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 information 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.

"The Princess And The Goblins"

The Children's Theatre Association will present "The Princess and the Goblins" on Saturday, 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.

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.

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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"Olivert"

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

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.

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.

Gordon Parks Exhibit

Internationally known photographer Gordon Parks will have a retrospective exhibition of more than 170 of his photographs at the Baltimore Museum of Art through November 11. There will also be other activities in connection with the exhibition. For more infomation on time and dates call 396-6314.

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 12th St., N.W. For information on tickets and performances call 202-626-1050.

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.

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.

New Play At Kennedy Center

"The Nest of the Wood Grouse," a new play by Soviet writer Victor Rozov, starring Anne Jackson and Eli Wilach, will run at the Eisenhower Theatre of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. For information call 202-254-3670.

"Madame Rosa" At Pratt Library

Simone Signoret plays an aging ex-prostitute who leads a precarious existence while trying to help the cast-off children of the Parisian slums in "Madame Rosa" the academy award winning film being shown at the Enoch Pratt Library on Thursday, November 15. Admission is free. For further details call 396-5494.

Ashford and Simpson coming

The popular duo, Nick Ashford and Valerie Simpson, will perform at Painters Mill Theatre on Friday, November 30 at 8 p.m. For more information call 363-0810.

"Peter Pan" at the Lyric

The Baltimore Actor's Theatre is presenting "Peter Pan" at the Lyric Opera House on December 7, 8, and 9. Helen Grigal will star as the boy who won't grow up." For information on ticket prices and performance times call 667-8427.

Jean Stapleton to perform

The Baltimore Opera Company is presenting Jean Stapleton in "Candide" on November 8, 9, 11, and 14 at the Lyric Opera House at 8:15 p.m. Ticket prices are from $15. For tickets call Telecharge at 625-1400.

Yul Brynner returns

"The King and I", starring Yul Brynner, comes to the Warner Theatre starting December 6. Tickets range between $20 to $35. For further information call 202-626-1050.

"Baltimore Expressions"

"Baltimore Expressions," a joint project of WJZ-TV, CPMA and the Southeast Dairy Association will be held on Sunday, November 11 at the Senator Theatre. Tickets are $1 in advance and $2 at the door. For more information call 539-1369.

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.

"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.

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.

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.

Crystal Skate and AHA

Crystal Skate and the American Heart Association will present "Radiant" in concert on Friday, December 14 for two shows. This concert will benefit the American Heart Association and tickets are $7. For further infomation call 894-8500.

Alvin Ailey Dancers

The Urban Services Agency is sponsoring the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre at the Lyric Opera House on February 1 and 2 for three performances. For more details call 396-3181.

Spotlight On.....

G & G Lounge: Where the action is

By Bonnie Matthews Butler

If you're into oldies but goodies," and you don't know about the G&G Lounge out on Edmondson Ave., you should.

On a trip last Wednesday, Candy Woingust and I discovered Wilbert Cox, otherwise known as "Mr. Kool," who spins oldies that are really oldies.

In fact, "Mr. Kool" starts with oldies from the 60's and goes all the way to the 80's.

There is nothing like hearing Stevie Wonder doing "You Are The Sunshine Of My Life," "For Once In My Life" and "Living For The City" cleverly mixed by this ingenious DJ;

Or "Let's Get It On" and "Got To Give It Up" by Marvin Gaye. He also goes back further to tunes from the "old Motown" gang like Mary Wells and The Supremes.

This portion of his program take you back to those good ole days and the patrons there, during this segment, clearly enjoyed themselves.

It was when he got into the 80's that the mood of the club changed. The 23-35 crowd took over and the disco music thumped loudly and shook the entire room. The blend of music on the night we were there made the atmosphere conducive to a really good party.

Phyllis Hill served our group that night and I must say, she was efficient and never kept us waiting even though she was swamped.

Our next foray was on Friday. This night serves a two-fold purpose for the nightclub. First, they have an exotic dancing troupe, "Vanity Exotic Shows and Strip-A-Gram" there so that the Liquor Board and elected officials could see that their recent problems were not of their doing.

(G and G recently received a fine for having lewd and indecent strippers, but has maintained they only rented the room and was not aware how vile the night would become).

After Vanity and Co.'s performance, many of the patrons showed no sign of shock; in fact, participated in the activities without any form of touching or suggestion. These ladies and gentlemen showed a lot of class during their time on stage and while they were alluring, they never gave you a feeling of tackiness.

You could actually watch their whole show. Del. Nathenial Oaks agreed.

He came to the show because he was concerned about the complaints he had received about this club from his constituents and the owners were eager to show him and the other patrons exactly the type of show they would have put on if they were going to sponsor one.

Del. Oaks indicated that "as long as they don't touch, (and they didn't) and if what the performers do is legal (and it was)", he "sees nothing wrong with presenting a show of this type".

Oaks stated that he "testified on behalf of the management during their recent troubles with the Liquor Board" because he "had heard that the trouble they got into was because they rented the space out."

Also on the agenda was Nikki Cooper and Diamond "N" The Ruff.

Joe Griffin and Joe Gordon — owners of G & G Lounge

The Diamond part is made up of Bobby Ward, drums; Andy Ennis, tenor sax; and Thomas Hurley, organ. These men are getting a lot of work, because they are talented and are aggressively promoted by Rosa Pryor.

Nikki Cooper is something else. She exudes a lot of personality and well-trained vocal chords. The arrangements on the tunes she chose to sing are well written and Nikki is definitely on her way to something big.

If she continues to work and perfect her natural ability, she could, one day, end up singing in the major halls. One thing, though, Nikki, talk to the audience a little more so your true personality will come out.

After these two exciting moments, the music reverted to the latest tunes, again spun by "Mr. Kool". He played all of the latest music and the crowd danced until the very end of the evening.

To top this, we decided to give the kitchen a try. Out of a wide assortment of choices (especially for a club of this type) we selected the club sandwich. It was one of the freshest and tastiest sandwiches we have had at a night club in Baltimore at 12 a.m.

We would like to point out here that unless you have been there before or see someone eating, you would never know you could eat in that room.

Please post a sign, fellas, so the customers will know. That food is so good more people will want to eat it. My compliments to the chef.

G and G Lounge also has a first floor bar where you can play video games and hold a conversation. The only other activity there is a juke box but the nights we were there the place was full and everyone was having a grand time.

The atmosphere is more casual here and the drinks are served just as pleasantly.

We must commend the manager of this establishment, Mike Thornton, the barmaids on the second level, Phyllis Hill, Linda Little, Maria Fletcher, and Lois Moody, and the owners Joe Griffin and Joe Gordon, for having an establishment that serves good food, has good music (live and on records).

It also provides an atmosphere for good people like Joyce Scott and Nelda Lucas to spend their evenings.

Nikki Cooper and Diamond "N" The Ruff

Phyllis Hill, Linda Little, Maria Fletcher and Lois Moody mix the drinks at the G & G Lounge

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