## Bob Matthews

### NIGHT SCENE SEEN

This is the week that the jazz world is at its zenith in Baltimore as three top artists make appearances.

At Towson State University, Miles Davis and his group will appear in concert, which will be his first in Baltimore in quite a while.

Have been asked by many jazz novices about the style of music Miles is into these days, and if you are expecting to hear the Miles of the 50s and 60s, forget it.

Obviously Miles doesn't have the power to execute musical passages he once possessed, but his ideas are ever fresh and different.

As a lot of musicians are doing today, Miles uses electronic instrumentation in his backup groups, although Miles himself sticks with the acoustic.

He does use a microphone attached to his horn, as does Sonny Rollins and some of the other musicians who want the freedom this affords in physical movement.

The last time we saw Miles, which was just over a year ago, he was exhibiting a mellowed out stage approach, facing and acknowledging the audience.

As for the music, Miles is still blowing his thing — but the background is far different — unless you have stuck with his progressions since the album "Bitches Brew" brought about the "fusion" sound.

On the bill with Miles is Herbie Mann, along with guitarist O'Donel Levy. Mann has been using O'Donel for almost a year now. The duo have played European dates together, as well as many outings in this country.

—

The Left Bank Jazz Society presents a real blockbuster this Sunday at Pascals, as Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers are the featured artists.

Blakey is no stranger to LBJS, in fact, his visits are eagerly looked forward to, for he always brings in at least one new musician, and we are constantly amazed at his ability to unearth top talent.

Do know that he will have Terence Blanchard, trumpet; Daniel Harrison, alto sax; Jean Toussaint, tenor sax and Lonnie Plexico, bass.

Haven't been able to find out the name of the pianist, but am sure he continues in the Messengers tradition.

—

Also on Sunday, Gentlemen 10 is having a benefit concert for Project Survival, and presenting Jr. Walker and the All - stars.

It's being billed as a cabaret - dance and will be held at the Gentlemen 10, in the 2100 block Edmondson Ave.

—

Didn't make it to LBJS last week, but our spies report that Arnold Sterling had a rip - roaring session.

The lineup was a bit of a surprise, with Phil Harper, trumpet; Charlie Covington, piano; Gary Richardson, bass, and Vance James, drums.

In addition, there were "sit - in" spots by Antonia Hart on alto sax, and William Goffigan on congas; Earl Omara sang a couple of tunes.

Must confess that we didn't get to LBJS because we traveled to the Central Pa. Friends of Jazz session in Harrisburg, where Sir Roland Hanna headed up a group.

With him were Frank Wess, reeds; Ray Drummond, bass, and Billy Hart, drums.

Won't go into a review of the concert, but sufficeth it to say that we hope LBJS — or somebody — brings Hanna into Baltimore for a performance. Had forgotten just how spectacular his playing is.

As we remarked to one of the auditors, "haven't heard a left hand played like that since the days of Errol Garner."

—

Just a reminder, Cecil Taylor and Reuben Brown are in concert at Baird Auditorium at the Smithsonian in D.C. tonight (Friday).

If you can, you should.

## Pumpkin Theatre....creative drama for kids

For years creative drama exponents have been urging educators to introduce drama into the classroom — both in the sense of play-acting and role-playing, and in the sense of involving students' emotions and bringing textbook situations to life.

The response of educators has not been overwhelming.

Now a children's theatre group, Pumpkin Theatre in Roland Park, is approaching creative drama from the opposite direction. Experts in children's theatre, the Pumpkin actors are adapting their performances — which so successfully engage the hearts and minds of young audiences — to education.

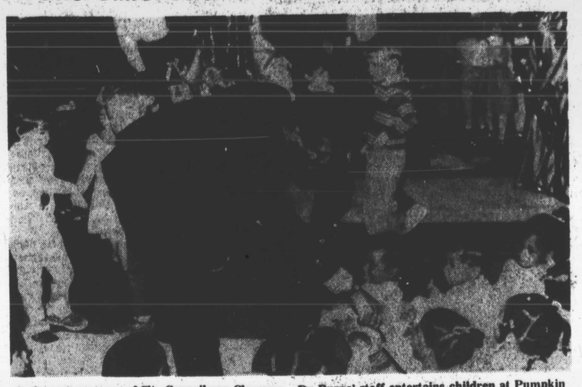
The new Pumpkin Theatre program, called "Pathway to Literature and the Arts," in fact goes well beyond what is usually thought of as arts education — the latter-day Cinderella of classroom studies. "Pathway" takes an almost Renaissance approach to literature and the arts as the great teachers of humanity and civility.

It aims to get children to discuss and think about the characters they see portrayed on the stage and to ask why the hero and heroine are "good guys" and why the ogre and the wicked witch are "villians."

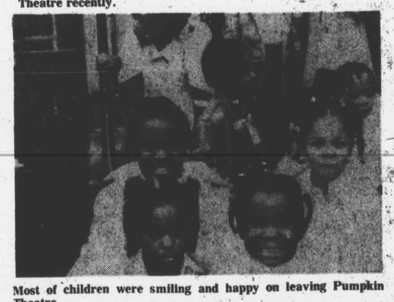
This moral approach restores the traditional fairy stories (such as "The Sleeping Beauty" and "Puss in Boots") to their original role as little myths, cautionary tales and vehicles for the transmission of cultural values.

Fairy stories have always worked in this way because they appeal to the imagination and deal with deep emotional issues in a memorable and entertaining way. The theme of Pumpkin Theatre's first production, "The Sleeping Beauty," will be kindness, what it means in the context of the play and in the experience of the children in the audience.

But "Pathway" is not only a modern morality theatre. It is just as concerned to encourage children to express themselves through writing, drawing, and painting, and to explore books with adults and on their own. They will even learn to make up their own book, as part of the emphasis on student involvement, and also learn how to be a good audience.



Anthony Armstrong of City Councilman Clarence Du Burns' staff entertains children at Pumpkin Theatre recently.



Most of children were smiling and happy on leaving Pumpkin Theatre.

## Celebrities

Singer - entertainer GLADYS KNIGHT was inducted as an honorary member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority when the 51st national meeting was held in October in Washington, D.C. Other honorary members inducted were Lillian Parks, author of "Backstairs at the White House" and Patricia Gibson, head of D. Parke Gibson Public Relations in New York.

— —

Radio station KDIA, a popular soul-music station in the San Francisco Bay Area, will soon change its format from the soul and popular music that has made it one of the most listened to radio stations in the black community.

Within the next month or so the station's format will be changed to 24 hours all-news.

KDIA was recently purchased by Powell Communications, Inc., whose president, Adam Clayton Powell III, served as news director at WINS, a 24 hour news station in New York City.

John Wheeling, who will serve as the news director for the news station, said the move is a positive one that will not hurt the station's ratings because he believes there is a market for an all-news station.

"In large radio markets," he said, "all news stations have been very successful." Wheeling said an all-news station would be an asset to the Bay Area because none exits at the present time.

— —

GARY COLEMAN, young star of NBC-TV's "Diff'rent Strokes", is doing great following his recent kidney-transplant operation. On the morning following surgery he took one look at his first meal - custard and a Popsicle - and tried to talk the doctor into swapping it for some chicken and a candy bar. No luck.

— —

The "new look" on the face of KIM FIELDS in upcoming segments of "The Facts of Life" is caused by the fact that the braces she has worn on her teeth during the past three seasons have finally been removed.

— —

Yes, that's CY CURNIN and JAMIE WEST-ORAM of The Fixx in TINA TURNER's video of "Better Be Good To Me." Seems that while recording their current album Phantoms, Cy and Jamie took time to participate in the current successful come - back LP by Tina, and in return, she graciously flew the Fixx duo to Los Angeles to appear in her video.

The timing was perfect, as the band had a few days off between recording and departing for their current headline world tour. For the uninitiated, that is Cy dancing wildly with Tina, and Jamie is on guitar. Furthermore, Phantoms has zipped right by gold in this country within two weeks of release.

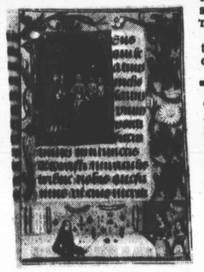
— —

Oscar - nominated DIAHANN CARROLL, the beautiful and versatile new star addition to the cast of "Dynasty", has joined three other stars of the highly rated ABC series - John Forsythe, Linda Evans and Joan Collins - in "Night of 100 Stars II," the three-hour spectacular that will air in the spring of 1985 on the ABC Television Network.

SUPPORTING — Motown star Lionel Richie gives a listen to Thomas McClary's debut solo recording effort and do a little backgrounding on the single "Thin Walls." McClary is second member to depart the Commodores. Above, Richie, McClary and engineer, Steve Poulliet. In background, Howard Kinney.

## Arts and Music

**Illuminated Manuscripts: Masterpieces in Miniature,** the most comprehensive manuscript exhibition ever organized from the permanent collection of The Walters Art Gallery, Baltimore now through Janauary 13, 1985. The Walters' illuminated manuscript collection is among the finest in America, ranking with The Pierpont Morgan Library in New York and The Getty Museum in California. It is comprised of over 800 items that range in date from the late 9th century to the early 20th century with a geographical scope extending from England across Europe to Armenia, Greece, Persia and India.



Late 15th Century Illuminated Manuscript now at Walters Art Gallery.

— —

FOR BALLET LOVERS- The Joffrey Ballet now at the Kennedy Center in D.C. thru Dec. 16. They will present a complete evening of ballets created by Sir Frederick Ashton, one of the world's greatest choreographers in honor of his 80th birthday. They will also do John Cranko's famed "Romeo and Juliet" and the Washington premiere of Gerald Arpino's salute to the American Southwest.

Tickets are now on sale for the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre's presentation at the Lyric Opera House Friday and Saturday, Feb. 1-2.

— —

Winter Festival of the Arts, a three-day arts celebration, will be held in the Fine and Performing Arts Center of Catonsville Community College through Friday, Dec. 7. Leading off the events will be a student art show in the Theatre lounge, presenting a juried exhibition of student works in various media.

— —

Two of the world's most popular ballets — "The Nutcracker" and "Peter and the Wolf" — return to Maryland Public Television (MPT) in December as part of the 12-day on-air membership drive from Dec. 1 through Dec. 12 on TV 22, 28, 31, 36, 62 and 67.

Olympic gold medalist John Curry headlines as evening of breathtaking ice ballet in "John Curry Skates Peter and the Wolf" on Sunday, Dec. 2 at 7 p.m. Peter Ustinov narrates this one-hour special featuring performances of "Peter and the Wolf" and "The Competition," choreographed by John Curry, and "Tango, Tango," choreographed by Peter Martins of the New York City Ballet. Principal skating stars include Jo Jo Starbuck, Jack Courtney, Cathy Foulkes, Sarah Kawahara, Paul Toomey and Patricia Dodd.

Friday Plus
THE WEEKLY ENTERTAINMENT/ LEISURE TIME GUIDE FOR WASHINGTON AND BALTIMORE
Includes A Complete T.V. Guide
Published every week-end in the Baltimore and Washington AFRO-AMERICAN
You know because you read... the AFRO
For further information, contact our Advertising Representative at (202) 332-0083

BAY ISLAND SEA FOOD

"CAN'T BE BEAT"
WE WILL BE OPEN ALL WINTER
METRO PLAZA AT MONDAWMIN
523-0600
PRATT & MONROE STREETS
566-0200
Specializing in Fresh Seafood Daily
SEAFOOD DINNERS, SANDWICHES FRIED CHICKEN

TAKE METRO...
Special Shopping Service
THIS SATURDAY
Baltimore Metro Open
9 A.M. to 9 P.M.

75¢ base fare plus zone and transfer charges.
Metro Connection bus service not in operation. Call 539-5000 for more information.

Friday Plus
THE WEEKLY ENTERTAINMENT/ LEISURE TIME GUIDE FOR THE BALTIMORE AND WASHINGTON AFRO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS
November 30, 1984
Vol. 2, No. 59

## Chaka Khan

Joseph Meyerhoff Concert Hall
Baltimore, Md.
Wednesday, December 5

(See Story Page 5)

## Miles Davis

Towson State University
Sunday, December 2

(See Story Page 5)