Remy 'Man of the night' contest is a success

By Sterling S. Robinson

Friday, February 19, 1988, is a night Baltimoreans won't soon forget as V-103 (WXYV-FM) and Remy Martin brought the grand finale of the $25,000 'Remy Man of the Night' contest to the Palladium. The competition, a star-studded event with proceeds going to the Sam Lacy Scholarship Fund, was won by 27-year-old Hakim Farrakhan.

Farrakhan, a former valedictorian and three-year-graduate of the University of Delaware with an MBA from Howard University, is no stranger to competition. In 1985 he was selected nationally from a field of 12,000 men to become Lustre Products S-Curl Man.

The atmosphere at the Palladium was charged with electricity and excitement as Jean Ross of V-103 hosted the standing-room-only affair. The nine finalists were chosen from nearly three hundred men who had participated in quarter final rounds at the 32nd Street Plahza, the Five Mile House and the 20 Grande.

In addition to Mr. Farrakhan, the other finalists included Julian Sawyer, Eddie, Brooks, Bill Crittenden, Robbie Brooks, Everett Thomas, Stafford Sutton, Robert Young, and Dean Sterling who was selected as first-runner-up.

The distinguished panel of judges included recording star Melisa Morgan ("If you Can Do It, I Can Too,") from Los Angeles; the honorable Jacqueline McLean and Sheila Dixon-Smith from the Baltimore City Council; Ann Walters, director of marketing from Mondawmin Mall; and Gloria Jennings, fashion designer, representing NAFAD, the National Association of Fashion and Accessory Designers.

The 'Remy Man of the Night' was conceived by the marketing department at Remy Martin. According to district sales manager Brad Lawson, "Three years ago we wanted to find a way to reach the upwardly mobile black consumer.

"We needed a symbol something with style. From that need the 'Remy Man of the Night' evolved. The first two years we promoted the contest in Detroit and this year we brought the Remy Man to Baltimore."

CONTESTANTS include the winner Hakim Farrakhan, second from the left.

He said that the Remy Man would reign for one year and during that time he would be exposed to the public in an attempt to create a celebrity. Once a month a limo will take him to visit local night clubs and before he leaves he will pick up the tab for everyone at the bar.

Entertainment was provided by a wide cross-section of recording artists including singing sensation Tracey ("Baby Love") Hamlin who was Miss Baltimore's Best 1985; Charlie Singleton and Modern Man; Chad ("Love Passion") from NYC; Vaneese Thomas ("Let's Talk It Over" and "I Wanna Get Close To You") on Geffen Records; Zero Hour from Washington, D.C. and special guest star Peabo Bryson singing his cult classic, "Feel The Fire."

The competition became very intense during the question and answer portion of the program, especially when mistress of ceremony Jean Ross asked first-runner-up Dean Sterling, "What three qualities do you possess that are imperative for the 'Remy Man of the Night' and why?"

To which Mr. Sterling replied, "The three qualities are similar to the cognac itself. Distinguished. Discriminating taste for the best things in life. Full-bodied and confident." Needless to say, this brought a roar from the crowd.

However, Mr. Sterling had to be content with winning first-runner-up and a full tuition paid scholarship to the Flair Modeling Studio, with the opportunity to model with the studio.

As a matter of fact, Flair, under the direction of Willia Bland, coordinated the entire event and provided the lovely models who accompanied the finalists on stage.

But the night truly belonged to Mr. Farrakhan who will receive a $20,000 shopping spree at Mondawmin Mall in such stores as Charlie Rudo Sports, Outline,

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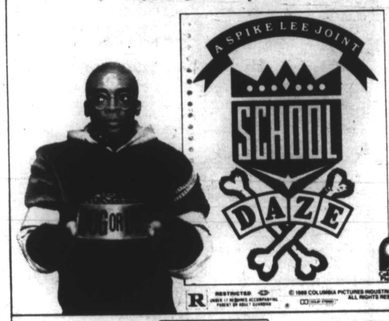
Baltimore's Tracey Hamlin performed.

Peabo Bryson

MC for the night was Jean Ross (left) pictured here with Melissa Morgan.

"TWO THUMBS UP."
—SISKEL & EBERT

A New Comedy With Music from the Director of "She's Got to Have It"



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Philadanco comes to P.G.

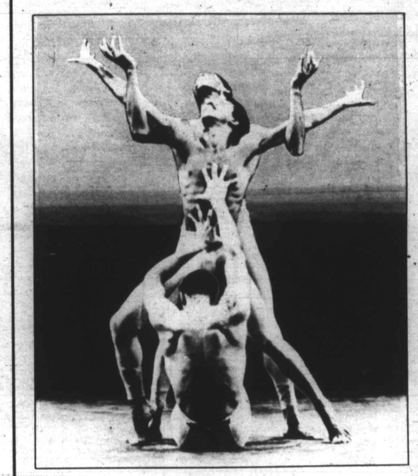
Philadanco, The Philadelphia Dance Company, makes its first recent area performance at the Publick Playhouse in Prince George's County on February 26 at 8:00 p.m. and February 27 at 2:00 and 8:00 p.m. Performances are part of the Playhouse's Black History Month Celebration.

Philadanco was organized in 1970 by Joan Myers Brown due to the area's need for a minority/student performing company. Since then, Philadanco has grown to become a major cultural institution in Philadelphia, known for innovative, contemporary performances that combine elements of classical, modern, ethnic, and jazz dance.

The group's dancers are sought by major companies such as the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre and the Dance Theatre of Harlem. Works by world famous choreographersare included in Philadanco's repertoire. At the Playhouse, the company will perform pieces by Gene Hill Sagan, Elisa Monte, Robert Weiss, Billy Wilson, and Milton Myers.

Tickets for Philadanco's concert at the Playhouse are $12 for adults, $10 for students and seniors (evening shows) and $10 for adults, $8 for students and seniors (matinee).

The Playhouse is located at 5445 Landover Road in Hyattsville, just minutes away from downtown DC via New York Avenue and the Balto.-Wash. Parkway. Call (301) 277-1710 (Voice orTDD) for information and reservations. Tickets are also available at TICKETPLACE.



Philadelphia Dance Co.

'I'm Not Rappaport' at Mechanic

The Tony Award-winning comedy "I'm Not Rappaport," starring Glynn Turman and Vincent Gardenia began a four-week engagement at Baltimore's Morris A. Mechanic Theatre on Tuesday, February 23.

Produced by James Walsh, Lewis Allen and Martin Heinfling, "I'm Not Rappaport" is staged by Art Wolff, currently director of Fox Television's 1988 Golden Globe Award winning comedy "The Tracey Ullman Show." The production features Lauren Klein, Kevin Moccia, Laura Galusha, Chip Mitchell and Kevin Carrigan.

"I'm Not Rappaport" concerns the adventures and misadventures of two lively senior citizens who strike up an unusual friendship in Central Park. The crazy quilt world that brings them together includes pushers, artists, joggers, muggers, landlords and even daughters, and the resolution to their relationship is both heartwarming and hilarious.

Glynn Turman, a recipient of the prestigious NAACP Image Award, began his stage career as the youngster Travis in the original 1959 stage production of "A Raisin In The Sun." He has received Los Angeles Drama Critics Award nominations for his performance in "What The Wine Sellers Buy" and "Ceremonies In Dark Old Men."

In the film, he has been seen in "The River Niger," "Cooley High," "Gremlins" and "Out of Bounds." He is perhaps best known for his leading roles on television in "Peyton Place," "Centennial," "Attica," "Matlock," "The Twilight Zone" and "Murder She Wrote."

Vincent Gardenia, who can currently be seen in the 1988 Golden Globe Awarding winning film "Moonstruck," received the 1972 Tony Award for Best Supporting Actor in "The Prisoner of Second Avenue." Mr. Gardenia received a Tony Award nomination for best actor in a musical for "Ballroom."

He has twice been honored with off-Broadway's Obie Award. Mr. Gardenia's many film credits include "The Hustler," "Heaven Can Wait," "Little Shop Of Horrors" and the critically acclaimed "Bang The Drum Slowly," for which he won an Oscar nomination. Mr. Gardenia is familiar to television viewers for his role on the series "All in the Family."

"I'm Not Rappaport" is a Mechanic Theatre Subscription attraction. Performances are Tuesday through Saturday evenings at 8:00 p.m.; Wednesday and Saturday matinees at 2:00 p.m.; and Sunday matinees at 3:00 p.m.

Tickets for "I'm Not Rappaport" are available in person at the Mechanic Theatre Box Office (Hopkins Plaza), or may be charged by phone to a major credit card by calling TeleCharge at (301) 624-1400. (Toll-free TeleCharge is available for out-of-state theatregoers by calling 1-800-638-2444.) Groups of twenty or more should call (301) 625-5230. For additional information, please call (301) 625-1400.

ALL THAT JAZZ

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some of the acts that will be tied up at the many festivals around the world taking place later in the summer.

It also means that jazz lovers in this area will have a real swinging June, for the Central Pennsylvania Friends of Jazz Festival will take place the weekend of June 17-19. No conflict!

One final note, the Resident Associates program of the Smithsonian is presenting "Suite Jazz" with **Charles Foreman** this Sunday.

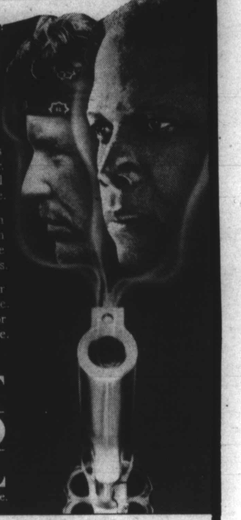
This is his third appearance for the program, and the price of admission includes a champagne brunch. Albeit, 'tis a light lunch, with pastries and coffee, but the champagne is included also.

The brunches occur both before and after the concert, depending on your choice, as for Foreman, his is a piano presentation which spans the era from Fats Waller's "Piano Pranks," of 1934, through the Gershwin songbook.

It begins at 10 a.m. Further information, (202) 357-3030.

"Sidney Poitier is back. 'SHOOT TO KILL' has it all: suspense, drama, mystery and comedy."
—Lon Braithwaite, NBN RADIO

SIDNEY POITIER TOM BERENGER



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