Food Review

Chez Fernand: in the French tradition

Without a doubt, fine cuisine can be expensive—especially if you indulge in the leisurely 5-course dinner method of dining. So, if your pocketbook has a case of the "shorts" and you still want the food—go the lunch route.

Most restaurants have lunch-time specials, some with a fixed price for a soup-to-nuts meal in the true tradition of the eating establishment.

Thus, we decided to check out Chez Fernand for Friday Plus readers, since its reputation for French cuisine was well established. Arrived for lunch just past the peak time.

Right away, the restaurant had a big plus going for it, for despite its downtown location, 805 E. Fayette St., (just under the shot tower) there was free parking available.

The interior layout was essentially the same configuration as was in place during the occupation of the previous tenant (a German restaurant, Schatzie's).

The bar area was completely removed from the dining area, insuring the quietude present in all great restaurants. The main dining room had a kind of understated elegance, but the prime luncheon area was the porchlike room liberally windowed.

It had the exposed brick and a plethora of hanging plants all helping to create an aura of outdoors—successfully we might add.

The waiter and bus boy assigned to our table was with alacrity, immediately after we were seated, and since it was lunch time, we passed on our usual wines, and settled for iced tea.

Now, how often does one order iced tea with the temperature outside is in the 40s—a real test, we figured. My companions settled for non-alcoholic drinks also, and we were ready to tackle the menu.

Needn't have bothered, for our waiter was soon ready with the recitation of the specials of the day. Am convinced that all of the modern-day waiters are actors in between roles, who keep in practice reading lines by dramatizing those specials in sepulchric tones.

Soup of the day was cream of broccoli—ordered it. Found it to be appropriately buttery and creamy, though not particularly distinguished.

Entree specials this day were fresh grouper with sauce, fresh salmon, grilled with raspberry sauce, or sliced N.Y. strip with garlic sauce.

Opted for the grouper, as did one of my companions, the other tried the salmon. In fairly short order—almost as soon as we finished the soup, our order arrived.

The grouper was grilled with what they called Delta sauce, a sauce in the French tradition, tomato-based, with herb spices judiciously integrated, perfectly complementing the delicate, tender fish.

My companion ordered salmon rare—and it arrived just so. Naturally, had to crib a taste, especially since the idea of a raspberry sauce was particularly intriguing.

Turned out to be a winning combination, and one of the reasons for the reputation of Chez Fernand as one of the top French restaurants in our area.

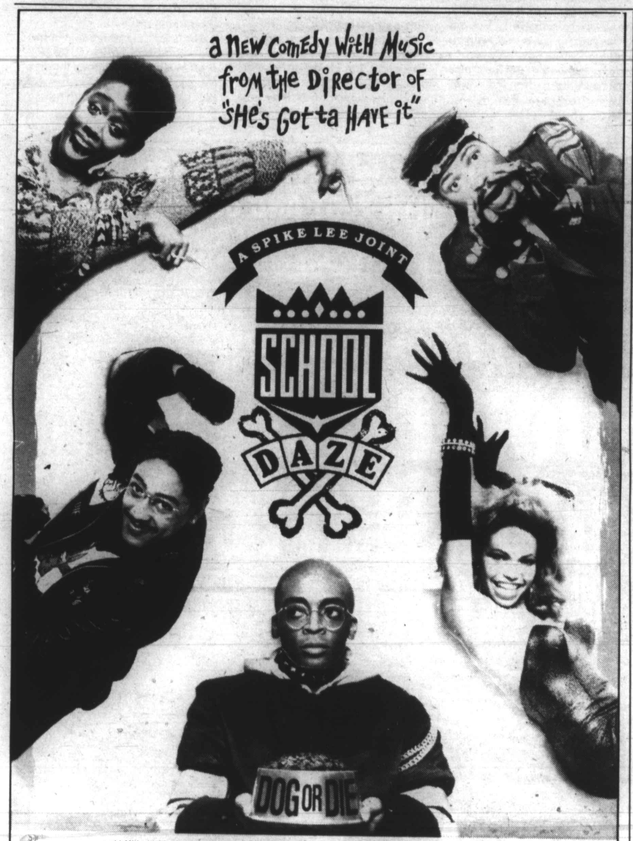
Accompanying the entrees was parslied potatoes, with a broiled tomato half, sprinkled with cheese and salad herbs. And of course, the obligatory slice of lemon usually accompanying all fish dishes, was there—but not needed, so perfectly was the fish sauced.

It was now time for dessert, and on signal, our waiter rolled out the dessert cart on which a tempting array of goodies were displayed. There was a cheese cake with chocolate icing, slices of Mandarin orange with sugar sprinkles and Grand Marnier;

And one guaranteed to tempt even Satan, a mocha cake which we describe only as a chocolate monstrosity—absolutely gorgeous looking—we declined since just looking at it caused us to gain weight.

Lunch finished off with coffee, and the bill came in at a respectable 47.99 before tip, for three. The soups were $2.25 each, and that spectacular pastry checked in at $2.95. (oh yes, one of my companions had it).

RATING;
Food — ****
Service ____ ***
Ambiance — ***
Cost — $$$ (moderate to expensive)—MATT.



COLUMBIA PICTURES Presents A Forty Acres And A Mule Filmworks Production A Spike Lee Joint "SCHOOL DAZE"
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Ice Capades at the Capital

LANDOVER, MD.—Delaware's Carol Fox and Richard Dalley are featured in "Salute to Hollywood," the world premier Ice Capades production set for 18 performances at the Capital Center now through February 28th. Also featured are those adorable and lovable Smurfs, best known for their appearances on national television every Saturday morning.

The current World Professional Ice Dance Champions have been skating together since 1972. In fact, within their first year of competition, they had qualified for the World Team.

For more information, call (301) 350-3400.

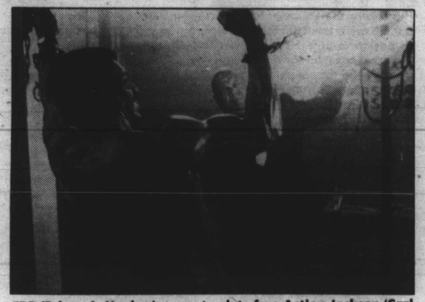
Action Jackson delivers the action

By H. Glover Cook

"Action Jackson," the new release starring Carl Weathers and Vanity, definitely lives up to its title.

"Action" is Sergeant Jerico Jackson, who used to be Lieutenant Jackson until he got busted as the result of an incident involving auto magnate Peter Dellaplane (played by Craig T. Nelson).

A few years later "Action" again becomes involved with Dellaplane, but this time he knows the tycoon is guilty of multiple murder and "Action" is going to prove it. He gets a little assistance from Vanity to make his job easier.



EDD (Prince A. Hughes) uses a torch to free Action Jackson (Carl Weathers) from his chains.

Throughout the movie there are some fantastic stunts that defy reality but it will not matter because they are what make this movie work so well. The chase scene (wait until you see what he is chasing) is a definite crowd pleaser. There is also a car scene with Weathers behind the wheel that is spectacular.

There is plenty of comic relief in scenes with Weathers and Vanity, but most of all by Rodger Aaron Brown as patrolman Lock, and Thomas F. Wilson as officer Kornblau. They play a patrol car team that keeps the laughs coming. Whenever the camera focuses on them, you can count on roaring with laughter.

Bill Duke as "Action" Jackson's police captain boss is great as one of those characters we have in our lives that seem to be around only to drive us nuts. There is a female barber named Dee played by Armelia McQueen that punctuates all her sentences with words beginning with the letter "d" that is unforgettable.

For all the men in the audience, Vanity will give you your heart's desire, on screen that is. The ladies will be treated to just enough of Carl Weathers' body to tantalize and keep you interested.

Vanity as a sexy nightclub singer performs two numbers that are musically mediocre but that doesn't destroy anything because she sure looks great performing the numbers and that will be what most of the male audience will be drooling over.

Vanity

The ladies will have to stay composed and try not to be too envious (this is a tip from the voice of experience). Both leads have scenes in which they disrobe from the waist up so it's not a picture for the whole family.

In a word, "Action Jackson" is fun; fast-paced fun.

First annual black doll show to be held in Philly

Over 500 beautiful black dolls will be on display as the Afro-American Historical and Cultural Museum in Philadelphia on Friday, February 19 and Saturday, February 20, 1988, for the First Annual Black Doll Show and Sale. This event will feature more than 25 doll artists and designers, doll dealers and manufacturers of black dolls from across the nation.

There is much excitement and enthusiasm being generated about this show from the novice to the avid doll collector. Imagine, for the first time, showgoers will see Belle dolls of California, Kimkins dolls of New Jersey, Brown Spices dolls of Washington, Licorice Sticks dolls of Maryland, Delta dolls of Philadelphia, Glenna dolls of New York and many more.

The First Annual Black Doll Show and Sale will open Friday evening, February 19 at 5:00 p.m. with a special preview, and a wine and cheese reception. Cost to attend the preview opening is $5.00. Admission ticket is good for both days. On Saturday, February 20, 1988, a children's doll making workshop will be conducted by Ms. Audrey Thompson beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Lucy Thorton-Berry, creator of the Liquorice Stick Kids.

Registration with the Afro-American Historical and Cultural Museums is required due to limited space. Special guest, Ms. Lenon Hoyte, "Aunt Len's Toy and Doll Museum," New York, will present a seminar on black doll collecting, starting at 12:30. Afterwards a panel will discuss black doll marketing.

The panelists will include Ms. Yvonne Rubie, Golden Ribbon Playthings, and Huggy Bean doll family; Ms. Gwendolyn Hawkin, Ashante Dolls, and Mr. L. Whitfield, Whitney doll. Admission on Saturday is $3.00 for non-members and free to museum members. Special discount to senior citizens, the disabled and children under 12 — $1.00.

The First Black Doll Show and Sale is sponsored by Dark Images Black Doll Collection and the Afro-American Historical and Cultural Museum. Dark Images is an educational presentation of black history and the evolution of black dolls.

Barbara L. Whiteman, president of Dark Images, believes that the preserving and the collecting of black dolls are essential to black history and culture. Collectively, black dolls represent visual images of how black people were perceived throughout world history.

As a black doll historian, Ms. Whiteman speaks to many schools, churches and organizations. She says each doll has a message of truth and of strength that is important to the psychological and sociological development of black people. More than play objects or toys, these black dolls symbolize the struggle for freedom and human dignity.

The show theme "Avenue of Black Dolls" will be a kaleidoscope of black dolls from private collections and corporate sponsored dolls. THe "Avenue of Black Dolls," will highlight all the different kinds of Black dolls in a historical time capsule. Some dolls were chosen for their uniqueness and appeal. Some are for fun and some are for learning experience.

Whether you come to spend or browse, the First Annual Black Doll Show and Sale is an excellent opportunity for you to see black dolls preserving black history and culture.

For more information, contact Barbara A. Whiteman, Dark Images,)215) 924-3121 or the Afro-American Historical and Cultural Museum, Ms. P. Robinson, (215) 574-0380.

—Marvis Martin

(Continued from Page 3)

that group's United States debut tour. She will perform in 15 concerts on the tour, including appearances in West Palm Beach, Ft. Lauderdale, Sarasota, Baltimore, and at New York City's Metropolitan Museum of Art.

In the spring, she culminates an impressive schedule of solo coast-to-coast recitals with her Lincoln Center recital debut at Alice Tully Hall as recipient of the *Michaels Award of Young Concert Artists*. May, 1988 sees her return to the Cincinnati May Festival at the invitation of music director James Conlon for a gala performance of Scott Joplin's opera *Treemonisha*. This will mark Miss Martin's debut in the title role.

Born in Miami, Florida, Marvis Martin graduated from the University of Miami, and later studied at the Manhattan School of Music. She currently resides in New York City.

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