THE CRITICS SING THE PRAISES OF "GOSPEL"

"'GOSPEL' a film to knock you out. A rompin' stompin tribute to Gospel."
—Peter Stack San Francisco Chronicle

"Seen simply as music and performance, it's a great experience. 'GOSPEL' is a whole lot of fun."
—Roger Ebert, Chicago Sun Times

"Great! 'GOSPEL' deserves a much bigger audience... a joy to the audience."
—Gene Siskel, Chicago Tribune

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starring
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The HAWKINS FAMILY
The MIGHTY CLOUDS OF JOY
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Flicks

Wild Style

By Ernest D. White, Jr.

Whenever there's a new rave, filmmakers immediately try to capitalize on it. Such is the case with "Wild Style", a new movie about graffiti artists in the South Bronx. Much of this movie centers on breck-dancing, a street-based dance form which is currently on an up swing nationally, and rap music. It's too bad that there isn't more break-dancing and less acting.

"Wild Style" centers around Raymond (Lee Quinones), a graffiti artist who becomes the legendary "Zoro", who roams the subway yards at night decorating the subway cars with his version of visual beauty. "Zoro" is determined to remain anonymous inspite of the sudden Manhattan art worlds recognition and the competition of a rival graffiti gang led by his former girlfriend, Rose.

Rose and her gang set up a meeting with a newspaper reporter (Patty Astor) who is doing a story on the street culture and graffiti in particular, but Zoro will have no parts of it. He's determined to practice his craft without public fanfare and/or legal prosecution. By movie's end it all comes together at a huge outdoor jam session, (the graffiti, the rap music, and the break-dancing).

New York's Mayor Koch recently, however, spoke out against the graffiti artist who in his opinion are defacing New York's skyline. However, the graffiti in "Wild Style" is artistic and most of it enhanced the buildings and subway cars it adorned.

The rap music is just that—rap music. Judging from the people around me, the music is hot.

The D.J. is Grand Master Flash and the popular "Fantastic Five" and "Double Trouble" are featured.

The best thing about the movie is the break-dancing, however, there isn't enough.

Overall the movie is choppy. The plot is inadequate at best, and the acting is the pits. Many of the actors look into the camera as though they are in acting class and are being tutored by their coach. The language is defintely from the street. At times much of it seemed pointless.

It's too bad the storyline wasn't beefed up and some first rate actors recruited. The hip-hop culture is certainly a world of its own and certainly would be prime material for a first rate film. Only this production is not.

If you see the film, you'll enjoy the dancing, the visual art and some of the'ap music. But don't expect to find the acting performance of the year.

New movie "Wildstyle" features break dancing and rap music currently showing at the Dupont Circle Theater, 1332 Connecticut Ave., NW, D.C.

Movie Showtimes

Security Square 1, 6901 Security Blvd., Security Square Mall, 265-6911. "Sudden Impact."
II "Scarface"
III, "To Be or Not To Be"
IV "The Keep"

Westview Cinema I 6000 Baltimore National Pike, Catonsville, 747-3800. "Yentl"
II "Silkwood"
III "D.C. Cab"
IV "Two of a Kind"
V "The Rescuers"; "Mickey's Christmas Carol"

Charles "Pandora's Box"; "Diary of a Lost Girl"

Columbia Cinema "D.C. Cab"
II "Christine" "Gorky Park"
III "Terms of Endearment"

Hippodrome "Sudden Impact"

Howard "Invincible One"; "Master of Disaster"
II "Scarface"
III "Silkwood"
IV "Terms of Endearment"
V "Christine"

New "D.C. Cab"

North Point Plaza "Sudden Impact"

Patterson I "Gorky Park".
II "Two of a Kind"

Films
Baltimore Film Forum
Meyerhoff Auditorium, 8 p.m.
January
20- Murmur of the Heart
26- Intruder in the Dust
27- The Mad Adventures of "Rabbi" Jacob

February
2- Gospel
3- The Bride Wore Black
9- Chicago Blues AND Till The Butcher Cuts Him Down
16- Hot Pepper AND Blues Like Showers of Rain
17- Play Time
23- The Last of the Blue Devils
24- That Man From Rio

March
1- Les Violins Du Bal
2- Blow Up
8- Heartland
9- 3 Women
15- The Goalies' Anxiety at the Penalty Kick
16- The Story of Adele H

Adam Baldwin, Mr. T and Charlie Barnett participate in a parade in "D.C. Cab" now showing at area theaters.

Theater

D.C.'s hilarious new comedy

"Once In A Wife Time"

By Arthur J. Johnson

Why do some men find it so difficult to remain faithful to their wives? Perhaps infidelity is the result of the shortcomings of the institution of marriage itself and not the fault of the many men who stray from their wives.

Such is the thinking in some African cultures in which a man can marry as many women as he desires. When Willie Rogers (Ken Daughy), a hard-working middle class black man tries to import this appealing cultural practice of his ancestors to Washington, D.C., his upscale wife, Irma (Rhonda Akanke) has more than a little bit to say about it in Celeste Walker's hilarious comedy "Once Upon A Wife Time", now playing at the newly renovated Takoma Theatre, 6833 4th St., N.W. in Washington, D.C.

This first production of D.C.'s newest black-owned theatre gets the Takoma Players off to a rousing and undeniably successful start. It's rare to see a comedy as consistently and as refreshingly funny as Miss Walker's and her script is superbly served by all the players especially Miss Akanke as the strong yet still vulnerable wife who is sure that her man has gone crazy when he informs her that his other "wife" will soon be moving into their guest room and that the wives will share him on an every-other-week schedule.

From her subtle Southern inflections to her on-target body language Miss Akanke makes her Irma as real as the Irmas we all know and love in our community—women who are tough and smart yet totally feminine.

While the situation rages out of her control for a time, Irma eventually gets a grip on things, leading 'Once In A Wife Time" to an "equal opportunity ending.

This East Coast premiere of 'Once In A Wife Time" (the production ran for two years in California and was also produced in Houston) also stars Fredel a Calloway as the other "wife Phyllis L Baker as Irma's outraged mother Bil Grimmett as the Black Enlightment leader who gives Willie the idea to emulate his ancestors, and Velma Kim Jones, Kathy Merrick, Felicia Marvel Taylor, George Dick and Gavin Lawrence. The production is wel directed by Geoffrey W. Newman chairman of the drama department of Howard University.

The curtain goes up on "Once In A Wife Time" every Thursday Friday Saturday and Sunday at 9 p.m. through February 26. For further information cal (202) 291-8060 or 393-3333.

"Once In A Wife Time"

Hitchhiking Proves Dangerous

Gary Coleman stars as Arnold who along with sister Kimberly are stranded downtown with no money in this Saturday's episode of "Diff'rent Strokes," Jan. 28 on WMAR-TV.

Kimberly decides to accept a ride with a "very nice" stranger, in part I of "The Hitchhikers." Bill, the man who gives them a ride, offers to show Arnold some videotapes of outer space. But while he is viewing them, Bill has devious plans for Kimberly. Part II will be shown on Feb. 4.

Todd Bridges also stars as Willis.

Gary Coleman

On Stage

BURN BRAE- "I Do, I Do", on Rte. 129 on Feb. 19. Friday-Saturday and Tuesday-Thursday dinner 6:15, show 8. Sunday, dinner at 4:15 p.m., show 6 (384-5800).

HARLEQUIN- "They're Playing Our Song", in Rockville through Jan. 29. Tuesday-Sunday, dinner 6:30 p.m.; show 8:30 p.m. (340-8515).

HAYLOFT- "They're Playing Our Song", in Manassas through Feb. 19. Tuesday-Sunday, dinner 7, show 8:30 p.m.; Sunday and Wednesday matinee, buffet 1:45 p.m., show 3. (631-1823 or 631-0230).

KING'S JESTER- "Ain't Misbehavin'", through Jan. 29 in Silver Spring. Friday-Saturday, dinner 6:45 p.m., show 8. Sunday, dinner 5:45 p.m., show 7. (946-2077).

PETRUCCI'S- "The Mousetrap", through Jan. 15 in Laurel. Friday and Thursday, dinner 7:30, show 9. Saturday, dinner 7 p.m., show 8:30 p.m. Sunday, dinner 6, show 7:30 p.m. (725-5226).

TOBY'S- "Barnum" in Columbia Saturday and Tuesday-Thursday dinner 6:30 p.m., show 8:30. Sunday buffet 1:15 p.m.; show 3; dinner 5:30 p.m. show 7:30. (596-6161 or (301) 730-8311).

"THE SOUND OF MUSIC"- Baltimore Actor's Theatre production at the Oregon Ridge Dinner Theatre The Rogers and Hammerstein classic Jan 14 through March, Thursdays through Sundays at 8 p.m. (buffet at 6:30) plus a 2 p.m. Sunday matinee (buffet at 12:30). Details (667-8427 or 377-6953).

"OKLAHOMA!"- The Limestone Musical Dinner Theatre Playhouse Beaver Dam Rd., Cockeysville. A 40th-year anniversary production of the classic Rodgers and Hammerstein musical. 8:30

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