SHOWTIME

Arena Youtheatre...

By Ida Peters

The Arena Players have successfully operated their Youtheatre at their Playhouse for the past six years.

With the help of gifted and dedicated teachers under the direction of Mrs. Catherine Orange, teacher of English at Lemmel Junior High and Coppin State Teachers College, a group of 70 young people, age 14-20, have been studying areas of speech, acting, dance, mime and other theatre crafts.

The entire group visited last Friday's AFRO Clean Block meeting at McCulloh Homes where they were greeted with thunderous applause. The talented young people performed four numbers in dance and song which included "Moving On", "Raining In My Heart", "It's A Shame, It's A Disgrace" (from "The Magical Pied Piper") and "Fame".

The youngsters from the Arena Youtheatre were a welcome relief to the AFRO Clean Block group who had just finished listening to a recruitment group from the Guardian Angels plus a long discussion on how to get more cooperation from the Police Department to stop drug traffic in their neighborhoods.

Orchids to all these bright-eyed and talented youngsters. AFRO Clean Blockers have pledged to watch for your future public performances.

The Arena Youtheatre will present a "Showcase", Thursday, August 6 at 1 p.m. at the Arena Playhouse.

This winter, Dec 11-12-13, 18-19-20 they will present "The Magical Pied Piper" at the Playhouse.

Accompanying the group at the piano was their Musical Director, Shirley Watson, teacher at Lemmel Junior High.

On the flute was Carolyn Stockton, a student at Western High School. Their drama teacher is Cheryl Pasteur, teacher at Walbrook Senior High. Their dance teacher is Sevalyn White, teacher at Western High School.

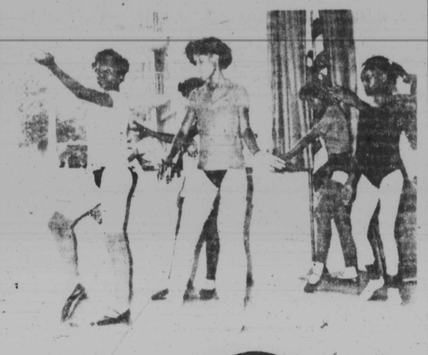
Students participating are: Carlton Hebron, Donna Arnold, Ricelle Parham, Frank Fleming, Carmensetta Martin, Dawn Nelson, Barry Davis, Blair Freeman, Teressa Ball, Keenan Jones, Darren Page, Sherry Gregory, Laverne Trull, Davielle Holloway, Diane Blackwell, Darlene Brown, Pam Sparks, Kim Kearney, Paula Baker, Kimberly Smith, Jennifer Brown;

Phaedra Rice, Stephanie Davis, Monica Jones, Angela Gilyard, Lezlie Leighton, Carol Stockton, Pamela Mance, Angela Gwynn, Patrick Robinson, Desiree M. Langley, Charla Smith, Robin Statham, Cornell Leak, Renee M. Johnson, Andre Wood, Tanya Sinclair.

Leslie Y. Williams, Nicole V. Coleman, Danene Webb, Juar Beverly, Sonja Jordan, Linette Parrine, Kim Eaton, Sharon Richardson, Anissa Sawyer, Nina McQueen, Kevin Judkins;

Rishawn Eades, Stacie Nixon, Erika Wynn, Kelly Brooks, Angelen Dukes and Kelli Johns.

...dynamic performance at AFRO meeting



(Photos by Vanessa Johnson)

Above members of Arena Youtheatre pose outside of Arena Playhouse, 801 McCulloh St. Right, members of group perform at McCulloh Auditorium for AFRO Clean Blockers. Right are Margaret Snowden, Karen Banks, Carmecitta Martin, Tracy Whittington, Shawan White.

Free Spirit Theatre's new season

Trazana Beverley to give workshop for Free Spirit Theatre at Morgan

The Free Spirit Theatre under Dr. Percy Thomas have for the past week been sponsoring classes in theatre technique at various schools and recreation centers.

So far they have conducted classes at Druid Hill Park Pavilion; Harlem Park School No. 430 and the Maryland State Training School.

They will appear July 31, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Greenmount Center, Greenmount and Lanvale; August 3, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. New Era Day Care Center; August 4, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Montgomery Training School; August 5, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Charles Plaza; August 6, 1 to 3 p.m. Mt. Royal Recreation Center.

Trazana Beverly, star of "For Colored Girls" and most recently "Mother Courage" at Center Stage will conduct a drama workshop for the Free Spirit Theatre at Morgan State University's Communications Building, Aug. 3-8. For information contact Carolyn Marcus, 323-6271 or 383-8300.

Bob Smith of "Evening Magazine" fame is preparing Free Spirit Theatre's fall opening, "First Breeze of Summer" starring Mary West Miller. Play opens at Morgan's Little Theatre, Sept. 10.

Arena Players presents 'Porch Patio'

June Thorne

Joan Coursey

The Arena Players Inc. will open its 29th Season with two one-act plays, "Porch Patio".

The plays are set in a small southern town, and in each play the story is revealed through conflicts between mother and daughter in one and two sisters in the other.

The characters in these plays will be portrayed by two veteran Arena Players, June Thorne and Joan Coursey.

The show will run from September 18 thru October 11.

Al Jarreau Pier 6 concert a sell-out

The unparalleled and unorthodox vocals of jazz performer Al Jarreau will fill the harbor at 8 p.m., August 1 as the "13 Harborlights Music Festival" continues at the Pier 6 concert pavilion.

He will be playing his new single "We're In This Love Together". Seats under the tent are sold out but 1,200 cabaret and lawn seats will go on sale Saturday morning.

Al Jarreau, who has been described as a "musical vocalist", began performing jazz clubs to support his educational ambitions. After receiving a Masters in psychology at the University of Iowa, Jarreau became a counselor at the California Division of Rehabilitation in San Francisco. However, he continued to perform in local San Francisco clubs and, after three years, he decided to give up counseling and to devote himself to his music.

Jarreau's unique compositions, arrangements and vocal dexterity have earned him international acclaim. This man with the "voice of an orchestra" has won both the German and the American Grammy, the French Music Academy award, as well as the Silver Award at the Tokyo Music Festival.

Al Jarreau

Night Scene Seen

By Bob Matthews

The summer doldrums are upon us, and although the live music scene is dwindling somewhat, there is still a lot of music to be heard.

This is the final weekend of live music at The Bandstand in Fells Pt. Bernard Sweetney and Co. will be on the stand tonight (Fri.) and Sat.

After that, Sheldon is bringing in some coin-operated machines, and will become a neighborhood bar. Sweetney will play vibes for this gig, along with Bill Parks, bass, and William Goffigan, drums.

It's been a great three years of live music at the club and Nightsceners will certainly miss it.

As the Bandstand fades, The Closet increases, for Henry Baker, Jr. informs me that the 99-cent Wed. night jazz sets have become so popular, that they are adding a Thurs. night 99-cent session.

Wednesdays will still feature the group Seido, and Thursdays will have the Jazzman Quintet. On Fri. and Sat. this weekend, drummer Harold White will bring in a trio. No word on how it will be constituted at press time.

Over at The Sportsmen's Lounge, the Dennis Fisher trio, featuring Jennifer Jones, will be the weekend attraction evenings, with the Greg Hatza group doing the Saturday afternoon jazz jam.

This is the group that was scheduled for last week, with Greg on organ and electric piano; Harold Adams, tenor sax; Leroy Featherstone, drums; Sonny Bunn, bass, and Major Boyd, sax.

Sunday night still belongs to O'donel Levy who continues to prove that he has no equal in town when it comes to guitar playing.

The Ritz is continuing its live music policy in the Penthouse with a local group, The Potentials, occupying center stage this weekend.

There will be music only Fridays and Saturdays through the month of August, in deference to the summer doldrums we spoke about earlier.

At the Gatsby's, guitarist O'Donel Levy will be in the Billie Holliday room Saturday night. And, beginning next week and for the month of August, Wednesday nights will feature what is being called the BW 3 plus 1, which consists of Marc Cohen, piano, Tommy Cecil, bass; Hugh Walker, drums, and the one is Ruby Glover, vocals.

Over in D.C., Donald Byrd is playing Blues Alley through Sunday night. Joe Williams comes in Aug. 4.

The swingingest set in quite some time will be at the One Step Down when Cedar Walton, piano; Buster Williams, bass; Billy Higgins, drums, and Bob Berg, tenor sax, will be front and center.

The proposal to hold outdoor jazz concerts at Oregon Ridge during August has been shot down.

The executive committee of the Left Bank Jazz Society turned it down, saying there was not enough time nor money to make the project a successful one.

However, there is a strong possibility that this will become a reality during the summer of 1982. There's enough time now.

There is a big flap going on over in D.C. concerning the free outdoor concerts in Ft. Dupont Park. Residents in the area are up in arms over the actions of some of the patrons.

Complaints from homeowners over the lack of parking, trampling of lawns and shrubs, plus the scattering of litter have caused the uproar.

The Neighborhood commission says that whenever the big names are scheduled, the huge crowds show up have a tendency to be a bit unruly.

When Ramsey Lewis was there, over 40,000 attended.

Nikki Giovanni to highlight WIC festival

Nikki Giovanni, will headline Washington International College's Summer Arts Festival, which opens Aug. 1 at 814 20th St., N.W. She will read her poetry at WIC's Auditorium 8 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 12.

All activities will be at WIC, 814 20th Street NW. For information call 466-7220.

On Stage

The Jacksons with Michael Jackson in concert with Stacy Lattislaw, at Capital Center, Sat. 9 p.m.

Ben Vereen at Pier 6, Aug. 7

Multi-talented Ben Vereen brings singing, dancing and all that jazz to Baltimore's Pier 6 Concert Pavilion on Aug. 7. The performance, which begins at 8 p.m., is part of the "Harborlights Music Festival" sponsored by WJZ-TV and the City of Baltimore.

A graduate of the High School of the Performing Arts in New York, Vereen received a scholarship for his achievement in dance. Soon, however, Ben's interests led him to venture into acting and singing arenas. While exploring these new areas, he continued his dance programs. Singer-dancer-actor Vereen quickly conquered each of these arenas.

Ben Vereen

Vereen's Broadway appearances in such successful productions as "Sweet Charity", "Jesus Christ Superstar", and "Pippin", for which he won the prestigious Tony Award, have helped to establish him as a Superstar.

Vereen is probably best known for his television and movie appearances. His credits in this medium include: an exhilarating performance in Bob Fosses' "All That Jazz", a sensitive portrayal of Satchmo in the TV docudrama "Louis Armstong-Chicago Style"; a widely acclaimed performance as "Chicken George" in the popular mini-series "Roots"; and electrifying appearances in variety specials "Funny Lady" and "Ben Vereen-His Roots". Most recently, he has starred as "Tenspeed" Turner in the ABC-TV series "Tenspeed and Brownshoe".

Despite Vereen's great success in television and movies, he is happiest when performing in the theatre or a cabaret, as it enables him to keep in close contact with his first love, live audiences.

Next week, Chuck Berry, The Dave Brubeck Quartet, and Blackstone the Magican will appear at the Pier 6 Concert Pavilion.

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George Shearing, Pier 6, Aug. 5

Dazzling improvisations, impressive arrangements and "roller-coaster" tempos will brighten the harbor when jazz virtuoso George Shearing appears at the Pier 6 Concert Pavilion on Wednesday, Aug. 5 at 8 p.m.

George Shearing

Sixty-one year old hearing, who has been blind since birth, founded the George Shearing Quintet in 1949. For almost 30 years this quintet was "a standard by which a certain kind of jazz was judged". However, despite his success, pianist Shearing left the quintet in 1977 to explore new musical territory. Shearing claims the group "was operating on automatic pilot during its last five or six years". His new duo, formed with bassist Brian Torff, continues Shearing's commitments to innovative music.

British-born George Shearing's classy style and high-powered artistry will be followed by "equally classy and high-powered Ben Vereen as the "Harborlights Music Festival" continues on Aug. 7.

"Wolfen" starring Gregory Hines was the treat for AFRO Clean Blockers this past Wednesday.

Recently the AFRO Clean Blockers were hosted at the Hippodrome Theatre by Stanford Garriques, (center) manager and his staff Vanessa White and Bernice Harris to see "Escape From New York" and Richard Pryor in "Bustin Loose."

Photo by Vanessa Johnson

This past Wednesday, AFRO Clean Blockers went to the Town Theatre to see "Wolfen." Shown are Chancey Wise, door man; Dwayne Roak, assistant manager; Thurman McNeil, Manager and Willie Roberts, doorman.

Photo by Vanessa Johnson

Maredi's South African play coming to Morgan

By popular demand, South African dramatist Salaelo Maredi returns to Morgan State with his biting comedy, "For Better or For Worse", on Thursday, August 27 thru Sunday, August 30. Proceeds from the five performances will go to The South African Students Refugee Fund here in Baltimore.

The play tells how the racist laws of South Africa cause the deterioration of both black and white families.

Like most of Mr. Maredi's plays, "For Better or For Worse" protests the apartheid system by holding it up to sharp wit and mockery.

"This play is a successful and unusual use of humor by a black protest drama", says Samuel Hay, Chairman of the Theatre Department at Morgan.

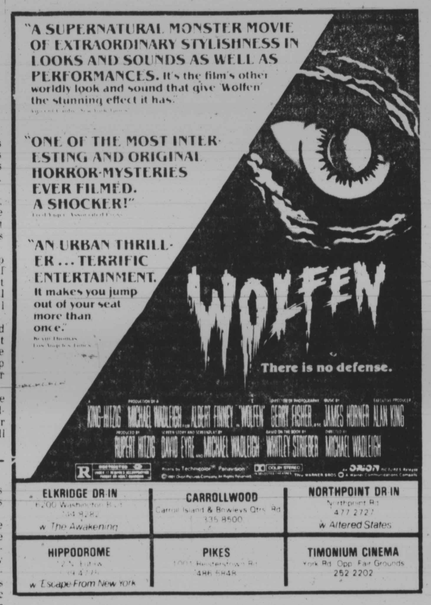
"Mr. Maredi both stars in and directs this production, which leaves us for a national tour", says Hay.

"Maredi", however, will remain in-residence at Morgan to mount other productions", says Hay.

"We are fortunate to have him and several other South Africans at Morgan and other local universities. Several need financial help".

"Tony Robinson and several other prominent Baltimoreans are founding a Fund to help them with expenses for education".

This play will be the first of several fund-raising activities. For further information call 444-3343 or 3330.



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In the AUGUST Issue of:
DAWN MAGAZINE
JOURNALISM AT ITS BEST...
•Celebrity Roundup is in its accustomed location.
•The story of Bessie Coleman, first black licensed pilot in the country.
•In Texas, June 19 is a special holiday wherein the Emancipation Proclamation is celebrated. They call it Juneteenth, and its significance is spreading across the country.
•Her name is Sarah Rawls, and she has been a hostess of a TV cooking show. And, she has written a book. From it, we print DAWN Recipes this month.
•The talk is all about the Administration budget cuts, and Medicaid patients will feel the brunt of the cuts almost immediately. In Maryland, 20 days is all Medicaid will pay for hospitalization — hospitals face serious financial problems.
•The Black History crossword puzzle is here.
•Poetry lovers will find their favorite display in the Poetrie Gallerie.
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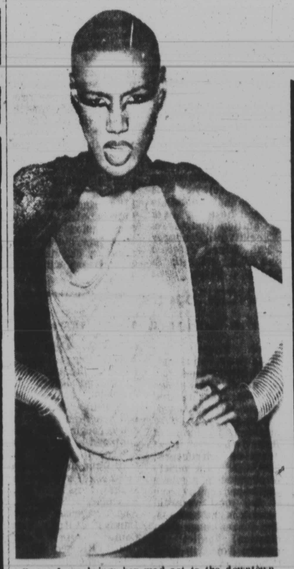

Grace Jones brings her mad act to the downtown Baltimore Hilton, Friday.

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