SHOWTIME

IDA PETERS

Editorial

You don't have to go... you can turn it off!

Do four-letter words, and other profanities turn you off or do they turn you on?

Frankly it turns a lot of people on but Richard Pryor's heavy profanity in "Richard Pryor Live on Sunset Strip" turns me off. His brutal frankness about his cocaine habit ain't funny.

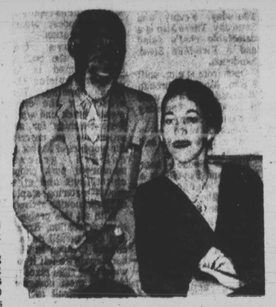
There are two things thinking people can do. You don't have to go and pay your money and you can write to this newspaper. Write, AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore, MD 21202. We'll forward your letter to Richard Pryor.

Richard Pryor is a gifted comedian. It's time somebody told him to clean up his act. Black Americans can count the few movie actors making money and films in Hollywood on one hand. Doesn't anybody care? Won't somebody speak out? Can't they see the long range damage being done out young people?

The AFRO thought the Hollywood Branch of the NAACP was the watch dog for the rest of the United States what all their talks with movie biggies about meaningful employment of blacks in front and behind the camera. How in the name of all that's HOLY could this flick be picked by them for a benefit premiere?

Is there something signficant about the fact that the only movies advertised in the AFRO by Baltimore exhibitors in recent months have been "Richard Pryor Live On Sunset Strip," "Ragtime," prison sex flicks and kung fu movies?

Clarence Muse festival at Central Pratt



Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Muse visit D.C. AFRO in 1959. He had just completed work in the movie "Porgy and Bess" where he played the Crab Man. He also visited with Sigma brothers.

1942 AFRO file photo

No Baltimorean has ever appeared in 219 films

Baltimore and Maryland have had many distinguished men and women, products of Douglass High School, who have made their mark in films, on stage and in the music world. This includes Cab Calloway, Eubie Blake, Billie Holliday, Avon Long.

But only Clarence Muse, (1889-1979) graduate of old Douglass High School, can claim a career that spanned 50 years, 219 films. In one year alone, he appeared in 18 films plus he was a writer, actor, producer, director and song writer. He helped to found the Lafayette Players, memoralized in "Bubbling Brown Sugar" and was a founding member of the Screen Actor's Guild.

He will be honored with a day-long festival and film presentation "Clarence Muse : Star of the Silver Screen," at the Central Pratt Library, 400 Cathedral St. starting at 10 a.m. in the second floor Poe Room. All events are open to the public without charge.

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Clarence Muse was never nominated for an Academy Award throughout his distinguished career. Until 1982 neither have any black or white male Baltimoreans been nominated for an Academy Award.

On March 29, at the 54th Academy Awards, Howard E. Rollins Jr. will be the first black or white male from Baltimore ever nominated for an Oscar for his role in "Ragtime".

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?Editor's Note: The only white female from Baltimore to be nominated for an Oscar for Best Supporting Actress was Mildred Dunnock, a graduate of Western High, Goucher and Columbia. She was nominated for 1952 role in "Death of a Salesman".

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Clarence Muse earned a law degree from Dickenson College in Carlisle, Pa. in 191 and he believed that he could make more money singing than he could practicing law, "So I got sold down the river by a silver tongue," he once said.

He was lured to Hollywood to play in the 1929 Fox film, "Hearts In Dixie, the first all-black talking musical. His salary was $1,250 a week, a fortune in those days; and three round trip tickets for his family.

It was a stereotyped film made for all white audiences. Clarence Muse played an old man, Uncle Nappus; Stephen Petchit, Gummy. Petchit got such rave notices it established his screen career as the ulitmate black screen buffoon.

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Muse also wrote the screenplay with Langston Hughes and sPirituals for the Hall Johnson Choin in "Way Down South". In 1943, he became the first black director of a Broadway show "Run, Little Chilun".

— —

Among the many songs he composed, was "When It's Sleepy Tie Down South" made famous as the theme of the late band leader, Louis Armstrong.

He was the kindly Jim in the 1931 version of "Huckleberry Finn" with Jackie Coogan. In the 1934 race-horse drama "Broadway Bill", he played a role of dignity in which he and Warner Baxter were friends who wanted to enter a horse in the Kentucky Derby.

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— —

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Prestigious, packaderms are in town

Ah... the back of winter is broken. We know, because everyday we're fighting a losing battle with the trashmen to preserve our tolips... bravely sending up tiny shoots in our backyard.

And... the Greatest Sbow In Town, the Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey Circus is in town. And... for the first time in 15 years, family illness prevented us from welcoming the Circus and walking the elephants downtown to the Civic Center.

Do you realize we've gone through five photographers? Starting with Frank Phillips, years ago... we've covered every circus celebrity walk with Henry Phillips, Irving Phillips, Roman Hankeweicz, and Mark Gail. And, covering opening night, we've worn out more than 20 neices, nephews, children, adopted children and grandchildren.

Ah but what thrills we've had, when as honorery Ringmaster over a six-year period we opened festivities with:

Ladies and gentlemen and children of all ages, welcome to the Ringling Brother, Barnum and Bailey Circus.

What a laugh we had one year when we couldn't scare up a child or grandchild and realized that we were having more fun than the young mothers, burdened with whining children who had to go to the bathroom at the oddest times.

Which brings to mind when we first fell in love with the Circus. Our mother, with a brood of five children, was a gofer for parades and the Circus. How she managed without a car, we don't know.

One year when we lived on Myrtle Avenue she took us all by street car. She packed a lunch and carried a thermos jug. She had two rules. Take care of your bathroom needs before you leave home; so what I say do; you may buy one souvenir and one treat.

Remember the Circus was boused in tents with the animals outside the main tent and children could feed the elephants, peanuts. It hurt my mother's feelings to feed good peanuts to the elephants and she always burried us through.

The sideshow with a barker was lined up on a midway and she was reluctant to have gone in to look at the freaks... the Fat Lady; The Tbin Man etc. Remember the street car ride out Eastern Avenue was long and the trip was tiresome and we were not anxious to go the next year.

Modern day children don't realize what they miss not si ting on bleacher seats, where you can look down, get sick and if you fall off, you could hurt yourself. Nothing really takes the place of the sawdust and the close relationship you can establish with the clowns, animals and performers.

The best companions for circus taking are children between 6 and 10. By the time they're 10, kids want to go to the Circus with their school groups.

To all you parents just now feeling the pinch of the depression here are some circus tips children are going to be distracted by the many vendors playing the stands during the acts.

Before going to the Circus, stock up on a few candy bars and peanuts. Tuck a peanut butter and jelly sandwich in your purse. Then set up rules so you won't have a sick child on your hands. Be sure the child has a good nourishing meal before you start out. It's either Cotton Candy, popcorn or snowball... not all three or you're in trouble.

And if your pocketbook is tight and you have a very young child, fix up your flashlight with red paper and you're in free.

Ah, Spring is here and what fond memories we do have!

There was the first year we tried our hand at riding the elephant from the circus train on North Avenue Produce yard to the Civic Center. Have to admit we were too dressed up in tweed pants suit and black bowler hat. Chickened out... but found out to our dismay we had picked up fleas anyway.

Then there was the time that I, Henry Phillips and this reporter followed neice Bonnie Butler on her wild elephant ride from Mt. Royal and North to the Civic Center.

We were right behind the lead Clown Car as we watched Bonnie being whipped by a high wind as she crossed the North Avenue Bridge. She did alright going down Maryland Avenue waving at all the school kids.

Downtown, she waved... "Look Aunt Ida... no hands." We hurried on ahead and climbed the bridge over Baltimore Street to get a good aerial view as Bonnie rode into the Civic Center. The parade of elephants arrived. No Bonnie. We hurried back over the route and right at the Hilton Hotel... one block from the Civic Center... the elephant decided to throw Bonnie off. Luckily her only injury was a broken shoe and her dignity.

Other colorful elephant riders we remember are Jon Love, who successfully rode more than three years and was always the youngest rider; Portia Badham, Sue Williams and Denise

AFRO photographer Martin Evans covered the circus festivities this year and will tell you about a new clown from Arlington, VA and all about the second generation of the King Charles Troupe.

Dates to Remember

March 19- Salute to a Lady- Honoring Senator Verda F. Welcome on her birthday and 24 years of service to the Maryland General Assembly. Martin's West. 6:30 p.m.

March 19-21- "H.M.S. Pinafore"; Gilbert and Sullivan's comic opera by music and theatre departments of Essex Community College.

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March 19- "La Traviata" by Guiseppi Verdi will be performed in English by the Prince George's Civic Opera at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, March 19 and 20 and at p.m. on Sunday, March 21, at the Queen Anne Fine Arts Auditorium on the campus of Prince George's community College in Largo, Md. Based on "The Lady of the Camillias" by Alexander Dumas, this great love story has had many dramatizations including the film, "Camille", with Greta Garbo.

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March 19-Friday- 17th Annual Chesapeake Jazz Festival, featuring high school bands from the East Coats. 7 p.m. at Edgewood High School.

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March 19-28- International Week in Baltimore at Top of the World. World Trade Building, downtown. Exhibits blending cultural displays representing nations of Europe, Asia, CentralSouth America and the Caribbean will be on diaplay. Saturday, March 20 and Sunday, March 21, costumed dancers and children's puppets. For information call, 837-INFO.

March 20 -Saturday, 2 p.m. Women's Civic League, 4th Annual Goodwill Fashion Show. Schools participating are Douglas, Edmondson, Western, Dunbar, Lake Clifton and Walbrook Milford Mill, Landsdowne, Mergenthaler, Northern, Southwestern. Saturday and every Saturday thru summer. Children's story hour for ages 4-11 at Bethel A.M.E. Church in the Outreach Center. Noon to 1 p.m. Bethel Bookstore, 1301 Druid Hill, 2nd Floor.

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Saturday-8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Delta Sigma Theta Sorority in cooperation with the Park Heights Community Coproration will hold a Consumer Awareness Workshop on "Economic Survival in Spite of Reaganomics," Lower Park Heights Multi-Pupose Center, 3939 Reisterstown Road. Admission is free.

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March 20 & March 27- The Walters: A multimedia production narrated by Vincent Price traces the history of Henry and William Walters and their passion for art, collecting it, creating the perfect home for it. Graham Auditorium. Free.

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March 21-Sunday, 5 p.m. Carmen Wiles Artis in concert presented by the Urban Services Cultural Arts Program-Gallery 40b, 40b N. Charles St. Admission free.

March 21- The Maryland Youth Symphony, conducted by Angelo Gatto, will be performing at the Catonsville Community College, at 3 p.m. Admission is free.

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March 22- A Spring Day Celebration in War Memorial Plaza, beginning at 12 Noon. To welcome in the coming season, the program will feature, Aerobic Dancing, Inc., the Hilton Elementary School Bell Choir and the Guilford Elementary School Ballerinas. Free seed packets will be distributed throughout the program, courtesy of Watson's Garden Center in Lutherville.

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March 23- 11 a.m., 1982 Honors Day Convocation of Morgan State University, Murphy Auditorium.

BOB MATTHEWS

Night scene seen

By Bob Matthews

There is a big hassle brewing out on upper Park Heights Ave., with the operators of the newest club in the area, El Sheikas caught right in the middle.

It all started last December when Jerome Smith, proprietor of the new club acquired a lease, completely refurbished the place and opened for business.

Weekends featured either live entertainment, or a disco-type operation, and things were thriving. Then it happened. According to Jerome Smith, who heads up the club, a representative of the nearby Pimlico Hotel came to call.

Smith says he was told that their operation was undesirable, and they did not want their kind up in the area. That was the beginning.

Next, police arrived to say a permit was necessary for them to hold an affair, they would have to acquire an entertainment license.

They did, getting a one-day license at a cost of $12, and an annual license at a cost of $50.

Then the Park Heights Community Council came to call, and were adamant that a new establishment opened up shop without consulting them first.

But the PHCC accepted the plea of ignorance of the procedures, and did not stand in the way of further developments.

Next came a series of investigations by the vice squad, and uniformed police who said they were responding to complaints from the neighborhood.

No violations were found, but the beleagured club was cited as being in violation of the milk-bar law. This is a city ordinance which says that no business licensed to sell milk, food, liquor or other merchandise shall administer entertainment, live or canned, except for New Year's Day, unless there is a special permit from the police dept.

This is the blockbuster, for the ramifications would extend to myriad places in the city. Restaurant facilities, such as Steak and Eggs, or Pancake House, would have to close at 2 a.m. since they have juke boxes providing entertainment.

Dizzy Gillespie

El Sheikas has no liquor license, as a lot of operating clubs in the city are doing, it is a byob thing. Under the milk-bar law, it would be impossible to operate with music after the 2 a.m. time.

There are a lot of fine legal points here, and the matter went to court yesterday (Thurs.) Judge Bachrach, who heard the case, postponed proceedings until a clarification was established as to what this particular law is all about. The effects will be far reaching.

Meanwhile, El Sheikas is allowed to continue operations, and Rosa Pryor, who is serving as hostess-booking agent-producer, has a topflight lineup scheduled for the next few weeks.

We'll have more about the club next week, as we watch just what goes on.

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This is the weekend for Dizzy Gillespie, who will be in residence at the Left Bank Jazz Society's set this Sunday. Have no idea who will be with la Dig, but he usually brings in his own group, complete with conga and bongo drums.

It'll be the first time in over a year that Dizzy has played for LBJS, and you can rest assured that it will be a wall-to-wall affair.

Beiter make it early—and I hope Chef Willis does too.

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At The Sportsmen's Lounge this weekend, Michel Lee, vocalist, is the evening attraction. The Saturday afternoon jazz jam, is headed by O'Donel Levy.

The Soul Shack continues with Carlos Johnson and Ruby Glover through Sunday night.

At Gatsby's, its Terry Hollinger and group tonight and tomorrow. Greg Hatza and Moon August are at the Cafe Park Plaza over on Charles St.

Saturday night at the Famous, the Coalition in Support of the Liberation Struggles of South Africa, will present Hugh Masekela, along with the Determination band, and Olufunmilayo and Co. dancers and musicians.

Vote 'JOB' Awards 2nd Annual Gospel Awards

The Hawkins Family

Shirley Caesar

Just as Hollywood honors the film industry with the Oscar; television pays tribute with the Emmy the American Gospel Academy Awards honors Gospel Music with the JOB Award. The Awards ceremony will be held in Memphis, Tenn. April 4 at 8 p.m. at the Orpheum Theatre.

Vote for your favorites and mail AFRO Gospel Academy Awards, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore, MD 21201. We'll find out how AFRO readers stack up against voters throughout the United States.

Ballot

Best Male Gospel Singer

( ) Rev. James Cleveland
( ) Andrae Crouch
( ) Rev. Clay Evans
( ) Rev. Al Green

— —

Outstanding Female Gospel Singer

( ) Shirley Caesar
( ) Tramaine Hawkins
( ) Genobia Jeter
( ) Myrna Summers
( ) Albertina Walker

— —

Outstanding Male Group

( ) Willie Banks & The Messengers
( ) Gospel Keynotes
( ) Jackson Southernaires
( ) Mighty Clouds of Joy
( ) Pilgrim Jubilees
( ) Southern Faith
( ) Williams Brothers

Outstanding Female Group

( ) Clark Singers
( ) Supreme Angels

Outstanding Mixed Group

( ) Andrae Crouch and Singers
( ) Charles Ford Singers
( ) The Hawkins Family
( ) Donald Valls Choraleers

— —

Outstanding Community Choir

( ) James Cleveland & The Southern California Community Choir
( ) Florida Mass Choir
( ) Walter Hawkins & Love Center Choir
( ) International Mass Choir
( ) Philadelphia Mass Choir
( ) Trinity All Nations
( ) Little Rock Choir
( ) Mattie Moss Clark & Michigan State Choir

— —

Outstanding Album

( ) Is My Living In Vain (Clark Singers)
( ) CloudBurst (Mighty CLouds of Joy)
( ) Love Alive II (Walter Hawkins)
( ) The Lord Will Make A Way (Rev. Al Green)
( ) It's A New Day (Rev. James Cleveland)
( ) Tramaine (Tramaine Hawkins)
( ) You Ought To Take Some Time To Praise the Lord (Rev. Clay Evans)

— —

Outstanding Gospel Song

( ) Is My Living In Vain (Clark Singers)
( ) CloudBurst (Mighty Clouds of Joy)
( ) The Lord Will Make A Way (Rev. Al Green)
( ) Holy One (Tramaine Hawkins)
( ) God is (Rev. James Cleveland)
( ) You Ought to Take Some Time to Praise the Lord (Rev. Clay Evans)

Top woman Girl Scout Cookie cruncher

TV cameras soom in as Vanessa staffs in 25 cookies in three minutes against Doug Balch WAYE, 34; and Captain Chesapeake, 27.

AFRO's Vanessa Johnson . . .

The AFRO's Vanessa Johnson was the top woman Girl Scout Cookie Cruncher when the 8th Annual Celebrity Crunch was held at City Hall to kick off the 1982 Campaign.

Mrs. Johnson crunched 25 Girl Scout cookies in three minutes beating Wanda Schloeder, Office of the Governor... the only other woman in the contest.

Todd Grimstead of WEOG was the top winner for the third straight year crunching 93 cookies in three minutes barely beating out Bob Greene of WSID who crunched 71.

For each cookie crunched by Mrs. Johnson a box of Girl Scout cookies has been donated by the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers to Murphy Homes Clean Block and School No. 122. Other charities benefiting from the entire contest benefited the Family and Children's Society, Kernan Hospital, Salvation Army, Grace and Hope Mission and many others.

Mrs. Johnson's record 25 cookies crunched three minutes bat Keith Newman, WWIN, (17); Jay Michael Wilson, WYST, (19); Vince Bagli, WBAL-TV, (8); John Panzarella, WIYY (14).

Other contestants were Steve Thomas, WBSB (27); Captain Chesapeake (27); Doug Balch (34); Eddie Applefeld WFBR (25); Jack Edwards, WCBM, (25) Tom Dawson, National Aquarium, (32); Mickey Hirten, Sunpapers, (25) Mike Powell, News American (50).

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Girl Scout cookies are now on sale throughout Baltimore, Maryland Proceeds provide funds to support troop activities in each neighborhood and provide fun and educational programs.

Jeanette Walters Soprano

with
Thomas Grubb, piano
Edward Walters, flute
Susan Kelly, cello

SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 7:30 P.M.
Dunbar Performing Arts Center
Orleans and Caroline Streets
Donation: $3; $1.50 students, sr. citizens
Information: 276-4646

Coming: BOYS CHOIR OF HARLEM
Saturday, April 10, 7:00 p.m.

Urban Services Cultural Arts Program

Waxter Center events

Friday, March 19- Waxter Center's own Musical Show Group, directed by Herb Merrick, will give its "St. Patrick's Day Show".

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Saturday, March 20- Steve Nagrabski's "Silver Notes" returns with a Cordovox Concert of Polkas, rock and popular music for dancing.

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Sunday, March 21- The Donna Jean School of Dance presents a recital of students performing ballet, tap and jazz.

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Monday, March 22- This is the beginning of Physical Fitness Week at Waxter Center.

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Tuesday, March 23- Physical Fitness Week. A week of varied events, demonstrations and programs.

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Wednesday, March 24- Physical Fitness Week.

Thursday, March 25- Physical Fitness Week.

Friday, March 26- Physical Fitness Week.

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Saturday, March 27- "Vanaranna" dances to the colorful folk music of Estonia.

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Sunday, March 28- Yvonne Garcia, soprano, offers selections from classical Lieder and Musical comedy. Walter Watkins will accompany.

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Monday, March 29- The Waxter Center Combo will play for your dancing pleasure.

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Tuesday, March 30- Mrs. Ruth Sneider will show the film "Sixty Plus" and has planned an interesting discussion following the film.

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Wednesday, March 31- Today at 10:30 a.m. there will be an important Town Meeting for the entire Waxter Center membership.

Special Classes

Physical Fitness- Exercises and dancing, Saturdays from 8:15 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the Mason Lord Room. Call Michael Linardi at 396-1321 for more information.

United States Domestic and Foreign Policy- Issues and answers, a discussion group led by Dr. Kiratli in Room 222 (Apartment) Saturdays from 1 to 3 p.m.

Bob Greene, WSID staffed 71.

Tom Dawson, the National Aquarium staffed 32

Jeanette Walters in concert at Dunbar

Urban Services Cultural Arts Program presents soprano Jeanette Walters performing Ravel's Chansons Madecasses, songs of Poulene and Barber, and several rare hymn arrangements by Charles Ives on Saturday, March 27 at 7:30 p.m. at the Dunbar Performing Arts Center, 1400 Orleans St.

Jeanette Walters first rose to prominence in 1964 when she performed the soprano role in Faure's Requiem with Nadia Boulanger conducting the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. She has since concertized regularly in Europe and America, and recently has appeared at the Mostly Mozart Festival at Avery Fisher Hall in Lincoln Center. Currently she is a member of the Kennedy Center Theatre Chamber Players conducted by Leon Fleisher.

Jeannette Walters

Having attended Dunbar High School and Peabody Conservatory, Jeanette Walters is no stranger to Baltimore audiences. She has performed at a number of Baltimore churches including the First Baptist Church on Caroline Street and the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church.

This recital marks the first Baltimore appearance of Ms. Walters since 1978, at which time she received official commendation from Mayor William Donald Schaefer. She is performing with a chamber ensemble which includes her brother, flutist Edward Walters. Many friends and colleagues are expected to attend both the recital and the reception immediately following.

In D.C.

Kennedy Center- Eisenhower Theater- "Medea" Starring Zoe Caldwell and Judith Anderson. Thru April 10.

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Ford's Theatre- "The Orphan's Revenge" a musical melodrama Thru March 28.

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National Theatre- "The Pirates of Penzance", a Gilbert and Sulivan musical starring James Belushi and Peter Noone. Thru May 2.

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Warner Theatre- "Camelot", starring Richard Harris. Thru March 21.

Baltimore Film Festival at Pratt

Soul, rhythm and blues set the tempo for "Wattstax," record of the jubilant Wattstax festival of music, comedy routines, and historical flashbacks held in the early 1970's. The entertaining documentary opens the seventh annual Black Film Festival in the Wheeler auditorium of the Central Pratt Library, 400 Cathedral St. on Monday, March 22, at 7:30 p.m.

Richard Pryor, Isaac Hayes, The Emotions, and Melvin van Peebles are among the many stars who give the mission picture its glitter.

Pratt's Black Film Festival, presented free of charge at 7:30 p.m. on the dates indicated, continues on Tuesday, March 23, with "The Negro Soldier," a government sponsored history of the black contribution to America's wars from 1776 to 1944, and "Only the Ball Was White," a combination of vintage photographs, film clips, and interviews with Satchel Paige, Don Newcombe, Roy Campanella, and other sports greats which reveal the grit as well as the joys of playing in the Negro baseball leagues.

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Friday	8:00	Reel One: Mark of the Hawk
	10:00	Hi De Ho with Cab Calloway
Saturday	7:00	Dance Connection
	8:00	Nova: Animal Imposters
	9:00	Satchmo
Sunday	7:00	Concerts of the 80s: Dionne Warwick
	8:00	Celebrity Concerts: Diahann Carroll
	9:00	Evening at Pops: George Benson
	10:00	Concerts of the 80s: Henry Mancini and Friends
	11:00	Gospel Time

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