Best Bets

"The Tempest" At Arena Stage

William Shakespeare's, "The Tempest" is currently running at the Arena Stage until November 11. The Arena Stage is located at 6th St. and Maine Ave., S.W. For more infomation on tickets and times call 202-488-3300.

"Zorba" Continues At The Lyric

"Zorba," starring Anthony Quinn, continues at The Lyric Opera House on Mount Royal Ave. and Cathedral St. until November 4. For performance times and ticket prices call 625-1400.

Pumpkin Theatre

Pumpkin Theatre, a performing arts series for children ages four to eleven, will present "Sleeping Beauty" starting Friday, October 26 at 4615 Roland Ave. For more information call 467-6484.

"The Princess And The Goblins"

The Children's Theatre Association will present "The Princess and the Goblins" on Saturday, October 27 and November 3 at 2 p.m. in the auditorium of the Mount Royal School located at 121 McMechen St. Tickets are $3 per person. For further information call 225-0052.

Friday Plus

The weekly entertainment leisure guide for the greater Baltimore and Washington areas. Published by the AFRO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS group.

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Listz Society Festival

The Peabody Conservatory is hosting the 20th Anniversary American Liszt Society Festival starting Thursday, November 1 until Sunday, November 4. Over 40 well-known pianists, composers, educators, and critics will participate including the Morgan State University and Baltimore High School for the Arts Choruses. Nathan Carter is the director. For more information call 659-8124.

Halloween Insomniac Tour

On Saturday night to Sunday morning, October 28 starting at 1:30 a.m. and ending at sunrise, Baltimore Rent-A-Tour is sponsoring its annual Halloween Insomniac Tour. Reservations are required and can be obtained by calling 653-2998.

Walter's Art Gallery Anniversary Party

The Walter's Art Gallery will celebrate 50 years as a public museum on Sunday, November 4 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. with free admission and a birthday party sponsored by WJZ-TV. For further information call 547-ARTS.

New Play Opens At Kennedy Center

"The Nest of the Wood Grouse," a new play by Soviet writer Victor Rozov, starring Anne Jackson and Eli Wilach, will open a six-week run at the Eisenhower Theatre of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 27. For information call 202-254-3670.

Halloween Costume Workshop

On Saturday, October 27 at 1:30 p.m. The Walters Art Gallery is sponsoring a Halloween Costume Workshop where parents and children can create their own costumes. There will also be a showing of the film "The Legends of Sleepy Hollow." Admission is $5. For more information call 547-9000.

"Oliver!"

F. Scott Black's TowsonTowne Musical Dinner Theatre, located at 7800 York Rd. will present "Oliver!" starting Thursday, November 1. For reservations or other information call 321-6595.

Halloween Costume Party At AACC

The Student Association of Anne Arundel Community College is hosting a free Children's Halloween Costume party on Wednesday, October 31 from 3:30 to 5 p.m. on the lower floor of the Student Center. For more information call 269-7336.

Poetry At Maryland Institute

Kenneth Koch will be reading his poems at the Maryland Institute, College of Art on Thursday, October 25 at 8:00 p.m. General admission is $2. For more information call 669-9200.

Enoch Pratt Library

A three-day festival, celebrating the art of storytelling, will offer workshops, exhibits, films, and a variety of storytelling sessions on October 26 to October 28 at the Central Enoch Pratt Free Library. Admission is FREE. For more information call 396-5494.

Bolton Hill Dinner Theatre

"Opal's Million Dollar Duck," starring Verna Day and Joan Coursey, continues at the Bolton Hill Dinner Theatre until Sunday, October 28. For more information call 523-1000.

Mayor's Ball

The Mayor's Ball, for the benefit of the Arts will be held on Saturday, November 3 from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Baltimore Convention Center. For more details call 396-4575.

WHAT'S AHEAD

"SUGAR BABIES" COMING

"Sugar Babies," starring Mickey Rooney, will open at the Warner Theatre on Wednesday, November 7. The theatre is located at 513 13th St., N.W. For information on tickets and performances call 202-626-1050.

DANCE CLASSES AT HOWARD

The dance division of the Howard University department of physical education will present a master class in Caribbean dance on November 9 from 4 to 5:30 p.m. on the main campus. Admission is $5. For further information call 202-636-7175.

MARYLAND HONEY FESTIVAL

The Maryland State Beekeepers Association will present the Maryland Honey Festival on November 2 and 3 at the Lexington Market from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days. For more information call 685-5170 or 448-1777.

"GOLD ON SILVER" AT PRATT LIBRARY

"Gold On Silver," a three-part series of film and discussion programs focusing on the "golden years" of life as portrayed on the screen, will be presented on Thursdays, November 1, 8, and 15 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Central Pratt Library, 400 Cathedral St. Admission is free. For more information call 396-5494.

BALTIMORE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

The Baltimore Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Anne Harrigan, will perform at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, November 9 at the Gilman School. Tickets are $6 for general admission and $3 for senior citizens and students. For more information call 366-8973 or 276-2967.

NATIONAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY

The National Shakespeare Company will perform "MacBeth" at Anne Arundel Community College on Friday, December 7 at 8 p.m. in the Center for the Performing Arts. For information call 269-7340.

AUDITIONS

The Vagabond Players will hold auditions for "The Murdergame" on November 5 and 6 from 7 to 10 p.m. For further information call 563-9135.

"THE PRICE" AT THE SOURCE THEATRE

The Source Theatre will present Arthur Miller's drama "The Price," starting November 1. The theatre is located at 1716 14th St., N.W. For further information call 202-462-1073.

Greenberg's Great Train

Greenberg's Show, a huge selection of model railroad trains, railroadiana, miniature and doll goods will occur on November 3 and 4 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., both days at the Sheraton Exhibition Hall in New Carrollton. For more details call 795-7447.

Arena Players Present

A medley of one act plays by Tennessee Williams will be presented by the Arena Players beginning Friday, November 2. The playhouse is located at 801 McCulloh St. For details on times and ticket prices call 728-6500.

Choral Arts Society

The Baltimore Choral Arts Society will open its season on Saturday, November 3 at 8 p.m. in the Kraushaar Auditorium of Goucher College with a program featuring "Music of Handel". For more information call 523-7070.

"Pirates of Penzance"

Dockside Musicals presents "Pirates of Penzance" by Gilbert and Sullivan on Friday, November 16 and Saturday, November 17 aboard the Port Welcome at Harborplace. This will be a Broadway style musical with a buffet dinner. For more information call 366-5898.

"Places In The Heart": touching yet predictable

Academy Award Winner Sally Field (Best Actress "Norma Rae") portrays Edna Spalding, a widow fiercely determined to hold on to her farm and her family during the Great Depression in "Places in the Heart."

After her sheriff husband is killed in the line of duty, Edna finds herself robbed of the financial security that 15 years of marriage had provided for herself and her children. Her life as a married woman was so sheltered that she admits at one point that she didn't even know what her husband's salary was. When confronted with a mountain of his debts and the possibility of breaking up her family and selling her farm, Edna decides to tough it out. With the expertise of Moze, a black drifter (Danny Glover), she plans to produce a cotton crop that will enable her to keep the wolf from the door.

Together the once pampered white woman, whose land the bank hungers for, and the smart black man, who must hide his intelligene when in the presence of white men, form a prosperous alliance and successfully farm the land.

"Places in the Heart" is as simple a story as it sounds: obstacles are placed in the heroine's path and she overcomes them. It should make for an emotionally touching film, but despite good performances by Miss Field and Glover, the film never quite touches the heart. The transition is never made from mere movie to moving drama. The film is so overloaded with predictable situations and stock characters that reality and real emotion seldom shine through.

For much of the film writer/director Robert Benton (an Academy Award Winner for "Kramer vs Kramer") keeps interrupting the story of Edna's struggles with another storyline involving the adulterous affair of Edna's brother-in-law (Ed Harris) and her wife's friend. Because this affair never relates to saving Edna's farm or family, it is only an annoying distraction. Screen time is wasted on the affair which should have been spent developing Edna, Moze or the children as real life people.

Field is good and tries hard to make her character into more than a symbol of determined womanhood, but she is ultimately done in by the shallowness of the character she is portraying. Glover's performance is as credible as Miss Field's despite the fact that his role is little more than a rehash of the old "good darky" roles we've seen in countless films. But in 1984 do we really need another film in which a black man comes to the aid of a distressed white lady? Poitier did it in both "A Patch of Blue" and "Lilies of the Field," but 20 years later it seems a bit stale. Like Field, Glover suffers from a poorly developed script. Unlike her, however, he also suffers from stereotyped-writing which views the black man as a powerless, sexless and selfless friend of needy white people.

Although Director Benton tries to parallel the lives of the whites and blacks in his film, blacks are still given little character development as individuals. For example, when Moze recruits black cotton pickers for Edna, they remain characterless and speechless. We are then told what painful, back-breaking work it is to pick cotton, and then only Edna is shown suffering and bleeding while picking it. But why should we feel sorry for her when she OWNS the farm and does not have to suffer the indignities of white racism in the 1930's? What about the black women in the field with her who are working for her and will probably spend the rest of their lives in the cotton fields of others? Who is really the noble one here? The white woman who will make it in life anyway, or the black people who have no opportunity to advance themselves or to protect themselves from a hostile and hypocritical society?

And after he is violently beaten by the Klan, Moze packs his things and leaves town under cover of night so that Edna's children won't see him bruised and bloodied. Instead of showing the children the handiwork of racism and teaching them a lesson in humanity, Moze scampers away like a kicked dog.

To be honest, none of the characters in "Places in the Heart" is adequately developed. each is a well worn stereotype. This film wants to tell the story of heroic Americans, but fails to realize the real story here — the story of black Americans who have survived the Depression of the 400 years in America.

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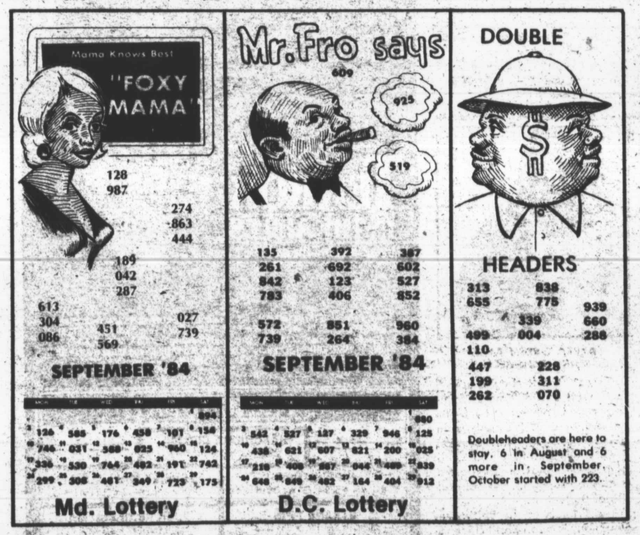

SCHWARZENEGGER
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BOULEVARD 33rd & Greenmount 235-2021
LIBERTY Liberty & Old Court 655-7600
PATTERSON 3135 Eastern Ave 675-0943
RITCHIE CINEMA Ritchie Hwy at Ordnance Rd 768-3440
TIMONIUM CINEMA York Rd Opp Fair Grounds 252-2202
TOLLGATE MOVIES Bel Air, MD 879-4830
TOWN 311 W Fayette 539-7294 With LONE WOLF McQUADE
WESTVIEW CINEMA 6026 Baltimore Nat'l Pike 747-3600