'Whose life is it anyway?' coming

Brian Bedford stars in Brian Clark's acclaimed London and Broadway hit play "WHOSE LIFE IS IT ANYWAY?" at the Mechanic Theatre for a limited three-week engagement, January 27 through February 14. "WHOSE LIFE IS IT ANYWAY?" treats a painful subject in a wise and humorous manner. Brian Bedford portrays Ken Harrison, a paralyzed sculptor, who insists that his life — and ultimate destiny — are his own.

Brian Clark's drama presents a great debate on the ultimate issues that touch us all. The play introduces us to this artist's dependent world, with the audience completely caught up and spellbound in an emotionally - charged situation. Ken Harrison is depicted as a brave man who, although he does not want to go on living, makes the point that he be allowed to have a choice. "WHOSE LIFE IS IT ANYWAY?" is compelling, unforgettable theatre; the kind that appeals to one's heart and mind simultaneously.

Brian Bedford, who scored a triumph last season at the Mechanic Theatre with "DEATHTRAP," returns in the tour de force role of Ken Harrison. No stranger to demanding roles, Bedford comes to this production directly from his fourth season at the Stratford Festival in Ontario, Canada. He has starred in New York and on the road in such successful plays as "Equus," "Private Lives," "Butley" and "The Cocktail Party." A noted Shakespearean actor, he has performed in Stratford - on - Avon and Stratford, Connecticut, as well as London's West End.

The all-star cast of supporting players in this English company is headed by Pat Galloway — a Shakespearean star in her own right at Stratford, Ontario, and Canada's most stylish comedienne. Some of her performances include Gertrude in "Hamlet," Gwendolyn in "The Importance of Being Earnest," the title role in "St. Joan," Rosaline in "Love's Labour's Lost," Kate in "The Taming Of the Shrew" and Goneril in "King Lear"; both of which also toured in Europe and Russia.

Featured in the cast are Leon Charles, Gordon Chater, Stephen Arlen, Delphi Lawrence and Dillon Evans, with Lynne Kadish, Kim Sullivan, Kate Fitzmaurice, Kenneth Danzinger, Laurence C. Lott and Ben Kapen in supporting roles.

Michael Lindsay-Hogg redirects this national company, and was nominated for a Tony for his original hit on Broadway starring Tom Conti. The play features sets by Alan Tagg, costumes by Pearl Somner and Lighting by Tharon Musser.

Brian Bedford stars as Ken Harrison, the paralyzed sculptor, in Brian Clark's award-winning drama "Whose Life Is It Anyway?" Here he is being shaved by Kim Sullivan in a typical hospital scene. The play, directed by Michael Lindsay-Hogg, begins a 3-week engagement at the Mechanic Theatre on Jan. 27-Feb. 14.

Weekend TV Watching

By Vanessa Johnson

Friday

Benson: The pilot on the Governor's chartered plane becomes ill and there's no co-pilot. Starring Robert Guillaume. 8:00 - 8:30 p.m. — Ch. 13.

Movie: Come Back Charleston Blue, sequel to "Cotton Comes to Harlem" with Godfrey Cambridge and Raymond St. Jacques as police detectives investigating a mysterious drug shortage in the black community. 8:00 - 10:00 p.m. — Ch. 20.

Midnight Special: Host Harry Chapin is joined by the Pointer Sisters who sing "He's So Shy" and "Could I Be Dreaming?" and many others. 12:30 - 2:00 a.m. — Ch. 11.

Saturday

Fat Albert: A story about a girl whose problems in school and with friends stem from a hearing defect. Hosted by Bill Cosby. 12:00 - 12:30 p.m. — Ch. 2.

Soul Train: Musical guests are Rick James and the S.O.S. Band. 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. — Ch. 11.

Tony Brown's Journal: Author Douglas Glasgow ("The Black Underclass") and political economist Manning Marable discuss the differences between middle-class blacks and whites. 2:00 - 2:30 p.m. — Ch. 11.

Hula Bowl: "Wide World" covers the game from Honolulu. Hosted by Reggie Jackson and Lynn Swann. 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. — Ch. 13

Mitch Miller: Mitch is joined by singer -actress Irene Cara ("Fame") and others. 9:00 - 10:00 p.m. — Ch. 11.

Love Boat: Isaac doesn't want a former teacher to know he's a bartender. Starring Ted Lange. 9:00 - 10:00 p.m. — Ch. 13.

Sunday

It's Your Business: "Can't We Cut Government Spending Without Spending Cutting Service?" Panelists include Benjamin Hooks executive director of the NAACP. 11:00 - 11:30 a.m. — Ch. 2.

Saundra Dunson--Franks From Prayer to Victory

By Sue Williams

Four years ago, actress Saundra Dunson Franks found herself more or less locked into a well-paying job with the Allstate Insurance Company in Atlanta, Georgia, thinking that she had a talent and an education that was not going to get her anywhere.

She was making good money, but she was not happy and felt unfulfilled. She was a playwright, director and actress. With a B.A. degree in English from Spelman College, and credits toward a master's degree in black studies, Franks found herself feeling that something was very wrong.

She wanted to act; that was her love. But she was unwilling to subjugate herself or her talents to the roles most often offered to black actresses and actors. She felt a need to be independent, to say something with her talent rather than perform for the sake of performing.

She decided to take the matter to God.

"I prayed," she said, quietly. "I asked Him to make me a reaper in His vineyard, to lead me to do something that would be pleasing in His sight."

A week after she made that prayer, it was answered. She received a call from a member of a Seventh day Adventist Church who had seen her perform a one-woman show on the life of Harriet Tubman. The member wanted her to come to the church and do the performance.

"I knew it was God speaking to me, answering my prayer," she said. "The Seventh day Adventist Church normally frowns on theater, but they wanted the show. I was surprised, but I didn't question the call. I went to the church...and I've been doing the show ever since."

The show, called "Hats, A Tribute to Harriet Tubman," will be the highlight of the Behold the Woman testimonial dinner on Jan. 17 at the Convention Center. The young, 33 year old director of the Drama Department of the Neighborhood Arts Center in Atlanta, will convert her body and soul into that of Tubman at 93 years of age, telling the story of a woman with an indomitable spirit and an unyielding relationship to God.

The story, she says, is greater than herself. The greatness of the woman called Harriet Tubman, who was responsible for leading more than 300 blacks out of bondage to freedom, comes through loud and clear every time she performs it, making young and old alike stop in their tracks and listen, many for the first time.

Required four years of research

"Some people want to know the truth and some don't," Franks says matter-of-factly. "But even those people who have never had a desire to know anything about Tubman find themselves captivated when they hear the story. They can't help it."

Franks began to intensively research the life of Tubman once she understood that the role was what God would have her do with her acting talent. She made visits to the home of Tubman, to her friends and even to her grave. The more she researched, the more fascinated she became.

"People who knew her said I looked like her," Franks recalled. "Some even said I had some of her ways."

Franks slept in Tubman's bedroom and spoke to her at her gravesite. She wanted to be able to ingest the spirit of the woman she was getting to know so well. Slowly, the spiritual bond became a part of her.

"It was like the spirit of Harriet Tubman lifted itself right out of her grave and entered me," she said. The feeling was unmistakable, was almost eerie, she said. But it gave her an added meaning behind her role, and the meaning began to filter itself into the performance itself.

"I have performed this role for all sorts of audiences," She said. "Young children, high school students, all ages...everybody just sits in amazement. It's like they can't believe it."

And when it's over, she always gets a standing ovation. It has never been any different, since that day she performed in the Seventh Day Adventist Church.

"I have found myself to be very much like Tubman in a very personal, intimate way," Franks says. She and Tubman are both very strong, both physically and in will Both of them, she said, have the same propensity to act on their dreams. And both of them rely on God for strength.

"She was much more religious than I am," Franks said honestly. "Doing the role makes me want to be more like her. The only way she was able to do the things she did was by praying. I pray, too, every time I do the role...and every time I think about how good God has been to me."

The conversion of a 33 year old mother of two into a 93-year old pioneer is no easy task. The role requires the application of what Franks calls "very uncomfortable make-up", which is made of latex (a kind of plastic), tissue and coloring.

"It takes bout two hours to apply...and twice as long to remove," she said, explaining that because she is a "hairy person," the removal process is very painful. She was taught the best ways to apply the make-up by a white director in Atlanta, Jim Way, and does the job herself, without assistance.

"I go through plenty of changes before I go onstage," she says. "I don't like people to know how old I am before I go out there, because it adds pressure on me to make the 93 year old portrayal believable. And, she says, "I always wonder what I would do if someone laughed."

But that has never happened. The truth about Harriet Tubman erupts from her performance with the power of an explosion that demands attention. The spirit of the woman deceased and the woman alive blend into one, and, somehow, the audiences pick up the union and call it their own.

"This show is about what Harriet Tubman was...it's about herself, her struggle to get other people to struggle to be the people they are and not settle for being shallow entities."

That message, apparently, is as strong now as it was 100 years ago.

Saundra Dunson-Franks

TV Watching

Solid Gold: Guests include the Commodores, Leo Sayers, LaToya Jackson and others. 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. — Ch. 45.

The Jeffersons: Taking her cue from "Dallas," Florence writes a soap opera in which G.R. a villainous dry cleaning tycoon, torments his family and associates to the point of murder. Starring Marla Gibbs and Sherman Hemsley. 9:30 - 10:00 p.m. — Ch. 2.

Trapper John, M.D.: Gonzo takes up the case of a homosexual cop who may have been intentionally shot by a fellow officer during a gay demonstration. Starring Gregory Harrison.

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Thu Jan. 8		7:30
Fri Jan. 9		7:30
Sat Jan. 10	11 a	3:00 8:00
Sun Jan. 11		1:30 5:30
Mon Jan. 12		No Performance
Tue Jan. 13		7:30
Wed Jan. 14		7:30
Thu Jan. 15		7:30
Fri Jan. 16		7:30
Sat Jan. 17	11 a	3:00 8:00
Sun Jan. 18		1:30 5:30

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N.Y. Con Edison has appointed Richard Carter, a former journalist and media relations specialist with the Ohio Bell Telephone Company, director of public affairs for Manhattan Division. Carter, 43 and a graduate of Marquette University, was once a reporter on The Milwaukee Sentinel, Columbus Dispatch and Cleveland Plain Dealer, as well as two weekly publications.

Since 1964, The Sperry and Hutchinson Company has made an annual donation to the United Negro College Fund. This year's $22,000 contribution was presented to UNCF Director Christopher F. Edley by S & H president Frederic W. Beinecke III and Dolly Christian, S & H director of Civic Affairs.

Is the Department of Housing and Urban Development considered a post for a black or other minority? The question was asked after President-elect Reagan announced the choice of Samuel R. Pierce Jr. to the post, following a withdrawal by a Mexican-American because the job would cause financial sacrifices. The reasoning behind this question is the fact that Pierce served two previous Republican presidents — but as counsel to the Treasury under Nixon and assistant to the undersecretary of labor under Eisenhower.

The papers of Roy Wilkins, executive director emeritus of the NAACP, were formally presented to the Library of Congress during ceremonies last week in the James Madison Memorial Building.

In Springfield, MS., a federal judge sentenced a 40-year-old white woman from Great Barrington, MS. to six months in prison and placed her on probation for two years on federal charges of harassing an elderly black couple who had moved into her all-white neighborhood. Karen Cauthier still faces state charges.

In Washington, D.C., it's reported that Sterling Tucker, former D.C. City Council chairman who was narrowly defeated in his 1978 bid to become mayor, has begun an intensive effort to line up potential support for another run for mayor in 1982.

Knight-Ridder Newspapers Inc. has named Jesse Hill Jr. president and chief executive officer of Atlanta Life Insurance Co., director of the newspaper chain.

Howard Bennett, national chairman of the National Citizens Committee for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday to be made a national holiday on January 15, continues his drive for same.

Former U.S. Senator Edward W. Brooke has paid back $49,500 Medicaid funds, including interest, that a court ruled were illegally paid to his late mother-in-law, it was revealed in Boston.

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SENIOR BUDGET ANALYST

Degree in Accounting, knowledge of major aerospace program cost control techniques, and cost accounting principles, learning curve techniques, manufacturing and related operational procedures. Will have complete responsibility for major programs requiring experience with government contracting and C-SCSC. Perform financial analyses, establish work order series and format, prepare financial reports, termination liability projections, CPSR and Cost Performance Report. Prepare cash flow input. Exercises considerable judgment in making decisions.

SENIOR COST ESTIMATOR

Knowledge of aerospace airframing techniques, engineering, material manufacturing and related operations. Experience of 7 to 10 years involving work with cost accounting systems and government contract requirements affecting pricing and cost reimbursement. Oversees and prepares entire cost proposals and supporting data for the development and production of complete aircraft, subcontract or other major program. Assist in contract negotiations. Technical ability to estimate production costs, engineering, tooling, quality, facilities and other costs to develop total program estimate.

SENIOR INDUSTRIAL ENGINEER

Degree in I.E. plus 5 to 7 years experience related to the manufacture and assembly of aircraft structures. Need a "pro" who can handle full range of I.E. duties including - standards development, perform some time studies, cost reduction projects, capital equipment justifications, compile estimates and manpower forecasts, and report on program progress.

MANUFACTURING ENGINEER

Degree in engineering plus 3 to 5 years of experience in aircraft structures — emphasis in mechanical aspects of aircraft assemblies. Will work from engineering drawings to develop and prepare planning for production areas to ensure efficient, consistent fabrication and assembly. Develops clear and concise plans and sequences of operations to facilitate manufacturing within cost, schedule and technical integrity specifications.

MANUFACTURING MATERIALS AND PROCESS ENGINEER

Degree in Materials Engineering, or related discipline with knowledge of polymers, adhesive bonding and metal bond process. Provide technical assistance to various production processes including autoclave bonding of metallic and non-metallic materials, prepond cleaning procedures, sandwich construction bonded assemblies, anodic coatings for aluminum, selection and application of adhesives, primers, and sealers. Specify processes that conform to customer and military specifications. Requires familiarity with destructive and non-destructive test of bonded structures.

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'Sophisticated Ladies' at Kennedy Center

Judith Jamison and Gregory Hines will star in the new musical, "SOPHISTICATED LADIES," which also stars the music of Duke Ellington, premiering at Broadway's Lunt-Fontanne Theatre (205 West 46th Street), Sunday, February 22. Previews begin Friday, February 13. Donald McKayle has conceived, directed and choreographed the production which is being presented by Roger S. Berlind, Manheim Fox, Sondra Gilman, Burton L. Litwin and Louise Westergaard in association with Belwin Mills Publishing Corp.

"SOPHISTICATED LADIES" will also star Phyllis Hyman and F. J. Benjamin and features Hinton Battle, Gregg Burge, Priscilla Baskerville and Terri Klausner.

Donlad McKayle describes "SOPHISTICATED LADIES" as: "wall-to-wall music and dance. 'LADIES' will focus on over 50 of Ellington's selections, including the ballet, symphonic and sacred compositions."

"SOPHISTICATED LADIES" will have a 25-piece on stage band and the music is under the direction of Mercer Ellington, Duke Ellington's son. The dance arrangements and additional vocal arrangements are by Lloyd Mayers.

Terri Klausner, Phyllis Hyman, Judith Jamison and Priscilla Baskerville in foreground in a scene from the new musical "Sophisticated Ladies."

"SOPHISTICATED LADIES" will play pre-Broadway engagements at Philadelphia's Forrest Theatre (Dec. 9 thru Jan. 3) and at the Washington, D.C. Kennedy Center Opera House (Jan. 11 thru Feb. 8).

AFRO Photo by Mark Gail

NEWLYWEDS Mr. and Mrs. Clarence E. Weaver smile radiantly following the high noon nuptial mass at the Church of the Holy Trinity of Baltimore, which united them in marriage on Dec. 27. The bride is the former Miss Carla Michelle Smith.

Nuptial mass unites Carla Smith, Clarence Weaver

On Dec. 27, a beautiful high noon nuptial mass united Carla Michelle Smith, daughter of Mr. and Irs.?s. Franklin C. Smith, Sr. and Clarence Eric Weaver, son of William Weaver and the late Ethel R. Weaver of Suffolk, Virginia.

The mass was celebrated by the Rev. Linwood W. Garrenton at the church of the Holy Trinity of Baltimore, Maryland.

The colors red and white were beautifully displayed throughout the afternoon with Christmas greens and pinsettas in the church, the red and white vestments of the acolytes, red gowns worn by the bridesmaids and varying shades of red flowers used by all bridal attendants.

The bridesmaids carried white fans with red flowers. The ushers, fathers of the bride and groom and best man were in gray tails. The petite bride wore a traditional gown of nylon guiana overlaid with a lace bodice and ruffles around the skirt.

The maid of honor was Robin A. Smith, cousin of the bride. The bridesmaids were Yvette Alawade, Iris Wilkins, Diane Clark, Stephanie Phillips, Linda Friend, all of Baltimore, Maryland.

Rolanda Anderson, flowergirl and Damon Anderson, ringbearer and both cousins of the bride.

The best man was Andre Weaver, brother of the bridegroom. The ushers were Franklin Smith Jr., brother of the bride; Ronald Steele, Laurence Banks and Kenneth Harrison.

The bride is the randdaughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Anderson and the late Mr. and Mrs. Edgar A. Smith of Baltimore.

She is a graduate of Towson State University and an assistant buyer for Children's Area, Hutzler erothers, a member of Tots and Teens, Inc., and a member of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.

The bridegroom is the grandson of the late Mr. and Irs. Stanley Weaver of Suffolk, Virginia.

He is a graduate of Virginia State University and is currently a system analyst for Vitro Laboratories, is affiliated with the Masons and Phi Theta Phi International Honorary Commerce Fraternity.

The wedding reception was held at the Forum on Reisterstown Road with music provided by the Lionel Juggetts combo.

Mr. and Irs. Weaver will be at home in Silver Springs, Maryland after returning from their weding trip.

The hostesses were Miss Cladys Orbongon, godmother of the bride, Karen Smith, cousin of the bride and FRita Crooms.

Out-of-town guests included John Coonis Jr., San Francisco, Caal.; Mrs. William Mason, Petersburg, Va.; Mr. and Mrs. Claude Jordon, Suffolk, Va.; Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Anderson, Norfolk, Va.

Top Hits

Top R & B Albums

1. Hotter Than July — Stevie Wonder
2. Triumph — The Jacksons
3. Faces — Earth, Wind and Fire
4. Celebrate — Kool & The Gang
5. TO — Teddy Pendergrass

Top R & B Singles

1. Celebration — Kool & The Gang
2. Master Blaster (Jam'nin') — Stevie Wonder
3. Love T.K.O. — Teddy Pendergrass
4. Keep It Hot — CameoCameo
5. Remote Control — The Reddings

Top Jazz Albums

1. Winelight — Grover WAshington, Jr.
2. Give Me The Night — George Benson
3. Carnaval — Spyro Gyra
4. Inherit The Wind — Wilton Felder
5. Odori — Hiroshima

Ellington benefit

"Sophisticated Ladies," a stage play based on the life and works of the late, great Duke Ellington, opens with a benefit performance Saturday at the Kennedy Center's Opera House. Curtain time is 8 p.m.

Sponsors of the benefit are the Workshops for Careers in the Arts and the proceeds will be donated to the Duke Ellington School of the Arts.

Several D.C. government and federal officials and Ellington's son, Mercer, are expected to be in attendance.

'Harlem Heyday': songs of yesteryear

"Harlem Heyday," a play created and performed by the AFRI theatre organization, will be sponsored by the Federal City Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. on Jan. 10 at 8 p.m. at Gallaudet College Auditorium.

With songs and dances from the 20s, Harlem Heyday brings back memories of yesteryear to make your toes tap to ragtime rhythms. The production features the music of Duke Ellington, Eubie Blake and Fats Waller.

"I'm Just Wild About Harry," "Dark Town Strutters Ball", "Sweet Georgia Brown," and "Memories of You" are some of the songs in "Harlem Heyday."

The show is a fundraiser for the lical chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta which has served the Washington community for 11 years. For more information about tickets call 726-2525.

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Brailey released

Del. Troy Brailey returned home from St. Agnes Hospital Dec 31, after being admitted almost three weeks ago with a mild heart attack.

According to his wife, Chessia, Brailey is recuperating at home, but is not available to answer messages or

Judge Bell to speak at Sigma's 67th Founders' Day

Zeta Sigma and Epsilon Nu Sigma Chapters of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. proudly announce their 67th anniversary Founders Day celebration at the Belvedere on Saturday Jan. 10.

"New Directions and New Dimensions in Fraternity Life" has been chosen as this year's theme. Guest speaker of the affair will be Judge Robert M. Bell.

The progrm will consist of an open cocktail segment from 1 to 2:30 p.m. with a sit-down luncheon following immediately thereafter. Judge Bell will deliver his speech after lunch.

Two special features are being presented at this affair. The Bob Smith Trio will play background music and the added attraction will be the delightful Dunbar Community High School Chamber Chorus.

A standard of Zeta Sigma and Epsilon Nu Sigmas' founders day programs has been and will be the presentation of awards under their three national programs.

Receiving the Bigger and Better Business award will be Charles, Thurgood Burns. Ernest W. Lee, retired Baltimore city school principal, will receive the education award. The Social Action Award will be presented to Marvin L. Cheatham Sr.

Joseph S. Wiles is the general committee chairman. Other brothers and sub committees are: Dr. Gibert A. Daley, chairman awards; arrangements and program ElEjah Williams; corresponding and recording secretary, Edward Wilkins; treasurer and business manager, Lloyd C. Morse; tickets, L. C. Murfay and Luke Shaw Publicity and members Hugh Robinson and Deaver Smith.

The committee is inviting friends and relatives of Sigma men to join with them in their celebration. D Donation price for the affair will be $15. For further information call after 5 p.m. 624-7065.

Phi Beta Sigma is a service organization which proudly proclaims over 65,000 members throughout the United States, the Virgin Islands, Switzerland, Jamaica and Africa. Sigma's international motto is "Culture for Service and Service to Humanity."

Many national, regional and local Sigma dignitaries will be in attendance including the recently re-elected graduate Presidents, Eustache St. Pierre Greaves of Zeta Sigma and Marvin L. Cheatham Sr. of Epsilon Nu Sigma. Si Sigma, the only predomi?nately black Greek letter fraternity that has a sister organization, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., is elated by the fac t that the Grand Basileus, Dr. Edith V. Francis, will also be in attendance.

Members of the Zeta's the Sigma Wives Organization of Zeta Sigma and the Sigma Beta Club of Epsilon Nu Sigma will also be in attendance.

Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. is represented in the state of Maryland by four graduate or - alumni chapters and 13 undergraduate or campus chapters.

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