SHOWTIME

Bob Marley . . . Reggae King, gave hope to people who had none

Bob Marley's deep gaze saw beyond politics . . . beyond color...to the day when "The color of a man's skin is no more important than the color of his eyes". Bob Marley sang songs of freedom, redemption songs, the only songs he ever had.

"War in Rama, war in concrete jungle, war in Tivoli, Everywhere is war, war, war"...

"Get up, stand up, stand up for your right...Get up, stand up, don't give up the fight"...

And that's how Bob Marley counseled blacks around the world in his music. The Jamaican superstar whose Island Records albums sold $190 million worldwide, died of lung cancer and a brain tumor, May 11 at Cedars of Lebanon Hospital in Miami. He was 36. The body will be on view in Miami for two days, with burial in Jamaica.

Bob Marley

Rumors of Marley's illness had been circulating for several months but were denied repeatedly by his company. He had received intensive chemotherapy in the United States and West Germany for seven months and flew back to Miami from West Germany on May 7.

His first bout with Cancer was in 1977, when he underwent surgery for a malignant growth on his foot. He was stricken with brain cancer in 1980 and at his death the cancer had metastasized to his brain, lungs and liver.

The music and the message that Marley delivered were inextricably tied to his life and religious beliefs. He was born in St. Ann's parish in Northern Jamaica, Feb. 6, 1945 to musically inclined parents, a British army captain father and a Jamaican mother.

After leaving school at 16, ostensibly to become a welder, he spent much of his youth in the infamous Trenchtown slums of Kingston.

There he formed a vocal group with two other locals, Peter Tosh and Bunny Wailer, which later became known as The Wailers. The Wailers enjoyed considerable local success and were signed by Chris Blackwell to his Island label in 1972.

Bob Marley was Rastafarian, a religion often wrongly associated with violent politics. The peace-loving Rastas worship the Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie. They smoke the sacred herb "ganja" (marijuana) to gain a true and clearer vision of the world, but do not condone its use for intoxication. Marley's lyrics contain many biblical references, pleas for human dignity, pride and a pan-African unearthly vision of unity.

As a Rastafarian (taken from Ras Tafari, Haile Selassie's original title and family name), Marley sang songs that cry out against injustice, that call for mankind to love Jah (God), that rejoice in the gift of life. He has given us... and that implores us to remember: "Life IS a gift. Celebrate it".

This message of love, sometimes strong, sometimes soft, is woven into the pulsating reggae beat that Bob Marley hoped would bridge the many philosophical rivers separating him from his audience.

His Island catalogue is as long as his regal, lion-like dreadlocks. "Catch A Fire, Burnin'" and "Live" were recorded before Peter Tosh and Bunny Wailer left the band; Peter and Bunny were soon replaced by the haunting harmonies of the I-Threes. Bob and The Wailers went on to record "Rastaman Vibration", "Exodus", "Babylon By Bus", "Kaya" "Survival" and "Uprising".

Marley cut his first single record, "One Cup of Coffee" in 1962 at age 17 for Leslie King of Beverly Records.

The first song he wrote "Simmer Down" was an instant hit which he recorded with the Wailers and paved the way for 30 more songs with Downbeat Records before signing in England in 1972 with Island Records, a company founded by a wealthy white Jamaican.

Bob Marley was a guru to fellow Rastas musicians and fans all over the world. He gave hope to people who had none.

Prime Minister Edward Seaga in 1981 granted him the Order of Merit, Jamaica's third highest honor. In a statement from Jamaica, Seaga said:

Bob Marley was a living example for his Rastafarian brethren, the poor and, in fact, for people of all walks of life. He was a son of the ghetto who by hard work, creativity and self discipline, becomes a superstar.

LAST BIG CONCERT in 1980 had Bob Marley headlined in two sold out shows with the Commodores at Madison Square Garden. Here he is congratulated by Frankie Crocker and the Commodores.

Romare Bearden and wife at Morgan

Morgan State University's Gallery of Art will host a reception for acclaimed artist Romare Bearden on Sunday, May 17 from 5 to 7 p.m., in the Gallery of the University's Murphy Fine Arts Building. Bearden's works will be on display through June 19.

Following the Bearden reception, the Nanette Bearden Contemporary Dance Group will perform in the University's Little Theatre, within the Murphy Building at 7:30 p.m.

Composed of 12 talented and professionally accomplished members, the director, Mrs. Bearden is wife of the famous artist and a former dancer.

The group was formed four years ago because it was felt that there was a need to bring the arts closer to the experiences and sensitivity of the general public.

The company is a showcase for the talent of young black choreographers. Works of the company explore the black experience in America through dance to the rhythms of blues, gospel, soul, Latin and jazz.

The company's goal is to develop the artist's strength and flexibility by embracing and combining various dance forms. In its work to attain this goal, the company has been able to provide opportunities for new choreographers and dancers to create and perform. Already, members and associates have won recognition and acclaim as emerging talents in dance.

The Contemporary Chamber Dance Group have works commissioned by Gary DeLoatch, Keith Lee, Elbert Lee Watson, Rick Odums and Walter Raines in their repertory.

Gary DeLoatch, former principal dancer with the George Faison Dance Company is former artistic director. His "Clown's Carnival" is a group piece.

Keith Lee, former soloist dancer and choreographer with the American Ballet Theatre is Balletmaster and his "Vultures" and "Conversation In Lotus" have been well received.

Elbert Lee Watson, a lead dancer with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre is choreographer - in - residence and has created two modern abstract works... "Shells" and "Sextet".

Rick Odums, former dancer with the Houston Jazz Ballet, joined the group as lead dancer and took over as artistic director when DeLoatch left to join Alvin Ailey. His jazz ballet "For Stan" "Dreams" and "Moses, the Law Giver" are part of the company's repertoire.

Dancers in Nanette Bearden's Contemporary Chamber Dance Group at Morgan, Sunday.

Among the talented dancers is Baltimorean Bruce Hawkins who made his professional acting debut as Clorox in "The Me Nobody Knows" at Center Stage. He is currently a member of the Fred Benjamin Dance Company and, Otis Sallid's New Art Ensemble.

Also, Stanley Harrison, a native of Glenarden, Md and a 1977 graduate of Morgan State University with a degree in Business Administration. He began his training as administrative assistant at Alvin Ailey's and has choreographed and danced for PBS television in Baltimore.

Other dancers are Gina Ellis, Michael Franks, Ruthanna Graves, Cynthia Lane, Ralf Hamilton, Audrey Jones, Cheryl Norwell, Chiquita Ross, Avon Testamark and Kay Wright.

Contemporary Chamber Dance Group, brings to the dance world a freshness and creativity: a style that combines universal themes with contemporary music to achieve new experiences and standards in the arts.

The performance is open to the public. For further information call 444-3022.

Rod Rodgers Dance Company Sunday

By Ida Peters

The Rod Rodgers Dance Company is being presented in a full concert Sunday, May 17 at 7 p.m. in the Western High School auditorium by We-Be-Co (Women Behind the Community).

Starting Friday, Rod Rodgers has been conducting master classes and a mini-concert for public school students.

On a recent visit to the AFRO office Rodgers talked about how he has been working with the Eva Anderson Baltimore Dance Theatre choreographing a new work. This work "Percussion Suite" a nine dancer work using drums, cymbals and bells will be included in the troupe's visit to Japan.

The Rod Rodgers Dance Company was founded in 1964. The repertoire of this exciting ensemble ranges from sensuous abstraction to more literal dance drama. It features innovative jazz ballets and unique percussion plays for which the company is widely known.

What's Happening

Rodgers was born in Cleveland, Ohio into a show business family and his mother, LaJune and father, Ernest and brothers traveled extensively in the mid-west as professional dancers. They finally settled in Detroit and Rod remembers his parents were the first booking agent for Stephen Fetchit, the famous comedian.

For the past decade the Rodgers Dance Company has had extensive national tours and cultural tours to Africa. He has taught dance courses in colleges and universities.

Rodgers says his dances have special messages for black people as they are a positive celebration of our own unique experience.

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On our "On Golden Pond" review in last Friday's AFRO, the last three paragraphs were dropped. We noted that the play runs thru May 16 at the Mechanic Theatre starring James Whitmore and Sada Thompson.

The rainy Wednesday afternoon performance had a capacity, enthusuastic audience, despite the fact that on the same day more than 10,000 persons were attending the Flower Mart in nearby Mt. Vernon Square and downtown parking was almost non-existant.

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The PBS special 'Salute to Duke" gave us a chance to chat with Mercer Ellington for an AFRO feature coming up. And, watch for our in-depth story on Captain George Brown, (1898-1935) the excursion boat owner.

Next week, Friday, May 22, Universal Pictures will premiere their new blockbuster "The Four Seasons" starring Alan Alda and Carol Burnett. The six million flick was written, directed and produced by Alda, star of "MASH." We'll tell you all about how we were limousined to D.C. for a special screeninghand then had lunch with Alan Alda and his wife at the Four Seasons Hotel in a private dining room, Le Petit Champs.

Alda was a dream to talk to. He reached back in memory as to how Ossie Davis and Ruby

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Rodgers visits AFRO. He has choreographed new work for Eva Anderson's Baltimore Dance Theatre.

ICTUS the most recent percussion dance created by Rod Rodgers. Above front, Shirley Rushing, Laura Hausman. Rear, Broderick Wilson, Tamara Guillebeaux, Edward Smith.

Recital, Gallery 409

Elaine Kelly, pianist, will give a recital at Gallery 409, Sunday, May 17 at 5 p.m. Miss Kelly's recital will include works by Mozart, Ravel, Barber and Brahms.

Elaine Kelly studied piano with Edward Margetson, the distinguished black composer and organist, and with Dean Dixon, the eminent black conductor. She received the Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees from the Juilliard School, where she studied with Gordon Stanley and Arthur Newstead.

Ms. Kelly is presently Associate Professor in charge of piano instruction at Morgan State University. She is coaching with Robert

. . . and all that jazz

By Bob Matthews

Last Sunday was Mother's Day, and the Left Bank Jazz Society, either by accident or design, featured entertainment guaranteed to bring out a full house.

On hand was baritone vocalist Arthur Prysock, along with his brother, Red, and an organ trio. It was one of those concerts about which one had better say anything negative—so we won't.

Noted there was a large gathering of first-timers for a LBJS concert, and they really enjoyed the music, food, ambiance and all the rest.

Although they had to wait quite a spell for the featured guest to appear, once he did—all was forgiven. In fact, all Arthur had to do was croon a couple of notes, and he had the audience in the palm of his hands.

Of course, the preponderance of the assemblage were women, and a lot of them were completely mellow by the time he appeared, but this did not negate his overwhelming popular appeal.

Of Our quarrel has never been with Arthur, but with the "act" of his brother Red, who insists on doing his nightclub routine, and telling jokes.

To this first-time crowd, it was delightful, even though Red didn't make his appearance until the third number of the second set.

The first set was given over to Ernie Jones, organ; Steve Fishman, guitar; and Don bass.

Haven't heard Phil in Williams, drums, who played some of the standards usually heard by organ combos.

When Red joined them later in the proceedings, he demonstrated that he could still blow his tenor sax with the best of them, but has evolved into more of an entertainer than a sax man.

Arthur made his patented appearance, employing a wireless mike, so that he could start singing from somewhere in the audience. As one of the patrons put it, "when he appeared, a lot of the ladies just swooned," and so they did.

The Arthur Prysock Revue is still a nightclub act—and a good one—and having it in town on Mother's Day was a stroke of genius.

NEXT WEEK: LBJS returns to the hard jazz format with the "N.Y. 4" drums as the featured artists.

Violinist Michal Urbaniak will be fronting the group, which will consist of Kenny Barron, piano; Buster Williams, bass, and Roy Haynes, drums.

'Twas a delightful interlude at The Bandstand over the weekend as a set billed as a "farewell to Hugh Walker II" went on.

Hugh, who plays a gig with Milt Jackson at Blues Alley in D.C. this week, will be leaving for Europe with Benny Bailey immediately following. Bookings in Europe are for two weeks, but says Hugh, "I might decide to stay over there for a while."

Reuben Brown was on piano, which lets you know immediately that this was an outstanding session; Hugh was on drums, of course. But the surprise was the sterling work of Phil Harris on quite some time. In fact, had thought he had gone into a bit of retirement. I was wrong. Phil was using an amplifier for this gig, which gave him a chance to show off his facileness on the strings.

This weekend is shaping up as a real blockbuster when Reuben Brown, on piano will be joined by Tommy Cecil, bass; Buck Hill, tenor sax; and Louis Hayes, drums.

This will be one of those "don't miss" concerts, because the musicians are really coming, ready to play. Hayes was in town last weekend, and dropped by the Bandstand to leave his drum gear.

The other swinging set caught this past weekend was the Battle of the Horns, this time with David Smith, Mickey Fields and Harold Adams. Charlie Covington was on organ, and Gene Watkins.

..more Happenings

(Continued from Showtime)

Dee gave him his start in "Purlie Victorious"... he played the role of Charley Cotchipee on Broadway and in the film. Remember in 1964, Aida starred with the late Diana Sands in "The Owl and the Pussycat".

Aida last year made a movie hereabouts, "The Seduction of Joe Tynan", and a lot of local black folks got extra parts in the closing sequence filmed in the Baltimore Civic Center. The film was shown on national TV last week.

James Carter, the Baltimore drummer with Teddy Pendergrass called to tell us of his thrilling experiences with Teddy and Stephanie Mills at a three-day sold out concert at the Victoria Apollo Theatre in London, England.

Carter says that the place holds 3,000 people and that Stevie Wonder who had been touring Australia heard that Teddy was in London and showed up on stage.

The crowd went wild when Stevie surprised Teddy and Stephanie. The three took off on Dexter Wansel's "Take Me In Your Arms Tonight" with Stevie Wonder on piano. Carter on drums says "it made me play the drums like I was learning a new song. It was wild.

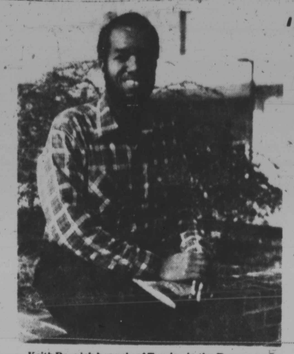
"We left the stage, went downstairs and changed and 20 minutes later the crowd was still screaming for more. It was the easiest place we've ever exited with Teddy. Coming home on the giant 747 first class, with an upstairs, we were very happy".

Carter says he will be going back to Europe to tour with Teddy in October... Belgium, Sweden, the whole bit.

The United Methodist Men of Sharp Street Memorial United Methodist Church presents Percy Thomas in "Portraits of My People", Friday, May 29 at 6 p.m. in the Lower Sanctuary of the church.

"Portraits" gives insight to the black man's quest for freedom from slavery to the present through the lives of several historical and fictional characters including Frederick Douglass, Langston Hughes, Eldridge Cleaver, The Old Time Preacher and the contemporary man in the street.

Eartha Kitt is appearing at Harlem World, Uptown New York's entertainment complex thru May 17. She is appearing in the new movie, "The Last Reser" and preparing a new Broadway show, "Attention Fragile".



Keith Pennick has role of Tamino in the Towson State University Opera Workshop production of Mozart's "The Magic Flute, May 15 - 16 at 8:15 p.m. in the Fine Arts concert hall.

Saturday, May 16, Darth Vadar with a caravan of Secrets will be in Oldtown Mall, Lexington Mall, Westside Shopping Center and Mondawmin, between 4:30 and 7 p.m. passing out flyers and secrets, sponsored by the group Speakeasy. This group is presenting "Summer Madness" a fashion - audio show, Friday, June 5 at the Famous Ballroom.

SpeakEasy is headed by Gerald Johnson; Elaine Smith, program director; Barry Jones and Gregory Saunders, treasurer and Roslyn FordBey, secretary.

The Park Heights-Forest Park Unit of the American Cancer Society will be sponsoring a Monte Carlo Night at the Regency Terrace, 4147 Labyrinth Rd., on Friday, May 15 from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. The tickets are $20. which includes open bar, buffet, and entertainment.

For further information call the American Cancer Society at 821-7200 ext 32.

Art Auction to raise funds for children's theatre association — an exhibition and auction of original lithographs, etchings, woodcuts, serigraphs, oil paintings and water colors by award winning artists, such as, Alvar, Boulanger, Chagal, Dali, Hinte, Kelly, Lebadang, David Lee, and Miro will be held on Sunday, May 17, at the Ruxton Center, 6919 N. Charles St. All works are custom framed, certified and carry a ten year exchange guarantee.

Artist Diane Enaid will exhibit her paintings, photography and photopaintings at a reception during Women's Day at Grace A.M.E., Sunday in Catonsville. She is a Morgan grad with a Bachelor's and Masters from Maryland Institute.

The New Baltimore Minstrels' 1981 Season opens May 15, with "A Matter of Timing". An original script by NBM's Managing Director, Michael R. Jones, the production will run four weeks at the Company's temporary location, 3701 Fernhill Ave.

A tender yet hearty story, "A Matter of Timing" journeys through a marriage torn by the frustrations of a struggling musician who neglects his responsibilities as a husband and a father.

Performances will be held in the Callaway Elementary School Auditorium. Patrons are asked to use the Arydale Avenue entrance. Curtain time is 8 p.m. For additional information, call 669-2743 or 578-1425.

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The Rosemont-Edmondson Unit of the American Cancer Society will present Carmen Wiles Artis, lyric soprano, in concert on Sunday, May 17, at 4 p.m. The concert will be held at Union Memorial United Methodist Church, Warwick and Harlem Avenues.

Top Hits

Spiritual

1. The Lord Will Make A Way — Al Green
2. The Hawkins Family Live — Walter Hawkins
3. Cloudburst — The Mighty Clouds of Joy
4. 20th Anniversary Album — James Cleveland & The World's Greatest Choirs
5. True Victory — Min. Keith Pringle

R & B Singles

1. A Woman Needs Love — Ray Parker Jr. & Raydio
2. Being With You — Smokey Robinson
3. When Love Calls — Atlantic Starr
4. Sukiyaki — A Taste of Honey
5. What Cha' Gonna Do For Me — Chaka Khan

Jazz

1. Winelight — Grover Washington Jr.
2. The Dude — Quincy Jones
3. Voyeur — David Sanborn
4. Magic — Ron Browne
5. The Clarke - Duke Project — Stanley Clarke & George Duke

Jesse Walker's N.Y.

The latest issue of "The Harlemite", published by the Harlem Dance Foundation, has as its Story of the Month a feature on what it called "Disappointment" in the "I Remember Harlem" series seen on TV. "The real black Harlem story—past and present— has yet to be told", says "The Harlemite..." what we saw when blacks became the majority was mainly the picture of poverty on the one hand and frivolity on the other, all enacted in a setting created by white - controlled business."

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"Today's Black Woman", hosted by Freda Payne, has launched its new 13-week series on national TV syndicated with guests such as Teddy Pendergrassm Rev. Jesse Jackson, Eartha Kitt, Vernon Jordan and Margret Bourke Wilson among the prominent guests.

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Fifty-five percent of those answering a TV straw poll on "Tony Brown's Journal" do not believe that a national black political party will work. Poll was taken after political scientist Ron Daniels, chair person of the National Black Independent Political Party, joined Tony Brown in Columbus, Ohio, to discuss the philosophy and strategy of a black political party.

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The Sidney Poitier-directed "Stir Crazy", starring Richard Pryor and Gene Wilder, has become the third movie in the history of Columbia Pictures to gross more than $100 million at American and Canadian box offices. The comedy is playing at 700 theatres.

Because of the recent fire at the New York Staler Hotel, the Council of Concerned Black Executives has moved its Monte Carlo '81 to the Sheraton Centre where CBS-TV's Irv Cross will be honored.

'Happy Birthday'

New movie

A psychological mystery-shocker set on the campus of an exclusive prep school, "Happy Birthday To Me" stars Melissa Sue Anderson (of "Little House on the Prairie") in her feature debut, Glenn Ford Lawrence Dane, Sharon Acker and Lisa Langlois, and introduces Tracy Bregman. The John Dunning and Andre Link Production, written by John Saxton, is a Columbia Pictures release.

As Virginia Wainwright, Ms Anderson portrays a spirited young senior who has returned to school after a freak accident and regenerative brain surgery which has blocked her memory. She knows that her mother died in the tragedy; she remembers little else.

Welcomed into the "Top Ten", the school's uninhibited inner circle, she attempts to resume a normal life. But when her friends begin cutting class—permanently—and vanish from campus—she senses a link with her own shadowy past.

Soon, the "Top Ten" will cease no one left to come to Virginia's eighteenth birthday party.

The song "Happy Birthday To Me" has music by Lance Rubin and lyrics by Molly-Ann Leikin. Song is performed by Motown artist, Syretta.

Fayette St. car wash Sat.

The 1600 blk. of W. Fayette Street and AFRO Clean Block has formed a neighborhood association "The Disturbed Neighbors Committee." They have made plans to adopt a lot in their block.

Their plans include having a bake sale, and car wash to raise money to buy plants, grass, a fence and furniture for the vacant lot.

A car wash will be held this Saturday, May 16, 8:00 a.m. until, cost is $2.50 and sandwiches, sodas and beer can be brought, while you wait for your car.

Curl Up and Relax at DIRECTIONS PLUS HAIR STUDIO 3713 Greenmount Ave. (above 33rd St.) Call Now For SECRET SALE 366-2412 This offer will self destruct June 30th

Bearden plays Bearden

You're looking at just one of the works gathered from private collectors and leading museums for the exhibition titled "Romare Bearden: 1970-1980." And if you listen closely, you can almost hear the music. For Bearden, like the jazz musicians who influenced him, works by improvisation— with colors and shapes for notes and chords. Today, at the height of his powers, Bearden plays Bearden dazzlingly—and delightfully. Come and look and listen . . .

Baltimore Museum of Art. Art Museum Drive, Baltimore, MD 21218
April 26 to June 14, 1981
Tuesday thru Saturday 11-5 p.m., Thursday 11-10 p.m., Sunday 1-5 p.m., Closed Monday.
This exhibition is sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts and

Philip Morris Incorporated

SPECIAL REPORT: by Dick Gelfman.
BY REASON OF INSANITY.

Someone is shot. Murdered. There's an investigation and an arrest. The plea? "Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity."

Is it too easy to cop this plea? What determines one's sanity? Is it medical fact or legal myth? Most important, are murderers "getting off the hook" by making this claim?

My five-part special report, "By Reason of Insanity" will delve into this complex and controversial issue. I'll talk to doctors, lawmakers, victims and their families and get their views on this subject.

Get away with murder? You've got to be out of your mind.

"By Reason of Insanity". A five-part special report all next week at six on Channel 11's Action News.

ACTION NEWS
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