2,500 attend wedding of Emperor Haile Selassie's son in Trenton, N.J.

HRH Haile Selassie II, descendant of King Solomon, King David, Queen of Sheba, weds N.J. French teacher

THE BRIDE. Her Royal Higness Princess Lillie Elizabeth Trent, a Lambertville, N.J. French teacher, wearing a frock of spun gold, is given away by wealthy Lambertville banker, Watson Janney at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral. The 11 a.m. nuptial mass with Very Rev. Lloyd G. Chattin celebrant and Abuna Mikael Gabre Kristos, Archbishop of the Coptic Orthodox Church of North and South America (RIGHT) Queen Mother Moore wears a regal costume of silver which cost $500 a yard.

ALL PHOTOS BY GLASCO RYALES.

NEWLYWEDS leave splendor of the great Trinity Episcopal Cathedral on Trenton's tree - lined main street. His Royal Highness Prince Haile Selassie II, now in exile and a highly respected resident of Trenton and Lady Lillie Elizabeth Trent after the rites, went with their wedding party to the spacious gardens for photos and then stood in line four hours to greet the 2,500 interracial reception guests.

PLACING a jewel - studded, red velvet crown on the head of the bride and bridegroom was a part of the 90 - minute rites. RIGHT — The son, Prince Sahle Menelek Selassie, grandson of the late Emporer Selassie, the last monarch on earth, and granddaughter, Princess Emma Mennen Selassie.

PRESIDING BISHOPS and high clergymen in regal dress arrived from all nations. London and Africa, to officiate in the celebration and blessing of the marriage, were later entertained at a dinner party prior to the Grand Ball and Cotillion at the nearby Capitol Plaza Hotel. RIGHT — One of the bride's French students accompanies one of her three aunts from Baltimore, Mrs. Evangeline Elliott. Bishop McDonald Cordner is from London. Bishop Arthur A. Cordner, Staten Island, N.Y. and Bishop Simeon A. Cordner, New York.

BALTIMORE AND COLUMBIA GUESTS include Mrs. Ann Davis, Columbia, Md. and her mother, Mrs. Augusta Janney, Lambertville, N.J.; Richard Wilson, Baltimore; Ruth Stewart, Baltimore; Mrs. Mary Carter Smith, the lecturer and poet who wore an African robe for the wedding and later an embroidered gown of imported fabric from Senegal; Bill Blackburn, Baltimore; relatives of the bride, David Haynesworth; his mother, Mrs. Louise Gaddies, Brooklyn, N.Y.; her sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Wright, Baltimore; Mrs. Cortez Puryear, who visited Ethiopia on a world trip; Prince Charles Selassie, a student at Rider College and son of the bridegroom; Ferdinand Campbell, author, Brooklyn, N.Y. and Prince Florentine Gabriel, son of the bridegroom and a student at New Mexico Military Institute, Rosewell, New Mexico. (SEE ALSO photos and story on Page 23)

SHOWTIME

Bearden's women

The Baltimore Museum of Art presents Mary Schmidt Campbell, Director of The Studio Museum in Harlem, in a lecture on "Mysteries: Women in the Art of Romare Bearden", Sunday, May 24 at 3 p.m.

Beginning with Bearden's first tempera in 1937, tracing his use of female imagery through his literary paintings of the mid-40's, and concentrating on his collages of the past fifteen years, the lecture will identify dominant motifs in Bearden's oeuvre. The myths and legends from black folklore and history, from African rituals, Christian iconography, and classical mythology, upon which he draws, will be explored.

The program is free and open to the public and has been made possible through a matching grant from the Maryland Committee for the Humanities.

Mary Schmidt Campbell lectures Baltimore Museum of Art, Sunday.

'Children of Lesser God'

Review

By Portia E. Badham
AFRO Staff Writer

"Children of a Lesser God," the Tony award-winning play, which opened at the Morris A. Mechanic Tuesday night is an enlightening play for the hearing as well as the hearing impaired and the deaf.

It increases the awareness that both have of each other. The hearing don't quite understand the deaf and vice versa.

The play takes you through a love story between a hearing teacher and a deaf student and is intertwined with a cast of characters who help the complex story unfold.

Peter Evans plays James Leeds who falls in love with his student and tries to persuade her to step into the world of the hearing or speaking and reading lips.

Linda Bove, a deaf actress who made her Broadway debut with the National Theatre of the Deaf, is the student who marries Leeds and carries on a vigorous fight not to become a part of the hearing world.

Linda Bove with Peter Evans in Tony winning play "Children of a Lesser God."

The play reveals the resentment many deaf people harbor for those who can hear. It also shows the sometimes selfishness hearing people possess.

Most of the play is signed simultaneously as as the characters speak and at times could become taxing for the hearing person who must anxiously wait for the signed line to be spoken. It is clearly the deal or hearing impaired person, familiar with the American Sign Language, that has the upper hand when watching this play.

The play's closing lines "I'll help you, if you help me" is a statement to be experienced by all hearing people who will be helped by this play.

For even if someone has not had any encounter with the deaf world, after viewing the play, one leaves with a greater insight of what the silent world is all about.

The play has a three-week run here in Baltimore.

Frankie Smith busting out with 'Double Dutch Bus'

By Ida Peters

Little Miss Vashon Smith, all of 6-years- old and student at Mt. Vernon Elementary School in Baltimore always knew that her "Daddy Tank" would have a hit record.

But never in her wildest dreams did she know that his "Double Dutch Bus" would go "Gold" and be played all over the United States. If you listen carefully to the soul hit, you'll hear Frankie Smith mention Vashon.

The 41-year-old native Philadelphian whose record "Double Dutch Bus" is sprinkled heavily with Pig Latin has been on the road for the last four months as an opening act for the Gap Band, Sugar Hill Gang, Bar-Kays, Tom Browne, Kleer.

In Richmond recently, Vashon Smith went on stage to help him sing "Double Dutch Bus" and participated in his popular act which has the audience jumping rope and forming a "Double Dutch Bus" line.

When he visited the AFRO, he was decked out in a cowboy hat and a yellow shirt reading "Tom Browne" and "Frankie Smith" having just completed a concert with him. Last week he opened for the Bar-Kays at Salisbury State College and modeled for us his all white stage outfit.

(Photo by Vanessa Johnson)
Frankie Smith, "Double Dutch" star visits AFRO.

Frankie Smith attended Overbrook High School in Philadelphia and attended Tennessee A & I College where he starred in basketball and track and majored in elementary education.

He was depressed with the passing of his grandmother in 1962 and started picking at the piano finding he had an ear for music. He then studied at the Granoff School of Music in Philly. He got a lucky break and was hired by Philly International as a songwriter.

Smith wrote and produced for Archie Bell and the Drells, "Hard Not To Like You", "Bring the Family Back" for Billy Paul and songs for Melba Moore and Jean Carn.

A recession caused the firm to cut back and Smith went independent. He formed his own Bloom-Smith Productions and "Double Dutch Bus" is the key song on his new album "Children of Tomorrow" to appear next month.

Smith's record is a tribute to his little girl, Vashon, and also a tribute to all the little girls who jump rope with two ropes in a distinctive style called "double dutch." Backing him on the record are ten kids from his own neighborhood.

'The Four Seasons'

AFRO talks to Alan Alda

By Ida Peters

"The Four Seasons" an original screenplay written by MASH star Alan Alda, in which he also acts and makes his debut as motion picture director, was the reason Baltimore critics journeyed to D.C. a week ago.

This comedy, about three married couples who have known each other casually for seven years and decide to take vacations... spring, summer, fall and winter, may well be the sleeper pix of 1981 and will win all kinds of awards at Oscar time.

Universal Pictures over the past month has had Alda doing interviews in all major markets of the United States in preparaton for the opening of the six million dollar flick this weekend in more than 500 theatres.

And it was just by coincidence that the D.C. restaurant selected for the Alda interview was Le Pitit Champs in The Four Seasons Hotel in Georgetown.

Alda's first original screenplay "The Seduction of Joe Tynan" won exritical acclaim and brought him an offer to write, direct and star in three feature films over the next six years for Universal Pictures.

Over white wine, Salmon Mousse, lamb chops, fresh fruit and plain hot water... he doesn't drink coffee or tea.. Alda told the critics he had been seeing the picture each night with different audiences.

"I'm on a high", he said. "It's been wonderful so far and the audiences have been enthusiastic. The characters are based on real people and I'm promoting the film and trying to describe it accurately. Two years ago I judged a friend and tried to repair that friendship. The film is about couples and friendship."

"The Four Seasons" may remind the viewer of "Same Time, Next Year" in which Alda starred with Ellen Burstyn or a little of "California Suite" in which he co-starred with Jane Fonda.

However, this film is different says Alda and he tries to show how couples as friends relate in different and more complex ways than individuals. He states he learned a lot more about friendship in the process of editing and screening the film. You learn to accept people as they are, as the couples do in this film when one couple separates and the man brings his girlfriend on the trips.

This is a switch as the other couples register disapproval, envy and jealousy.

The shots depicting the four seasons are some of the most beautiful nature scenes which Alda says were grabbed while shooting other scenes: New York City and Stowe, Vermont in the winter, Charlottesville, Va. and Atlanta Ga. in the fall, the glory of spring in Tiger, Ga.

Alda . . . star, writer, director.

Alda in "The Four Seasons" is a lawyer with a probing analytical mind, constantly seeking answers to difficult questions, that even his best friends would prefer not to answer.

His wife is played by Carol Burnett, who plans the vacation trips and the realist in the group.

Len Cariou is the successful insurance man, restless and out of love with his wife Sandy Dennis is the gifted photographer who concentrates on vegetables for three years and gets left.

Jack Weston is the fat dentist, a chronic sufferer married to Rita Moreno, an earthy Italian.

Bess Armstrong is the other woman who is resented by the other women and finally changes all their lives.

Alda commented that sometimes in getting close to friends you find they are pains in the neck a lot of the times.

All in all "The Four Seasons" is a thoroughly satisfying movie experience and judging from the Baltimore critics who laughed throughout... which they don't usually do... this flick is a hit.

Fall trip finds couples visiting daughters. From (L), Carol Burnett, Elizabeth Alda, Jack Weston, Alan Alda, Rita Moreno, Bess Armstrong and Len Cariou.

Michael Lee croons mean tune

By Frederick I. Douglass

Baltimore women who have been bemoaning the fact that there have not been any jazzy male vocalists around can stop complaining because Michael Lee is in town, doing his thing live in Gatsby's Billie Holiday Room without hesitation, crooning tunes like "Dindi", "Distracted, "Rocket Love and "Meditation".

Michael Lee brought the house down last weekend, luring a standing room only crowd away from the pumping, throbbing disco sounds being churned out downstairs at Gatsby's to hear more serene, Jazz oriented tunes befitting the room. Mr. Lee captivated the audience with his velvety smooth tenor when he sang Stevie Wonder's "Rocket Love", singing each word with careful attention and crystal clear articulation.

Michael Lee, at Gatsby's.

The ladies in the housed leaned forward in their chairs, listening intently to every word while softly whispering the lyrics along with Michael Lee who reached out to them, making them part of his musical experience. Maintaining the smooth ballad groove, Mr. Lee eased into "Everything Must Change", skillfully interpreting the song to suit the timbre of his voice and adding vocal inflections that stamped his own brand on the tune.

Michael Lee is a native Baltimorean and an experienced performer, having been the lead singer in myriad gospel and Top-40 groups. His concerts at The Closet and other niteries have received public acclaim, especially from the ladies. Managed by B.J. Scott and Sonia Stockton, Michael Lee is backed by a high powered group comprising Roland Thomas, (drums); Lenny Smith, (lead guitar); Danny Maxwell, (bass guitar); Carlton Rice, (keyboards); Benny Russell, (sax); and Lionel Hall, (trumpet).

Wing Sonia and I heard Michael Lee, we decided to go into talent management and till a word that has existed in Baltimore for a long time. I mean there are a lot of Top-40 male singers around town, but Michael Lee must be the only male doing things to Al Jarreau and other artists that appeal to more mature audiences.

Michael Lee is an impressive and talented vocalist with amply facility to handle tunes like "Flyin Easy", "You And I", and "Burst In With the Dawn", his original compositions "Ebony Love" and "Loser's Blues" indicate that he is a formidable song writer.

. . . and all that jazz

By Bob Matthews

Competition for the entertainment dollar will be fierce this weekend—there are a lot of live presentations in the area.

One of the tried and true crowd pleasers is vocalist Carmen McRae, who will be performing for the Left Bank Jazz Society at their regular Sunday afternoon bash.

Although jazz musicians and jazz lovers have been aware of Carmen for years, it has been only during the past decade that she has captured the imagination of lovers of pop and ballad-type music.

In fact, there is a legion of cult fans who hang on to every note produced by this superstar. We have always said that hers was the most pristine vocal renditions extant — and we stick by it.

One precautionary note—last time she appeared, it was standing-room-only. There is no reason to suspect this time will be any different. Doors open at 3:00 p.m.

Two other music greats make a return appearance to Baltimore, as Hilton Ruiz, piano, and David Schnitter, tenor sax, hold forth at the Bandstand.

They will be assisted by Andy McKee, bass, and Billy Murphy, drums. If you are not too familiar with the work of Hilton, you might think back to January of this year when he was accompanist with the backup group for Dakota Staton.

He has played the Bandstand previously, as have Dave Schnitter, and according to Mike Binsky, this is a preview of the Harrisburg Jazz Festival, which will be upcoming the weekend of June 13.

It's always nice to recognize free events, especially when they are worthy ones, and there will be one this Saturday, (23) at Music Liberated, at 201 W. Saratoga St.

It will be the third jazz party, with live music supplied by Maynard Parker, guitar; Larry Jeter, drums; Pokey Hudgins, bass, Gary Thomas, tenor sax, Reggie Love, trumpet and Barry Williams, guitar.

Proceedings will take place from 8 - 11 p.m., and remembering the last session, there will be wine and cheese free for the taking. Might pass on a little tip, we arrived late last time and couldn't find a place to sit. Word to the wise and all that.

Finally got it all sorted out as to the happenings at The Sportsmen's lounge, and for this weekend, El Prince will head up a group at the Saturday afternoon jazz jam.

On Fri. and Sat. nights, it will be the Marc Cohen trio, which will also feature Ruby Glover on vocals, as well as Keith Kilgo on drums.

Sunday night Warren Gantt and the All-Stars will perform. And this is the lineup that is worthy of your taking the time to check out.

Jimmy Wells will be on vibes, Harold Adams, tenor sax; Gary Wilmore, bass, Leroy Hawthorne, keyboards and Warren on drums.

Have been hearing a lot about a new spot in town called Cameo's. It is located where the late, lamented Electric Eye operated, out on Reisterstown Rd.

Chatted with the owners last week, who told me they are attempting to adopt a live music plus danceables on weekends. It's geared for the late-night crowd since it remains open until 5 a.m. BYOB. We'll check it out for details and let you know in a future column.

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