—Best Bets—

THEATRE

"Anything Goes"

"Anything Goes," the 1934 Cole Porter musical, closes Dundalk Community Theatre's 11th season with performances at 8 p.m. on May 2, 3, 9, and 10 and at 7 p.m. on May 4 and 3 p.m. on May 11. For more information, call 522-5826.

"Peanuts" return to UMBC

Charles Schulz's delightful cartoon characters are appearing at UMBC in a musical dinner-theatre titled "Snoopy" at 6 p.m. on Friday, April 18 and Saturday, April 19, in the University Center Ballroom. The play is based on the award winner "Peanuts" comic strip. For more information, call 455-3462.

Auditions for "The Mikado"

The Hilton Musical Company announced auditions for a spring production of Gilbert and Sullivan's "The Mikado" on Sunday, April 13 at 3 p.m. and on Monday, April 14 at 7:30 p.m. Auditions will be conducted in the Theatre of the Fine and Performing Arts Center at Catonsville Community College. For more information, call 455-4599.

CONCERTS

Modern Dance Ensemble

The Morgan State University Modern Dance Ensemble will present its spring concert Friday-Sunday, April 18-20, at the Morgan State University Murphy Little Theatre. Performances will begin at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and at 3 p.m. on Sunday. For more information, call 444-3463.

Benefit Concert

The Manhattans, The Dells and The Chi-lites will give a benefit concert at the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall on May 3 at 8 p.m. The proceeds will be used to fund programming activities for the Baltimore Branch of the NAACP. For more information, call 962-1444.

Peabody Wind Ensemble

The Peabody Conservatory of Music presents the Peabody Wind Ensemble, under the direction of Gene Young, in concert on Friday, April 25 at 8:15 p.m. in the Miriam A. Friedberg Concert Hall. The program includes the Schero from "Over the Pavements." For more information, call 659-8124.

Community Orchestra Concert

The Anne Arundel Community College presents its community orchestra in concert on Sunday, May 4 at 7:30 p.m. at the Pascal Center. Admission is free to the public. For more information, call 269-7341.

Cissy Houston In Concert

The St. Pius V Housing Committee, Inc. presents Ms. Cissy Houston in Gospel concert at St. Pius V Church, on Sunday, May 4 at 3 p.m. For further information, call 962-5508.

Vocal Arts Society

The Arundel Vocal Arts Society and the Annapolis Opera, Inc. will present a spring concert on Saturday, May 3 at 8 p.m. in the Maryland Hall. Director, Ava Shields will conduct the seventy-voice Vocal Society in a program of stellar moments from grand and light opera. For more information, call 841-5570.

Male Choral Festival

On Sunday, April 20 at 4 p.m., Saint David's Church will host a Choral Festival of Men and Boys' Choirs. Choirs from Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, Old Saint Paul's, St. Michael and All Angels, and Saint David's will sing music and will feature Missa Brevis in D Major. For more information, call 467-0476.

CCB Concert Schedule

* The Music Department at the Community College of Baltimore has announced five Sunday afternoon concerts as part of its spring '86 music series. All concerts begin at 4 p.m. and will be held in the Garre Auditorium, Nursing Building, Liberty Campus. The concert performances are as listed:

April 20: Morgan State University — Percussion Ensemble
April 27: Rodney Morgan Brown, Baritone — Rebecca Sydnor Henderson, Soprano
May 4: Concert Choir
May 18: Young Artist Recital — Gail Covington, Mezzo-Soprano

For additional information, call 396-7980.

The weekly entertainment guide for the Baltimore area. Published by the AFRO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS group.

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Biloxi Blues, totally delightful evening

By Bob Matthews

Every now and again, a stage property appears which is so totally delightful that it leaves you with a loss for words. Such a vehicle is the current production of "Biloxi Blues," which opened at the Mechanic Theatre this week.

The play is from the genius pen of Neil Simon, and a more exquisitely crafted offering we haven't seen in these parts for quite a while.

Actually, didn't expect to care for, or emphasize with, the characters in "Biloxi Blues," since our memory of World War II encompasses the awful ordeals black soldiers had to face in the deep south—including Mississippi.

The storyline deals with the exploits of a platoon of new recruits (actually, it was less than a squad) and sharply points up the degradation minority groups were forced to endure.

As the story unfolds, 6 recruits are aboard a passenger train coach headed for basic training in Biloxi, Miss. Included are two Jews, a Polish-American, and a black Irish among others.

The slurs and ethnic putdowns that are a part of the everyday life of these World War soldiers may seem unnecessarily cruel to those who have never had to endure the military life.

But it is not a detraction to the play, although the interplay between Private Epstein, a philosopher who never adjusts to military discipline, and the redneck Sergeant Toomey is part of the central foci of the production.

All this may sound as though the play is depressing — it isn't. There are more laughs per minute than we've heard in many seasons. Much of the humor is broad—but that's good.

On the other side, the play is about the flowering (or deflowering) of a young man, who becomes a man and falls in love during the course of the 10-week basic training in Biloxi.

His encounter with a prostitute is tastefully and amusingly done, with no offense to the sensibilities. And his falling in love with a Catholic school girl during which he experiences his first "love" kiss is totally believable.

The part is ably played by William Ragsdale, who also handled the role in the original Broadway production. The direction is by Gene Saks, who won a Tony award for his work with the "Blues."

We could delve into the many works of Neil Simon, including the "Brighton Beach Memoirs" part of the trilogy which encompasses "Biloxi Blues."

But we won't. You will probably read a lot of capping accounts which take the production to task for some minor discrepancies—but this is all inconsequential.

When you want to go out for an evening of theatre and totally relax and enjoy yourself—this is the play for you.

It will be at the Mechanic Theatre through May 10. For ticket information, call 625-1400.

EXHIBITS

"Criteria"

"Criteria," an exhibition featuring the work of Nancy Sexton and Lawrence Argent, will open at School #33 Art Center, Saturday, April 26. The exhibit will run through May 23, and includes many types of sculptures by both artists. For more information, call 396-4641.

"Enoch Pratt's World"

"Enoch Pratt's World: A Centennial Exhibition," will be on exhibit at the Enoch Pratt Central Library through December, 1986. The exhibit features photographs, memorabilia, documents, and newspaper articles which recreate the life and times of the founder of the Enoch Pratt Free Library. For more information, call 522-1269.

FILMS

Enoch Pratt Free Library

On Wednesday, April 23, the Waverly Branch will offer a 1 p.m. screening of "Edward VII and the House of Windsor," a BBC-TV documentary from the series, "Royal Heritage: The Story of Britain's Royal Builders and Collectors."

At 7:30 on the same evening, April 23, the Central Library will show "The Lodger," a chilling retelling of the story of Jack the Ripper, with Laird Cregar and Merle Oberon. For more information, call 396-5494.

Films for Children

Tuesday, April 22: Brooklyn Branch — "The House That Jack Built," 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 23: Brooklyn Branch — "Angela's Island," "Bags" and "Arrow to the Sun," 3:30 p.m.; "The House That Jack Built," 7:00 p.m.

Hamilton Branch — "Helpmates," "Men O' War" and "The Live Ghost," 3:30 p.m.

Northwood Branch — "The Golden Fish," "Ghosts and Ghoulies" and "Dope Is For Dopes," 3:30 p.m.

Friday, April 25: Brooklyn Branch — "Adventures," "About Cats" and "The Bear and the Mouse," 10 and 10:30 a.m.

Patterson Park Branch — "The Live Ghost" and "Laughing Gravy," 3:15 p.m.

Imagination Celebration '86

The Kennedy Center's tenth National Children's Arts Festival will present more than 50 free and low-priced performances for school groups and the public from Friday, April 11 through Tuesday, April 29, in the Terrace Theatre. At least 16,800 seats will be available to school groups. For more information and schedule of events, call (202) 254-3600.

SPECIAL EVENTS

"Bawlamer Walks"

The Citizens Planning and Housing Association announces the first walk of the 1986 spring series of "Bawlamer Walks" to be held on Saturday, April 26 beginning at 10 a.m. The site for this tour will be Upton, a community with a strong black heritage currently undergoing a great deal of renovation. The walk will start from the Upton Mayor's Station. "Bawlamer Walks" are a project of CPHA's livelier Baltimore Committee. Held six times yearly in the Spring and Fall. For more information, call 539-1369.

Board Game Instructions

Instructions in chess, checkers, and backgammon are being offered to players of all levels in War Memorial Plaza. A games expert will be on hand daily, Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to challenge or teach anyone interested in learning the games. These lessons are free of charge. For more information, call 396-4891.

Entertainers Wanted

Auditions are being scheduled for entertainers interested in giving free performances at War Memorial Plaza during the months of June, July and August. These weekday summertime programs have ranged in the past from jazz bands to fashion shows and are open and free to the public. For more information, call 396-4891.

Arts Festival

The Dundalk Community College Spring Arts Festival will be held on Sunday, May 4. This year's event features local and national collegiate circuit entertainment. For more information, call 522-5826.

Young Artists' Program

The International Brass Quintet Festival is offering two educational programs for brass players to be held in Baltimore this summer. A week-long "Young Artists' Program" for high school brass players will be held from June 15 through June 21, and a ten-day "College/Pro Symposium" will be offered from June 25 through July 4. Both programs will be held at the College of Notre Dame. For more information, call 323-1000.

D. D. King Performs at Towson Center way 'Into The Night

By Flyn Garrett

It was nowhere near being a 'sell-out' crowd at the Towson Center last Thursday evening when B. B. King performed there, but those who were in attendance were treated to some of the greatest tunes to ever be included in the 'blues' line-up.

B. B. King. Just say the name and you get such reactions as "King of the Blues," "head man," or the "best blues singer that ever lived."

King has been singing the blues since the early age of 14, so perhaps he does have fair claim on some of the titles given him. The crowd seemed to think so.

These anxious participants joined B. B. early on in the set by singing "Everyday I Have the Blues." Many got up out of their seats, waving and swaying to the music and this was only the second song.

We must admit that we were quite impressed by the audiences' enthusiasm as well as with Mr. King.

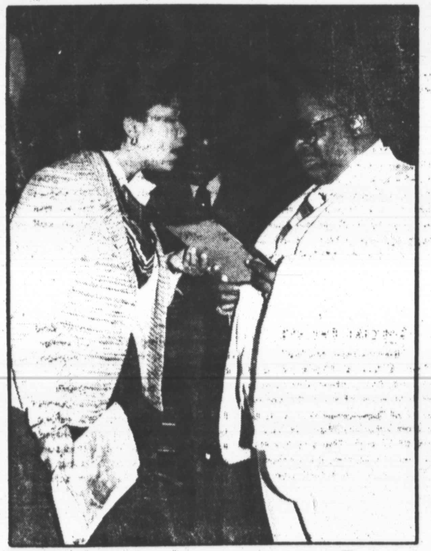
Being a reporter of our "tender age," we confess that we really didn't know what to expect. We have heard the praises sung King for his great skill with the guitar, but were quite impressed with his singing ability.

He crooned old favorites like "I Don't Want a Soul Hanging Around When I'm Not Home," and "Ain't Nobody's Business If I Do." These were followed by "The Thrill Is Gone," and "Everybody Wanna Know Why I Sing The Blues." However, the answer to the latter is simple — because he does it so very well.

When we first learned that the King concert was coming to Towson, we were pleased. The AFRO spent some time talking with King the last time he was here and found him to be really great. He spends a lot of time talking to his fans and is quite easy to talk to.

This time proved no exception. AFRO's Entertainment Editor, Bonnie Matthews Butler presented Mr. King with an Award of Appreciation for his many accomplishments, and he spent time with us just talking and signing autographs and posing for our camera.

Perhaps his secret to relating to people so well on stage, rests in the fact that he relates to people so well off stage.



B.B. King received his AFRO award of Appreciation backstage after his recent concert from Bonnie Matthews Butler, Entertainment Editor.

Bonnie Matthews Butler

Meanderings and Meditation

The "I'd Love To Meet New Edition" contest has come to a close and it is now time to announce the winners.

Before I do that, however, I'd like to take this opportunity to tell each and everyone of you who responded that your letters, even though you didn't win, will be passed on the **New Edition.**

We'll be sure they'll know just how much you truly love them.

We received letters from the ages of 5 through 35 (over 300 of them) and one thing is for certain, this group, according to you, is HOT.

So, without further ado, the grand prize winner, and winner of the limousine ride to the concert and the opportunity to meet **New Edition** is:

Donte D. Fisher
932 N. Stricker St.

Runners-up and winners of two tickets apiece are:

Shawan White
6630 Dalton Ave.

Tiwan Thills
5303 Wesley Ave.

Because the response was so overwhelming and the letters so well done and thoughtful, we are awarding five of New Edition's current album to five lucky winners, courtesy of **MCA** Records. Those lucky five are:

Angel Tennessee
3001 Seabury Rd.

Hope Grinage
4015 Bonner Rd.

Angela Williams
3010 Arunah Ave.

Marnie Lewis
3408 Cedardale Rd.

Monica Gladden
3708 Beehler Ave.

Congratulations to all of you. See you at the concert.

* * *

The Larry Dean Memorial Fund is hosting a series of events to raise money and your help is needed.

Larry Dean Faulkner, a pioneer of radio was, at the time of his death, news director at **WEAA** Radio.

He had been at the station for over eight years but his career spanned four decades.

The fund was created by his widow, Greer and **Jonathan** Sir Johnny O'**Compton** who was Dean's first protege.

The fund will provide scholarships for students in the media at **Fisk** and **Morgan** Universities, as well as, the creation of the Larry Dean News Center at Morgan.

Today, (Friday) the Fund is sponsoring a basketball game between **WEAA** and **WWIN** and Baltimore's Best and Roger Dickerson's Baltimore's Finest. The game will be held at the University of Baltimore and starts at 6 p.m. Tickets are $3.

On Saturday, May 17 there'll be a Champagne Party at **Godfrey's** Famous Ballroom featuring **Mary Wilson,** formerly of the Supremes and along with **Herb Kenny** of the Ink Spots, **Damita Jo,** and the Morgan Jazz Cr[illegible] More details at a later date.

* * *

The Harbor City Ra[illegible] fundraising group that dedicated to helping the [illegible] wheelchairs, is sponsoring a cocktail sip at the Five House on Sunday, May [illegible] Tickets are $8. For more information call 646-3298.

Larry Dean

We Entertain Baltimore's Best

Chuck Maxx, Program Director

6-10 Gospel
10-3 Oldies
3-7 Adult Contemporary
1360 AM