

### Contents

Best Bets	Page 9
Entertaining Kids	
is Hard Work	Page 3
Delectables	Page 4
Spirited Spots	Page 5
In Performance	Page 6
Flicks	Page 7
The TubePages 9	thru 14
Cars & Exhibits	Page 15

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### The Bad Boy is Back!

He's back, and ready to do it all again. After a successful engagement at D.C.'s Constitution Hall just a few weeks ago, Luther VanDross is bringing his final show of his winter tour to Painter's Mill Star Theatre for two performances Saturday and Sunday, December 18 and 19. Appearing with VanDross is songstress Cheryl Lynn.

Currently promoting their latest single, a duet of "If This World Were Mine", the Marvin Gaye/Tammy Terrell classic, VanDross and Lynn have been touring the country these last few months gathering excellent reviews along the way. Each performer with a strong following of their own, VanDross and Lynn ensure satisfaction to all in atten-

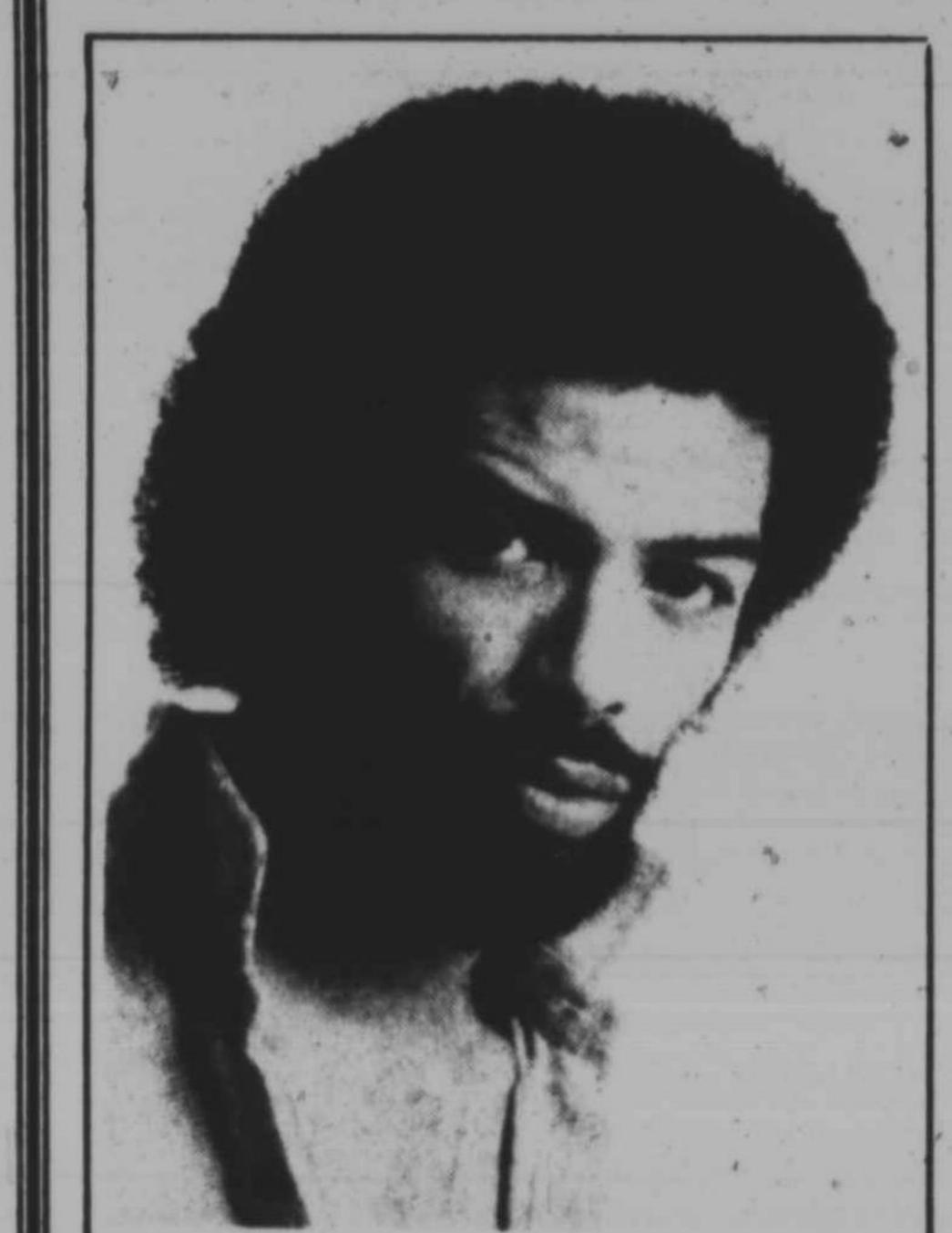
Showtimes for both the Saturday and Cheryl Lynn Sunday evening performances are 8:00 PM, and the ticket price is \$13.50.





**Luther VanDross** 

### Gil Scott-Heron in D.C.



Gil Scot Heron

A poet of the times, Gil Scott Heron his hit, "Johannesburg" and his most rewill be in the D.C. area at The Blues cent release of a few months ago, "Life Alley, 1073 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Fri- In A B Movie," have helped many to rally day, Dec. 17 through Sunday, Dec. 19, for around a cause, but more importantly, two shows each night.

By combining provocative cause actually is. philosophies with a sultry baritone, Gil-Scott Heron has been accumulating a strong "cult" following, of sorts, for the last several years. His political statements, most powerfully heard in

helped them to understand what the

Showtime for the Gil Scott Heron performances are 9 and 11 p.m. Tickets are \$12. Experience the thoughts of Gil Scott Heron this weekend.



The Dance Bringers

## Bringing the Dance to St. Mark's

held at the church, located on Garrison Boulevard and Liberty Heights Avenue.

audiences in sizes and occupations, will demonstrate tions. The highlight of their on-stage tuteledge of Eva Anderson. their special brand of communication at career was just a few months ago at the a benefit performance for St. Mark's acclaimed ArtScape '82-a celebration of adults, \$2 for children and can be pur-Methodist Church on Saturday and Sun- the arts by Baltimore City-in which the chased at the door. Ill day, Dec. 18 and 19 at 7:30 p.m. and 2:00 'troupe shared the stage with several of

the city's leading professional dance

At the benefit performance this reekend, the troupe will perform a mix Maria Broom, The Dance Bringers, a Baltimore/Washington area for almost always moving "Suite: Brown Rice" popular local dance troupe of 50 men, two years, performing at universities, Special guests at the benefit will be The women and children of varying ages, festivals, and social and political func- Dance Theatre of Baltimore under the

Tickets for the performance are \$7 for

# Entertaining Kids is Hard Work

by C.T. Goodman

On the day after Thanksgiving, in shopping malls across the country, Christmas preparations take control From hanging garland on the escalators to erecting evergreens amongst the fountain lily-pads, the Christmas spirit emerges rapidly. But none of the preparations are complete until the arrival of one particular individual-an individual who this year left behind Rudolph and the guys to descend upon one shopping mall in Baltimore via

Friday Plus, December 17, 1982

Santa Claus at Mondawin Mall, this year, is Zel Cason. From the North Pole via Suffolk, Virginia, Cason is presently enjoying his first year of impersonating jolly ole St. Nick.

"Basically, I like playing Santa Claus," says Cason. "I like working with kids which is something I've done a lot of in the past. I meet a lot of interesting people in this job, adults and children alike, and that's always nice. I wouldn't say this job doesn't have its drawbacks, however, but basically I like it".

Working 8 hours, 7 days a week, dressed in felt and fur costume head to toe behind a foot of facial hair in a heated building is cited as the major disadvantage.

"Believe me, it gets hot in here. Sometimes I just want to take this wig off and comb out my Geri curl," he

But he doesn't. Instead he sits and listens to scores of children everyday, expounding their virtues and requesting every gift from video games to real estate. The "children" come in all ages and sizes, sitting upon his lap, to smile (or not smile) for his camera where Mrs. Santa Evelyn Cason, snaps a picture for



Ahnmad Artis, age 3, is fascinated by Santa Claus.

"The front runner, as far as games are concerned, is PACMAN this year. ATARI is also popular," Cason explains. "But the kids ask for so many kinds of things, pin ball machines, Big Wheels, cars, rings, clothes like Daddy, good relations between Mom and Pop. A few women have come up here and ask me to simply find them a husband".

"I like having the kids come up and talk to me but it can also be aggravating after a while; some don't want to sit still for the photograph, others refuse to smile, parents insist everything be perfect in the picture, and the constant 'Santa, Santa, Santa' can be a bit much after 8 hours in this suit. Don't get me wrong, though. I like the kids, but

As the only Black Santa Claus in the city, Cason was prepared to hear a lot of questions and comments from the children concering his non-traditional resemblance to Santa Claus, however, that has not been the case. The comments usually thrown his way deal with his less than opulent physique, "You sure are a skinny Santa". Nevertheless, the children accept him as the Christmas hero with little problem.

Although the famous poem describes him as a man whose eyes "twinkle," whose dimples are merry, whose cheeks are like roses, and nose is like a cherry, Zel Cason realizes at 34 years old, slim, brown and frequently tired from taking pictures all day, he strays from the norm. But, the fact doesn't seem to bother him too much.

"Playing Santa Claus is fun, challenging and definitely different. I'm not certain I'd like to do it again, but for this year, I've enjoyed it."



Reginald Mines, 10 months, doesn't know what to make of this coffee colored man in a red suit and white beard.



Lamar Parker, 4, and a weary Santa, Zel Cason, take a break between photo ses-



Native sons, John and Arthur Simms of Baltimore, have been touring the continent of Europe. They are returning home to the D.C./Baltimore area for a three week vacation. Their latest album is almost ready to hit the record stores.