and a smash hit single "Soft and Wet". "For You" cut in Sausilito Cal. features Prince on synthesizer guitar percussion drums and vocals. It was a five month recording effort and one that catapulted Prince to national attention.

After the LPs release the young mastermind set about getting a touring group together and laying plans for his follow-up album. Returning to Minneapolis he hooked up with his friend from Champagne days Andre Cymone who he hired on as bass player. Auditioning other local musicians ("theres a lot of undiscovered talent in Minneapolis" he observes) Prince eventually formed a line-up that consisted of Andre Dez Dickerson on guitar Gail Chapman keyboards Matt Fink keyboards and Bobby Lee another old friend on drums. I chose these guys because they were all fresh new and unknown". he remarks.

"Prince" the second album from this explosive new talent was cut in just five weeks again completely on his own except for the help of an engineer. Nine new originals include "I Wanna Be Your Lover" "Sexy Dancer" "With You" "Bambi" and "Its Gonna Be Lonely". Producing and playing at the same time is hard" Prince admits. "You really have to have two sets of ears".

Meet Jo Ann Williams

Native Baltimorean is TV star.

What better way to round out your life than to accomplish what you've always wanted to do and achieve it right here in your own home town?

"From that day I stood on the auditorium floor at P.S. 103, dressed up as the Statue of Liberty for an Independence Day play, I knew I wanted to work in front of a lot of people. Besides the fact, I just like to talk!"

Born in the 1300 blk of Druid Hill Ave. JoAnn Adell Knight Williams went to local schools and was a summa cum laude graduate from Coppin State College, second in her class. Daughter of Dorothy Barney and Joseph Knight, this 5 foot 1 inch lady manages to wear a lot of hats in one day.

As associate producer and midday news lady on WMAR's "Two's Company," JoAnn's day always promises something interesting. "The nice thing about working at WMAR, especially in our unit, "Two's Company," is we have fun while we put our heads together and come up with a creative product. It isn't just that everyone has a personal interest in the show, we all care about each other. Bruce Elliott and I work well together and that's really important but he always teases me about my "terrible voice."

On Wednesday nights she shares the spotlight with veteran performer Stu Kerr during the Maryland State Lottery Show. "...Stu is a real trooper to work with and we usually end up laughing about our corny Jokes during the show." Its really a great learning experience for me because the show is live just like "Twos Company" but theres a different level of excitement with the live audience of 80 or more people each week.

The amber-eyed young lady continues..."Television isnt all fun and glamour It really does take hard work lots of concentration plus youve gotta have a tough skin. Once you take the chance and put your face out there you have to be open to the public because thats who makes you the people. People want to know about you and its really a nice feeling when someone comes up to you and says Hello I like your work orl watch your show. Of course there are those who dont always say something nice to you but she quips thats all part of the game."

Often teased by friends about her h eight JoAnn looks at life itself as a game. "The secret is to give a tremendous amount of love and caring out to others and not worrl about it coming back. It more people cared about each other wed have fewer sad stories to read on the air.

At home theres no role reversal just a continuous sharing of time and feelings. She married to Arthur H. Williams (his uncle was Dr. Maceo Williams Druid Hill Health Clinics name-sake and the Wilsons of Mutual Benefit Insurance also the original owner of Katie Williams Funeral Palor). Hes manager of Heavy Duty Division with the Association of American Railroads the governing body for all the railroads in the United States Canada and Mexico. Arthur supervises all the freight that enters his country and Canada.

Together they spend what JoAnn Calls "Quality Time" with their children Kimberly Elizabeth 16; Rodney Patrick 19; and Christopher Ryan 6.

"You see we firmly believe its what kind of time you give children when youre trying to achieve career goals as well as prepare them for this world. We talk to our kids about everything because as long as the lines of communication are open then understanding will always be there."

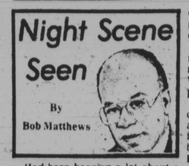
The saving grace in our family she empasizes is Arthur Leon Wilims retired elementary school principal of 101. "We just could not do it all without "Big Art" as he is affectionately called by everybody. Hes there morning till night and has a bit of wise advice for us all."

Her favorite pastime and therapy is cooking. "My grandfather Benjamin Barney was head chef of the B O Railroad for 32 years so I can get in that kitchen and make rolls that will fly out of the fan if you dont put a napkin over them plus the whole family says I make the best potato salad ever.

Whats ahead? JoAnn knows whatever it is it has to be great since this is so good now. "...I believe that the key to my success is my family and my ability to laugh at the hard knocks as well as the good things and most of all believe in Love. This has all been a dream —one that Ive been blessed to bring into reality."

Night Scene Seen

By Bob Matthews



Had been hearing a lot about a new look at The Red Rooster over on McKean Ave. so dropped by this week to check things out—and sure enough there is a decided revision.

At first glance it would seem that simply a partition has been inserted down the middle of the room separating the food-service area from the bar proper

But more careful analysis would show that not only are the food patrons accorded more space the collection of small tables and chairs which once occupied the center of the room have been replaced with larger more comfortable tables and chairs.

So it is easy to deduce that the restaurant business provides the major thrust at this popular Westside spot with Mrs. Mae still presiding over the kitchen.

Plans are also in the offing to completely move the food service area to the second floor. The first floor furniture is also scheduled to be replaced. So look for The Rooster to be making forward moves—incidentally the food still rates tops.

MOSTLY FOR MUSIC

The Left Bank Jazz Society will present the Shirley Scott Trio featuring Harold Vick Sunday at the Famous Ballroom. Essentially this is the same group which played the LBJS set last year although Vick was in residence at The Closet last weekend.

Shirley who plays with her shoes on I might add is known as a driving organist who might have to be nudged to force her to really put out as devotees know she can

Shirley Scott
Left Bank Jazz Society

Don Patterson
The Bandstand

Obviously an attentive receptive audience does much to bring out the best in performers.

This is the charm of LBJS audiences which so far this year have really turned out to support the artists. And with the potent lineup in the offing things are not expected to change. Get there early for choice seats

Over at The Bandstand its another organ combo this time headed by Don Patterson along with Victor Jaris guitar; Arnold Sterling alto sax and Hugh Walker drums.

Kinda sense a bit of a conflict here for Hugh is listed as playing other places this weekend—so am interested in seeing just where he will be.

At The Closet vocalist Brenda Alford will be the featured artist for the entire weekend along with the regular backup group led by Marc Cohen.

The Dottie Tim organ trio with Mickey and Shirley Fields plus Cathy Dorsey vocalist will be at the Regency Terrace 4147 Labyrinth Rd. Saturday evening.

Over at The Sportsmens Lounge organists are still in with Dennis Fisher heading up the Saturday afternoon jazz jam along with vocalist Jennifer Jones. Saturday and Sunday nights will showcase John Lampkins and his group.

The New Royal Peacock in the 2200 block Harford Rd. has listed the Fabulous Friends Plus One for tonight Friday and the Energizer Show and Band for Sunday April 6.

Pascals will present a group called Truganis Sunday with the Easter Sunday festivities scheduled to begin at 9 p.m. and last until 5 in the a.m.

Max Roach to visit Catonsville College

Max Roach, world renowned jazz drummer, will give a lecture and demonstration and answer questions at the Second Annual Percussion Clinic, to be held at Catonsville Community College, 800 S. Rolling Rd., on Thursday, April 10.

The clinic will begin at 2 p.m. A registration fee of $5 will be charged. Reservations are necessary. For more information, call John Crocken, lecturer in applied music at CCC, at 455-4429 or 665-3505.

The many talents of Max Roach encompass the artistry of his many years as a performer, instructor, recording artist and leader of his own quartet, and contemporary jazz percussion ensemble, M'Boom Re: Percussion. In addition to being an outstanding recognized drummer, his formal percussion training began as a timpanist while attending the Manhattan School of Music.

Max Roach at Catonsville Community College, Thursday, April 10.

Max has often been considered the Dean of Modern Jazz Drumming, as his professional career began with the Duke Ellington Orchestra at the New York Paramount Theatre at the young age of sixteen. He played with such style and technique that his career followed with almost every great jazz artist.

Dedicated to young people and music appreciation, Max continues his teaching at the University of Massachusetts as an artist in residence. His extensive domestic and international performance tours keep him very active.

Max continues extensive recording projects with the release of a live performance of the M'Boom Re: Percussion Jazz Ensemble recorded at Lood Street Festival Hall on the Japan RVC label.

Yet to be released is Max's outfit solo recording "Dedication" on the same label. He is also completing a series of duets with Archie Sheep and Dollar Brand.

Although one of Max's favorite clinic topics is "The Art of the Drum Solo", he is equally educational on related topics as style, technique, and the rhythm section drummer.

'Amorous Flea' at Arena

The final production of the Arena Players 1979-80 Season will be the "The Amorous Flea" a musical comedy adapted from Molieres "School For Wives". In "The Amorous Flea" Arnolphe the major character is an old man who has sheltered the beautiful Agnes from the outside world so she will make him the perfect wife. Horace a debonair young gentleman woos Agnes and undermines Arnolphes plans to marry her.

Appearing in "The Amorous Flea" will be an assortment of veteran Arena Players including Harvey Denmark who is recognized for his television role as the Judge on WJZ-TV 13s dramatic production "Courtroom 13" Sam Wilson Arena Players president who was last seen in the lead role of the President in Julian Mayfields "Fount of the Nation" and John King whose previous roles have included parts in "Lysistrata" and "The Bad Seed".

Other familiar faces in the cast will be Terry Daniels Ellen Smith Marvin Sampson and Brenda Doswell each of whom played major roles in last years successful musical "The Boy Friend".

Bill Johnson Hugh Harrell and "Sam" Washington are remembered for "Dont Bother Me I Cant Cope!" from earlier this season.

Newcomers Michael Carter John Hargrove and Sterling Robinson round out this tremendous cast list. "The Amorous Flea" is being directed by Ed Terry with musical direction by Shirley Watson and set design by Roscoe Thompson.

The show will open at the Arena Playhouse on May 9 and will continue weekends through June 1.

Gallery 409 exhibit opens Sunday

Gallery 409 will host an artist invitational exhibit which opens Sunday April 6 at the Gallery 409 N. Charles St. The six artists who will be presented in the showing illustrating a diversity of media and style are Bill Joyner Camellia Blackwell Herbert C. Lee Jr. Perry Prettyman Teddy Shannon and Duane Thiggen. Each artist is well known in the Baltimore community however little shown here because of limited gallery facilities.

Miss Blackwell and Mr Joyner have exhibited and traveled in Africa while Mr. Shannon and Mr. Thiggen have worked as muralists in programs in Baltimore City.

Mr. Lee completed as a commission a work for the Oliver Multi-Purpose Center and Mr. Prettyman has exhibited extensively in Washington and Baltimore.

All of the artists represent diverse media ranging from painting to sculpture to crafts.

The opening reception will be at Gallery 409 on Sunday (April 6) from 3:00p.m. until 5:00 p.m. The Gallery will be open daily from Tuesday through Sunday from 12 noon until 6 p.m.

Information may be obtained by calling 837-1985. Guy Jones is Gallery Coordinator.

L.C. - Good Friday - Good for Whom?

Morgan choir in Lyric concert

The Morgan State University Choir, directed by Nathan Carter, will appear at the Lyric Theatre on Sunday, May 4 at 8:15 p.m. The appearance will be jointly sponsored by the Baltimore Chapter of the Continental Societies, Inc. and the President's Committee for the Morgan Choir.

The program will include classical, pop and religious music indicative of the versatility of the choir.

The Baltimore Continentals, a non - profit service organization with chapters in 20 cities and Bermuda, is concerned with aiding disadvantaged children and youth. Chartered in 1965, the club has received wide acclaim from community leaders for its endeavors on behalf of youngsters in the Baltimore area.

In addition to helping the choir, proceeds from the performance will benefit the Continentals' activities with needy children.

Mesdames Sevilla Carroll and Phyllis Thompson are co-chairpersons for this fund-raising activity for the Continentals. Mrs. Louise Mapp is club president. For ticket information call 362-2924 or 383-9891.

What's Happening

Purvis Jackson and The Spinners with Ray, Goodman and Brown coming to Towson Center.

By Ida Peters

A call from Pervis Jackson of The Mighty Spinners alerted us to the fact that they will be back in this area Friday April 11 at the Towson Center with Ray Goodman and Brown.

The Spinners havent been in this area since October 1978 and the last time we talked to Pervis he had just finished the role of Deacon Smith with Meadowlark Lemon Flip Wilson and "Dr. J" in "The Fish That Saved Pittsburgh".

Since the last time we talked the only changes in the group has been for Bobby Smith to get married to Lorraine White.

The Spinners are back on the top of the charts with "Working My Way Back To You Forgive Me Girl" a million seller plus their "Body Language" and "Dancin and Lovin" albums are moving well.

The Spinners have a new album coming out in May and when they come to Baltimore theyll be doing an old Sam Cooke song "Cupid" and a melody with "Love Trip".

Pervis says that "Working My Way Back To You" is one of the biggest hits they have ever had and it was a fluke that they did it. Its an old Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons hit and they were reluctant to record someone elses material.

The song was popular 14 years ago but Michael Zaiger came up with a new arrangement.

The Spinners have been touring in the West with Ray Goodman and Brown and Pervis calls them "a great bunch of guys".

Before coming to Baltimore they will be in Los Angeles to do "The Mike Douglass Show" "American Bandstand" and host "The Midnight Special".

"How are audiences reacting to your old songs?" we asked Pervis. He says that audiences still ask for "Games People Play" "Ill Be Around" and "Sadie".

The Arena Playhouse is dark this weekend but their production of "227" reopens April 11. The week after Easter will be a block buster for besides The Spinners Rick James and Prince are at The Civic Center April 12.

Labelle will be in town the following week for three days. Miss Inner City Teen Pageant sponsored by St. James Youth Development Program Advisory Boards to be held at the Convention Center on July 20 will have a press kickoff at 2 p.m. April 12 at 409 N. Charles St. according to Cleveland Brister.

The Ebony Players II Repertory Co. presents "Legacy for a Papermoon" April 17 at Martin Luther King School 3750 Greenspring Ave. Special guests will be "Tomorrows Promise".

"Resolutions" a two-act play by Dorothy L. Hughes and directed by Frances Gordon featuring the Richmond Affair The Eveready Gospel Singers in Murphy Auditorium of Morgan State University Saturday April 26 at 7 p.m. Johnny Branch plays Superslick; Jim Carter Deacon Fatback and the Rev. Elmo Warren Rev. Silverhill.

Young Audiences Inc. will present one performance only by the distinguished American dance company The Ohio Ballet on Saturday April 12 at 8:15 p.m. at the Lyric Theatre. This will be a benefit for Young Audiences Concerts in Schools Program. The four works tentatively scheduled for Maryland premieres are: "Schubert Waltzes" "Duet" "Scenes from Childhood" and "Fantasy in F Minor". These ballets will be performed to live accompaniment.

Trussel, Elektra - Asylum artists will be singing their hit "Love Injection" at Pascal's Easter Sunday. Above, Larry O. Tynes, William McGee, Herman Maclin Jr., Michael Spratley, Michael Gray, Hannon D. Lane, Lynwood Jones and Ronald Smith.

Bill Myers will appear on Ch. 11 in a half - hour special "In Celebration" featuring his talented singers and dancers, April 5 at 7 p.m.

The annual Foreign Film Festival at Catonsville Community College scheduled for Friday and Saturday April 11 and 12 will feature an Italian film "Bread and Chocolate" and a French move "Alexander".

"Bread and Chocolate" will be shown each evening at 7 p.m. followed by a 9 p.m. showing of "Alexander". The movies will be shown in the Humanities Theatre on the CCC campus 800 South Rolling Road. Admission is free.

Learn about Baltimores fascinating renaissance in a two session lunch-time seminar called "Baltimore From The Top". A project of the Office of Promotion and Tourism the course will be offered at the Top Of The World 27th floor observation level of the World Trade Center on Monday April 14 and Wednesday April 16 from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.

The material presented will give a glimpse of Baltimores dynamic energence as the city of the 80s. The first session will consider Baltimores rebirth encompassing redevelopment projects at the Inner Harbor and elsewhere neighborhood revitalization architectural preservation the culture boom and other areas significant to Baltimores not-so-distant past and approaching future.

The second session features a walking tour of the Top Of The World where the breathtaking panoramic vista offers the best view of Baltimore old and new. Reservations are required at 837-4515.

The final offering of Center States new play series "First Stage" is David Berrys "The Whales of August". Mr. Berrys first play "G.B. Point" was originally produced at Center Stage as a part of the 1978-79 mainstage season. "The Whales of August" Mr. Berrys second full length play deals with four elderly New Englanders in a summers cycle of watchful reminiscence. Although this is a "no review" situation we invite you to attend any performance during the limited run. Performances are April 8-13. Curtain is 8 p.m. with a Sunday matinee on April 13 at 2 p.m.

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat will return this spring to Washington with an exciting new production due to begin previews at Fords Theatre on April 11 with the Press Opening set for April 13 at 7 p.m.

"Joseph" was originally written by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice the creators of "Jesus Christ Superstar" and "Evita" as an end-of term concert piece for the Colet School Choir in London in 1968. It was conceived prior to "Jesus Christ Superstar" but was overshadowed by the enormous success of that popular rock opera.

Producer Director James D. Waring saw the play in Dublin in 1973 but was unable to acquire production rights until 1977 when he opened the play in Washington's Harlke Theatre at Catholic University to near unanimous acclaim.

After a sold-out run at Harlke "Joseph" moved to Olney Theatre where it played to standing-room-only houses for summer engagements in 1977 and 1978. Waring will again direct the play for Fords Theatre. This production will be presented by Frankie Hewitt for Fords Theatre in association with Susan Rose Jerry Scholosberg and Melvyn Estrin.

Alec Ramsey (Kelly Reno) and his horse, The Black, are joined by the horse's trainer, Mickey Rooney and his friend Snoe, the late Clarence Muse in "The Black Stallion" an excellent movie for the whole family.

Hide Your Women, Lock Up Your Cash, Billie Joe & The Baltimore Bullet are on their way!

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JAMES COBURN OMAR SHARIF
RONEE BLAKLEY BRUCE BOXLEITNER
THE BALTIMORE BULLET JOHN F. BRASCIA
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1. The Whispers
2. Light Up The Night The Brothers Johnson
3. Off The Wall Michael Jackson
4. Ray, Goodman & Brown
5. The Gap Band II The Gap Band

Top Singles

1. Stomp! The Brothers Johnson
2. And The Beat Goes On The Whispers
3. I Don't Believe You Want to Dance The Gap Band
4. Special Lady Ray, Goodman & Brown
5. Off The Wall Michael Jackson

Top Jazz

1. Fun and Games Chuck Mangione
2. Every Generation Ronnie Laws
3. Skylarkin' Grover Washington Jr.
4. Angel of The Night Angela Bofill
5. Hideaway David Sanborn

Top Disco

1. High On Your Love Debbie Jacobs
2. Funkytown Lipps, Inc.
3. Stomp! The Brothers Johnson
4. Call Me Blondie
5. In Love Cheryl Lynnn

April at Cloister's

April 5- Movie "Philip and the White Colt" showtimes 1:00 and 2:30 p.m.

April 6- Closed for Easter Holiday.

April 12- Movie "The Red Ballon" showtimes 1:00 and 2:30 p.m.

April 13- Movie "The Red Ballon" showtimes 1:00-2:20 p.m.

April 19- Storytelling Festival all varieties of storytelling activities.

April 20- Storytelling Festival with the Maryland Libraries Association "Time for Tale Telling" Jugglers Jesters Wandering Minstrels.

April 26-27 - Childrens story of a young girl living with her grandfather in the German mountains. Heart-warming rendition of a friendship that grows between two young girls. Shows 1:00 and 2:00 p.m.

The Cloisters Childrens Museum sponsored by the Mayors Committee on Art and Culture is open 7 days a week: Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and weekends from 12 noon to 4 p.m. Admission to the museum is free of charge. Your donations however are greatly needed to substain and develop childrens programs at the museum.