Carl Matthews SOUNDS

MELI'SA MORGAN
"Do Me Baby" (Capitol)

She has the number 8 black album and the number 16 black single in the country this week. Her name is Meli'sa Morgan.

The Queens, New York native has performed as a background singer on records by such artists as Melba Moore, Kashif, and Whitney Houston. Her hit single was produced by Paul Laurence, who has worked with Freddie Jackson on "Rock Me Tonight."

Most of side one was written by Meli'sa in collaboration with Lesette Wilson, who plays keyboards. The funky "Fool's Paradise" opens side one, and while this is not the same as the song Rufus And Chaka Khan recorded about 10 years ago, this is certainly performed in a Rufus-like style.

"Heart Breaking Decision," "Do You Still Love Me?" and "I'll Give It When I Want It," while unremarkable composition-wise, make side one pleasant listening.

Side two contains 5:17 of "Do Me Baby," the mellow number played in that same "Rock Me Tonight" style that has already proven itself a big seller. Fans should also like "Now Or Never," another slow one.

Your average R&B/pop album, of course.

Other cuts: "Getting To Know You Better," "Lies."

"Falco 3"
FALCO (A&M)

Now, this album is number 18 on the national charts, with the current hit single "Rock Me Amadeus" at number 4 on the national pop charts and number 28 on the **black singles** charts. It's by the Austrian musician Falco.

Ever hear of Falco? If not, here's a little background. The 19-year-old artist was born Johann Holzel in Vienna. In 1981, he had a hit with the original version of "Der Kommissar," one of the more interesting rap songs by a white artist at the time. That song appeared on Falco's first album, "Einzelhaft." Falco's second LP was "Junge Roemer" (1984).

Much of his latest album was recorded in Holland. So if you're into hip, foreign dance-rock with a sense of humor, you might get into Falco today. After all, "1756, Salzburg, January 27th, Wolfgang Amadeus was born; 1761, at the age of five, Amadeus begins composing..." is not the way most rock and roll songs begin, but never let it be said that Mozart has never been mentioned in a top-40 record.

"America" is another lively number which sounds sort of like a Springsteen track done in German, and "Vienna Calling" is more of that upbeat rap you may already know from "Der Kommissar."

There are more interesting musical hooks in such tracks as "Nothin' Sweeter Than Arabia" and "Macho Macho" each with its own instrumental personality, and Falco tackles a Dylan number with "It's All Over Now, Baby Blue."

So, if you're into other artists who are big outside of the U.S.A. (Culture Club for example), check out a little Falco music and perhaps, you may learn something. You might learn how to rap in German. You might learn how to treat girls in Munich. You might even learn what year Mozart became a freemason! Isn't it wonderful?

JOYCE SIMS
"(You Are My) All And All" (Sleeping Bag)

This rocker was produced and mixed by Mantronix, the folks who gave us the rap 12-inch hits "Fresh Is The Word" and "Needle To The Groove," and most recently, "Mantronix," the album.

And therefore, it is no surprise that the tracks marked "Take Twelve" (6:10) and "Radio Edit" (4:16) share the same sort of bland predictableness heard on Mantronix's records. For club-discophiles only.

ICHELLE COLE
"Feed Ethiopia" (Hot Stuff)

Here is some good solid reggae message music on a local label, written and produced by Ichelle Cole, leader and founder of Striker's Posse, a group of seven experienced musicians.

Keyboard player Ichelle Cole is a former member of the Mighty Invaders, a popular East Coast reggae group. She also appeared on a single last year by Peace Of Mind ("Woman In Nightclub").

Yvonne Deane, who was the lead vocalist of The Mighty Invaders, and Inara McQueen, who hosts a local radio show, also appear on side one of this 12-inch single, recorded last year.

Side one, "Feed Ethiopia" (6:34) is their contribution towards aiding the hungry in East Africa. The vocals are harmony-rich and the rhythms and instrumental arrangements are done with the same sort of gusto common to Bunny Wailer's finer works.

Meli'sa Morgan

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V-103's Top Twenty

1. How Will I Know	Whitney Houston
2. Your Smile	Rene And Angela
3. When The Going Gets Tough	Billy Ocean
4. Computer Love	Zapp
5. What Have You Done For Me Lately	Janet Jackson
6. Secret Lovers	Atlantic Star
7. Another Night	Aretha Franklin
8. Hot	Ray Ayers
9. Love For Two	Teddy Pendergrass
10. After You	Bernard Wright
11. Do Me Baby	Meli'sa Morgan
12. I Can't Wait	Nu Shooz
13. Funky Little Beat	Connie
14. Pain	Betty Wright
15. Guilty	Yarbrough And Peoples
16. Nightmares	Dana Dane
17. Tender Love	Force M.D.'s
18. If You Should Ever Be Lonely	Val Young
19. I'd Rather Be By Myself	EBO
20. No More	Shirley Murdock

Murphy makes room for his own room

By Cindy Adams

Eddie Murphy is about to open his own comedy room called — for some oddball reason — Eddie Murphy's Comedy Room. It will be located in Atlantic City's Sands Hotel. Opening day is Memorial Day, and Eddie, who's starting a $25-million picture deal with a 12-week shooting schedule, will appear opening night. He may even work there a few weeks a year.

$8 million, which is definitely enough to buy us sophisticated nightclubers a free Cuba Libre at Eddie Murphy's Comedy Room.

What will he get out of the gigs A salary Commission? Says the comic's brilliant manager: 'Only the world. That's what he'll get out of it. They'll give him a percentage of the door. Eddie doesn't exactly work on a budget, y'know."

Eddie Murphy

I know. What I supposedly don't know is that Eddie's making a new deal with Paramount.

— Diner's Digest

Continued from page 4

Chaucroute Alsacienne, which is a mixture of sauerkraut, bratwurst, garlic sausage and smoked pork with steamed potatos. And for the less adventurous, there is the omnipresent ground sirlainburger, an American tradition.

Steak Au Poivre was my choice while my dining companion chose Maryland Crab Cakes. Steak Au Poivre is prepared from center cut tenderlain that is covered on Both sides with coarsely ground pepper when cooked and served with a brandy peppercorn sauce. You will love this dish, especially if you have acquired a taste for pepper.

While some people like to eat Steak Au Poivre with all of its peppery crust, I prefer to scrape most of it away and just enjoy the beef with the taste of pepper cooked all the way through. The Brandy Peppercorn Sauce complemented the steak perfectly, with the brandy taste coming through strong enough to combine with the peppery in blissful union. Unfortunately, my partner found the crabcakes to be too heavily breaded and lacking in seasoning.

One of the best components of the meal was the fresh ground Guatemalan coffee which is absolutely spectacular and that is available from the boutique for home use. The coffee alone makes a trip to Jacqueline (cafe, bistro, etc.) worthwhile.

'A Coupla White Chicks': no slurs, good theatre

By Bob Matthews

The two-character play, **A Coupla White Chicks Sitting Around Talking** opened at the Mechanic Theatre Tuesday night for little better than a two-week run.

When word came that this production was headed for Baltimore, there was great speculation over exactly what the title meant. Now, after watching the opening night performance, the question remains.

The play tells the story of two suburban housewives in Westchester County, New York, one of whom is the consummate neatness-freak, everything-in-its-place housewife.

The other, a newcomer to the area from the Dallas-Ft. Worth section of Texas, who is both brassy, and inwardly sensitive—you know, the old slut with the heart of gold-type.

Maude Mix, the neat one, is played by Sandy Dennis who is simply ex uisite in the role. Elizabeth Ashley is the unwelcome, intruding neighbor, Hannah Mae Bindler, who has mastered the twangy accent common in the Southwest.

The comedy is pleasant enough, evoking titters rather than guffaws, and never quite reaches that "Eeeeh Haw, Ring-a-ding-ding" atmosphere that is expected.

This may be, in part, because of the immensity of the stage—the intimacy prevalent in a smaller arena would serve well here. The staging, and production, however are first rate.

All of the action takes place in the kitchen of Maude Mix in the town of Fox Hollow. The action stretches through three scenes, covering Monday morning through Sunday night.

The action is led into, and out of via recorded music, including 6 pre-show tunes, and 12 other songs spreed throughout the production. This too, would be more effective in smaller surroundings.

After the brash transplanted Texan intrudes, unwanted, into the life of a protesting, conservative matron, the machinations evolve including a dissolution of the matron's marriage, and a one-night-stand (or morning, in this case) with the Texan's husband.

There is a lot of weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth, but true to all comedies, this one has a happy ending—or rather it ends on a placid note, with Maude sitting alone in the middle of her once model kitchen.

Which leaves one to wonder still, why the title?

Unless it was done as a deliberate attempt to draw attention to the production, it begs the question of why it couldn't be called simply "A Couple of Chicks Sitting Around Talking."

There is no racial nor ethnic slur discernible in the production, in fact the impression delivered is quite the opposite—yet, there is that title.

Ah well, it is a distinct pleasure to see such a well-acted play in our town, and this one is at the top of the heap. It will be at the Mechanic Theatre through Sunday, March 30.

For further information, call 625-1400.

— All That Jazz

Continued from page 4

youngster growing up in a household where the music is a major item. He vividly remembers his father, **Wilbert Brown**, a big band leader in days past, bringing home many of the top musicians on a regular basis.

His father was once a backup artist with **Bella Reese**, who was in town last week. Gary positively glowed when he remembered: "My father had her over to the house for dinner many times."

Take my word for it — Gary is hot. You'll be hearing a lot from him.

— —

Over at the **Jazz Closet, Gary Bartz** continues to head up the weekend sets, with trumpet players being featured artists for a while, it's being called "March to the Trumpets."

For the past two weekends, **Eddie Henderson** has been the trumpeter in residence, and will continue this weekend. In addition, so we've been told, **Bill Hardman** will also be performing.

Sounds like a real winner to me, especially since the backup group is the Willie Barber Trio, with Willie on drums, Freddie Thaxton, piano, and Andrew Rock, bass.

They'll be in place through Sunday night.

— —

Sunday, March 23, the **Central Pennsylvania Friends of Jazz** host its regular monthly concert in Camp Hill, PA, just outside Harrisburg.

Al Cohn is the featured artist for this set, along with **Steve Cohn**, guitar; **Steve Gilmore**, bass; **Benny Aronov**, piano, and **Bill Goodwin**, drums.

In addition, the Steelton Highspire H.S. Jazz Band opens for the group, and takes the stage from 4-5 p.m., followed by Al Cohn et al.

— —

Over in D.C., **Ramsey Lewis** is at **Blues Alley** through Sunday night. ... **Sonny Fortune** is at **One Step Down** tonight and Saturday .... WPFW-FM is celebrating its 9th birthday with a Jazz Fete at the Panorama Room, 1600 Morris Rd., SE. **Lawrence Wheatley** and the musical group "Eight to the Bar" will head up the session, which will be emceed by **Map** (Don't forget the blues) **Turner.**

Boot Miss Taylor has scared her soap fans

By Kimberly Redmond

Q. My friends don't believe me when I tell them that Lauren-Marie Taylor, who portrays Stacey Donovan on "Loving," has appeared in a horror movie. Help!—D.N., Burlington City, N.J.

A. Miss Taylor appeared in two fright flicks, "Friday the 13th-Part II" and "Neighbors." She also had a brief stint on "Ryan's Hope" before landing "Loving."

Q. I have a question about A. Martinez, the actor who portrays Cruz Castillo on "Santa Barbara." Several years ago he played a character named Paco on another soap, but I can't remember which one. Can you help?—V.L., Idaho Falls, Idaho.

A. Martinez appeared on "Ryan's Hope" several years ago. There is no record of his character's name, but some suggest it was Paco. He has also been in the nighttime TV series "Storefront Lawyers," "Born to the Wind," "Cassie & Company" and "Whiz Kids." In addition, you might have seen him in the miniseries "Centennial."

Q. Please tell me the name of the blond actress who portrays Savannah Wilder on "Days of Our Lives." I think I've seen her somewhere before—A.H., Denver, Colo.

A. Her name is Shannon Tweed, and she once posed for a Playboy centerfold. She's also been frequently seen on the arm of her beau, rock star Gene Simmons.

Q: What happened to Christopher Holder, the actor who played Peter Love, on "Another World"? -- C.B., New York, N.Y.

A: Holder's exit from the NBC soap was never explained, but shortly after he left, the actor was replaced by Marcus Smythe. Holder now plays Wade McCall on "All My Children."

(Have a question about soap operas? Write Kimberly Redmond at 200 Park Ave., Room 602, New York, NY 10166. Questions cannot be answered personally, but those of general interest will be answered in future columns.)

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