# In Performance

A Symposium on **Black Musical Theater,** presented jointly by the **Peabody Conservatory of Music** and **Morgan State University,** will be held on Feb. 16, 17 and 18 at Peabody.

The Symposium, which is directed by eminent musicologist **Dr. Dominique-Rene de Lerma,** will attract leading scholars from across the nation and be illustrated by performances in the evenings in Peabody's Miriam A. Friedberg Concert Hall of rarely heard works by a fascinating assembly of black composers.

Among the composers to be performed is the Dumas-esque **Chevalier de Saint-Georges** (1739-1799), who was equally renowned at the French court as a master of fencing (he showed off his dexterity by fighting a duel before the Prince of Wales in London and later commanded France's first black regiment) as well as the earliest known black composer of opera.

The first performance since 1777 of all the surviving music from his opera **Ernestine,** as well as the world premiere of his violin sonata in A major will be highlights of the concert programming.

**Will Marion Cook** (1869-1944), a brilliantly talented classical music student; who studied in Germany under the great violinist Joseph Joachim and at the National Conservatory of Music in New York with Antonin Dvorak, could only be active in the idioms permitted to black composers at the time and is chiefly famous for his hit musical **In Dahomey.**

In addition to performing excerpts from this musical, Peabody/Morgan ensembles will also present his unpublished meditative choral work **Slave Ship,** made available courtesy of the composer's son. Considered in its day unsuitable for public performance because of the strong sentiments expressed in the text, **Slave Ship** has only been rarely heard in private performances.

A British black composer, **Samuel Coleridge-Taylor,** is also represented by his clarinet quintet and his operatic romance **Dream Lovers,** and among the other composers on the program are James Bland, Antonio Carlos Gomes, Margatet Bonds, Thomas Kerr, William Grant Still and others.

Over the three days, the Symposium will explore topics relating to African Musical Theater, black minstrelsy and operatic works by black composers. tickets are $5 at Peabody Box Office 301-659-8124.

As a salute to black artists working in a wide range of media — instrumental and vocal music, poetry, theater dance and crafts — **The Baltimore Museum of Art** will host a month - long celebration of Black History Month. Emphasis will be on innovation and cultural diversity of the black creative experience, which has drawn upon a wealth of influences, from Europe to Africa.

Feb. 11 3 p.m.—Free Film: **"Cabin In The Sky"** with Ethel Waters, Lena Horne and Louis Armstrong.

Feb. 12 2:30 p.m Cabaret Theater by **Kuumba** (Swahili for creativity) combines song, dance, instrumental music, poetry and prose by five performers: Natalie Carter Jocelyn Garlington Harriette Lane, Kay Lawal, and Johnetta Lomax.

4 p.m. — Children's Theater Workshop with Kuumba. Songs movement and speaking for children under the guidance of the actresses in the ensemble

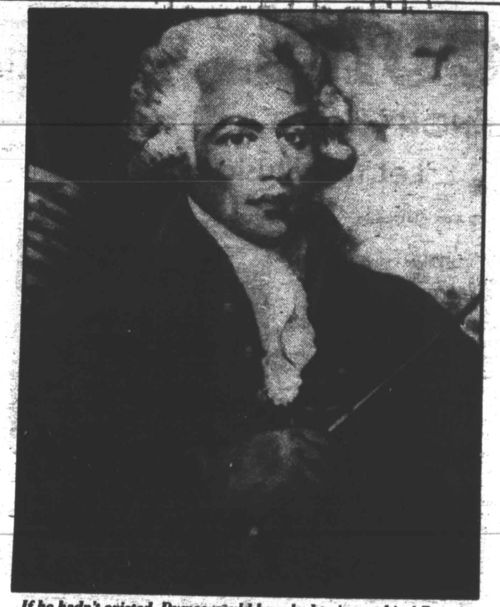
**"The Critics' Place,"** television s only regularly scheduled comprehensive reviews of plays movies, dance television, books music and art across Maryland and D.C celebrated its 10th Anniversary this week

The Maryland Public Television series is seen live every Thursday at 7:30 p.m and Saturday at 6:30 p.m. on TV 22, 28 31 36, 62 and 67.

Hosted by Alfie Brown, a well-known DC-Maryland actress, eight critics bring viewers candid reviews and in-depth reports, as well as film clips on the latest in the world of the fine and performing arts

John Goodspeed reviews books, Toby Perkins and Sarah Lord share reviews of theatre, Jane Murray critiques local dance, Frank Getlein reviews art, Elane Stein looks at television, Cal Lampley reports on classical music while Mike Joyce covers popular music

Foremost American entertainers, **SHARI LEWIS,** known to millions for her talent as a ventriloquist will appear on the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra's "Pops" Series on Saturday, Feb. 18 at the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall.



***If he hadn't existed, Dumas would have had to invent him! Born in 1739 on the island of Guadeloupe,, the son of an aristocratic French father and a Black slave woman, the Chevalier de Saint Georges was brought up as a gentleman, holding important artistic positions at the French Court of Louis XV. At one time he was even offered the directorship of the Paris Opera Famous throughout Europe as a superb swordsman, Saint-Georges fought a duel before the Prince of Wales to demonstrate his prowess and ultimately become commander of France's first all-Black regiment.***

## Walter's Art Gallery

Walters Art Gallery announces special weekend activities:

Saturday, Feb. 11 at 1:30 p.m.: A Parent-Child Workshop "African Animal Folktales and Adire Cloth Dyeing" Registration is required for the workshop, which is limited to 25 children. The fee is $5.00 per child (parents free). The Workshop begins promptly at 1:30—3:00 p.m

After viewing the African animal folktale film **A Story, A Story** children will do colorful Adire cloth dyeing, creating designs based on African folktales.

**Sunday, Feb. 12**

**IN THE RAPTURE (1—2 PM)**

Documents a traditional black church musical drama portraying man's struggle to resist the temptations of evil and follow that which is good. Focuses on the main characters of Jesus, Satan, the Narrator, and Everyman as they are joined by the heavenly choir, two angels, and ten soloists in the congregation. Centers on Satan's efforts to persuade Everyman and members of the congregation to follow him.

(Continued on page 7)

**Scott Caldwell and Charles Weldon are featured in the Negro Ensemble Company production of "Colored People's Time" coming to Bowie State College.**



# '42nd Street' . . .
# . . . the snap, crackle, pop!

**By Ernest P. White, Jr.**

Probably the most overworked plot in theater is that of the understudy who steps in at the last minute for the ailing star and becomes an overnight sensation. One of the best productions of that overworked theme is currently on an extended run at the newly renovated **NATIONAL THEATRE.**

**"42nd Street"** arrived with much fanfare and lives up to the billing. The show is entertaining from beginning to end, and the costumes and set are breathtaking. I sat in awe at the effective use of almost every color under the rainbow. It is delightfully amusing. The tapping of 100 feet is an understatement. They come at you like a herd of elephants. The next thing you know you're patting your feet. The production flows from onstage rehearsal to performance with ease without losing the audience.

**Barry Preston,** as **Andy Lee,** the producer of the show, is great. He's unbelievable and in spite of his non-vocal talents, he holds the show together with the skills of a veteran stage actor.

**Dolores Gray,** the star of the show who breaks her ankle, is every bit the prima donna in the role of Dorothy Brock. She's vocally in control and her presence on stage is commanding.

As the understudy-turned-star (Peggy Sawyer) **Clare Leach** dances and sings her way into your heart. She is fresh and youthful. **Bibi Osterwald** as **Maggie Jones,** is funny and comes across as the motherly type. She's a treat.

**Jim Walton** as Billy Lawlor, the tenor and romantic interest for Peggy the ingenue, has the Ipana toothpaste smile a dentist would kill for and he can sing and dance to boot. Philip Lang's orchestrations are crisp and precise. Theoni Aldredge's costumes are a show, a spectacle.

"42nd Street" is a giant show with all the glitter that makes Broadway the brightest place in the world. It's dazzling, magical and even at $40 or more, it's musical theatre at its best.

Playing at the National Theatre through April 22.

## Howard University

Feb. 11 — **SWIMMING:** HOWARD vs. VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH, Burr Gymnasium, 8 p.m.

Feb. 12 — **BLACK HISTORY: A MUSICAL TRIBUTE,** Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel, 3 p.m. Sponsored by the Department of Music. FREE.

Feb. 15 — **FILM SERIES** on Brazilian culture, School of Social Work Auditorium, noon—1 p.m. Sponsored by the Department of Social Sciences. For details, call 636-6820.

**SEMINAR ON HOW TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE MARKETING PLAN,** School of Business and Public Administration, 6:30-9:30 p.m. every Wednesday through March 29. Sponsored by the H.U. Small Business Development Center and the U.S. Small Business Administration. $15. Contact Eugene Sawney, 636-7178.

Feb. 16-19 — **13th ANNUAL COMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE,** Blackburn Center, 8 a.m.—6 p.m. Sponsored by H.U. School of Communications. For details, contact Peggy Pinn, 636-7491.

Feb. 17 — **BASKETBALL:** HOWARD BISONETTES vs. TOWSON STATE, B Gymnasium, 5:45 p.m.

## —Walters Art Gallery

(Continued from page 6)

**THE FIRST WORLD FESTIVAL OF NEGRO ARTS (2:20—2:40 PM)**

Discloses the purpose of The First World Festival of Negro Art held in Dakar, Senegal in northwest Africa, as an attempt to create an awareness of Negro art and culture. Surveys the contributions in music, dance, textiles, poetry, sculpture, and painting. Explains the art and its creation in terms of the religious, social, and evolutionary culture of Africans.

**CEDDO (3 PM) directed by Ousmane Sembene**

**Ceddo** (pronounced Ched-doe) or the feudal class of common people, cling desperately to their customs and their fetishistic religion. Set loosely in the 19th century, **Ceddo** is not strictly a historical film. It ranges far and wide to include philosophy, fantasy, militant politics, and a couple of electrifying leaps across the centuries: in this, his most ambitious and remarkable film, Sebene evokes the whole of the African experience. For FREE tickets call 547-9000 Extension 45.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**TICKET PRICES:** Tues.-Fri. Eves., Sat. & Sun. Mats., Orch & Dress Circle $19.50, Mezz. $17.00, $12.00. Sat Eves. Orch. & Dress Circle $22.00, Mezz. $19.50, $13.00, Wed Mats. Orch. & Dress Circle $15.50, Mezz. $12.00 $10.00

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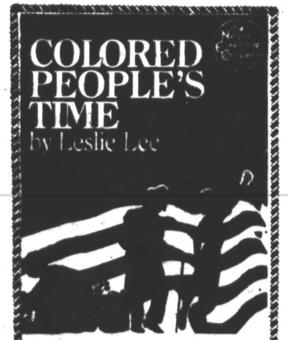


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