\* Theatre \* Music

## Cab in D.C... 'Eubie' opens Tuesday



By Ida Peters

Sugar'. The rousing new revue celebrates some o the most famous people, places and night spots of Harlem from 1910-1940. The show has the music and lyrics by such greats as Eubie Blake, Duke Ellington, Billie Holiday Andy Razaf, Cab Calloway, Earl "Fatha" Hines, W.C. Handy, Noble Thomas "Fats" Waller and many others.

Before the high steppin' pirit calms, the Broadway hit musical revue "Eubie" begins its engagement at the Warner Theatre on July 22. The show features 24 songs of 97 year-old Composer Eubie Blake in a celebration of ragtime music and jazz dance.

The Arena Players' production of James Weldon Johnson's "God's Trombones" thrilled packed houses when opened last weekend at the Arena Playhouse. Rev. Vernon Dobson,

By Sue Williams

It has been a struggle,

and certainly a lot of

work, but the 15 young

people who make up the

Baltimore Dance Theatre

Union Baptist Church; Rev. Reginald Daniels, Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church and Rev. Donald Sterling, St. Cecilia's Roman Catholic Church were the guest preachers who delivered the sermons that brought

Mary West Miller, Earl Burton, John King, Calvin Parker, Robert Russell Verna Day, Warren Dorsey and Mary Carter Smith are the Arena Players who are per-

will continue this weekend through Sunday Ministers scheduled to give one of Mr. Johnson's unforgettable sermons are Rev. Bernard Keels. Mark's United Methodist Church on July Bridgeford, Bethel A.M.E., Chestertown on July 19, and Rev. Wendell Phillips, Heritage United Church of Christ, on July

The Urban Services Cultural Arts Project is performing "Day of Absence" by Douglas Turner Ward at Dunbar Community Theatre, 1400 Orleans St., today Friday, July 18 Described by the author as a reverse minstrel show... the cast is made up in white face. It's about a southern town where all the blacks suddenly disappear. For ticket information and times of performances

Baltimore on August 1 for

a tour which will include

Frankfurt and

Dinkelsbuhl, West Ger-

Austria, and Florence,

Venice and Rome, Italy.

Innsbruck,

call 276-4646.

Planning a trip to New York? Vinnette Carroll's gospel musical about the crucifiction in relation to contemporary blacks. taken from the Book of Matthew, "Your Arms Too Short To Box dancing in the aisles at the Ambassador

Theatre.

The music and lyrics by the late Alex Bradford with additional music and lyrics by Micki Grant and dance music by H.B. Barnum is performed by a talented company of 20 singers and dancers. They show none of the wear and tear of a nationwide tour and their talent and energy is first rate.

Impressive is Jennifer-Yvette Holliday, a singer of tremendous power and range whose superb delivery of "Just A Little Bit of Jesus Goes A Long Way" as well as the title song arouses verbal audience response. Her rendition of "I Love You So Much Jesus' is followed by deafening

Talley Beatty's choreography remains fresh with Farrington scoring an enthusiastic response in his "Judas Dance".

Vinnette Carroll deserves a solid round of applause for ingenuity of staging and providing obvious inspirational motivation for the splendid cast.

Dance Theatre on way to Europe

Anderson. Part of the

city's Urban Services

Cultural Arts program,

the dancers have been

preparing their extensive

repertoire at their studio

direction of Ms Eva derstandably an air of

excitement about the

director, for what began

as a dream on paper is

actually so close they can

taste it. The trip will be a

dancers and



Leslie Dockery sings "If You've Never Been Vamped by a Brownskin" in "Eubie" opening Tuesday at the Warner Theatre in D.C.

American—modern

this country.

dance—in settings where

classicism formed the

very mold for dance in

Their Americanism

group travelling abroad.

over. The response of the

city, she said, including

inner-city residents who

have given donations, has

Despite that response

several of the dancers are

still a little short

money, and in an attemp

to attain the needed funds

the dancers will be in

AFRAM festival at the

Inner Harbor (July 25-27)

and will give a special

benefit performance at

The Gatsby on July 27th.

being co-sponsored both

O'Dells, two of the city's

Donations may be also

given by calling the

Baltimore Dance Theatre

at 837-2990.

That performance

performance at

been tremendous.

Raising the money for

## SOS Band... doing it right



SOS Band top soul group in United States now on tour with Isley Brothers.

"Take Your Time (Do it Right) Part 1," the first single from TabuCBS recording artists the SOS Band has just been certified gold by the RIAA for sales in excess of 500,000.

On the Soul Charts the single has been holding seat the Number One position across the country and is rapidly being added to

more and more stations throughout the United

SOS Band is currently in the midst of a successful national tour with fellow CBS artists The Isley's, performing for audiences in 10,000-20,000 arenas coliseums. Receiving strong, positive notices on their performances, the 8-

piece, Atlanta-based SOS Band has accomplished quite a feat for a debut band and LP. The band's previous performance history included playing mostly club dates, their first concert appearance being the SRO June 6 date at Madison Square Garden kicking off the 20plus city tour with The

## Youtheatre Arena working for 60 youngsters

By Sue Williams The seven young dancers who performed recently at the AFRO Clean Block meeting ooked calm and poised as they waited for their music to begin. Looking hard, one could see eyes fluttering and chests heaving just a little more than normal. Despite the appearance of peace, they had muttered that they wished they had had just a little more time to practice this particular

Director Andrea Holmes, sitting in the notwithstanding, the audience, and seemingly dancers will take the time taking in all of their to express their Afro- nervousness, explained, Ameerican ethnicity "They've only been through several original working on this dance for works, something Ms a week..."

Anderson feels is im- As the music began, perative to any black arts Andrea leaned forward, apparently trying to catch every movement, every gesture. When the trip has been no easy they hesitated or missed silently counting or recalling which step, which turn-was supposed to happen.

> And when it was over, both dancers director breathed a sigh of joy that it was over. Conservatory. "We messed up," one of the dancers muttered. "You did fine," Andrea

retorted. Andrea is directing the dance education segment of the Arena Players to different schools in the do," she says calmly sixth annual summer Youtheatre. Sixty innercity youths are participating this year, taking not only dance, but drama, mime and communication. Every day, from 9 a.m. until 1 High as choreographer "Babes in Toyland." they study, preparing for a major

seen in December. The

Andrea Holmes, dance instructor

summer program is has a dream to one day funded by the Mayor's have her own dance Advisory Committee on company, but until then, Art and Culture; the she loves working with Maryland State Arts young dancers. Council, the National Endowment for the Arts own potential...but they task, but Ms. Anderson a step, her lips moved, and the Arena Players. have so much," she says.

volved in dance for some know how beautiful they time, she tells us. At age are and how much they 27, she has studied with can do." the Baltimore Dance theatre, Wally Saunders, herself a hard teacher? and at the Peabody Not really, but she is a

Audiences, she says. me." "We were going around "I know what they can city, putting on dance The summer program. for their production of "The Wiz". That production, "Babes in production was so suc- ward to as much as the

was a memorable time for Andrea.

When she stopped working at Garrison, Andrea continued to dance and to look for outlets When she found out that Arena Players needed a dance instructor, she jumped at the chance. It took only an interview and a chance for the Arena people to see her dance, and the choice had been

Andrea, who finds time to work a full-time job in the afternoons at a local bond company, is completely absorbed in her work at Arena. She

"They don't know their Andrea has been in- "I just want them to

Does she consider "little demanding. She Dance, she says, is a believes, though, that by big, big part of her life. keeping on the dancers "I really started they will end up surperforming with Young prising themselves, not

concerts." From that will end in August, but experience, Andrea Andrea will continue to began working with the work with the dancers Baltimore City Board of throughout the fall, in Education, eventually preparation for the ending up at Garrison Jr. winter production of

It is something that Andrea is looking for-Toyland' which will be cessful that the company young dancers with took it to Columbus, whom she is working.



Dancers who will be going include: Troy Byrd Yvette Shipley, Deborah Newby, Marcia

Miller, Sharon Morris, Melvin Cooper, Towarda Robinson, Sharon Henderson, William

Smith, Elana Williams, Lorna Price, Jocelyn Edwards and Jonathan

Janis Madden, Darren Page, Andrea Fenwick, Renee Johnson: Karen Banks, Sharon Bullock and Andrena Bundy performed at the AFRO Clean Block meeting on

July 11. The dancers are all a part of the Arena Players' Summer Youtheatre.