SHOWTIME

BRANFORD MARSALIS

Realities of a jazz man in a pop world

BOSTON — Branford Marsalis is a young man with a firm grip on the realities of the music world.

It is a place steeped in ironies about fame, the music business and even about acceptance on your own terms when you are a jazz man in a pop world. Yet, it is through those ironies that the saxophonist has begun to emerge from the shadow of his young brother, trumpet virtuoso Wynton Marsalis.

"There's no way I'd even have a CBS record contract without the last name Marsalis. A lot of musicians didn't hire me because I was Wynton's brother. They thought I was in his band because I was his brother, not because I could play," he said.

"Scenes In The City," his first album as a leader, found little airplay, few sales and few reviews after its 1984 release. Then Branford left Wynton's quintet to go on the road for 19 months with pop musician Sting's "Dream of the Blue Turtles" tour.

"I played with Sting, and suddenly they said: 'Hey, this guy can play.' Because that, nobody was clamoring for the product. When I was with Sting, I wasn't playing anything, but it made the name. In the society we live in, you've got to deal with s... like that," Marsalis said.

Now, Branford, 27, is getting attention in his own right, as leader of his own young quartet; as a backup musician for other jazz players, including Herbie Hancock; for his recent foray into classical recordings, and for his newfound acting career.

After appearing in the 1985 Sting documentary "Bring on the Night," Marsalis was cast in Spike Lee's film "School Daze," being filmed this year in Atlanta, and in Danny DeVito's "Throw Momma From the Train."

Clearly the pace is tiring. "All of these things, including the music, are a distraction from fatherhood and marriages. That's the reality," Marsalis said. "For an artist, it is nothing new. It's not a convenient occupation, which makes it so interesting in the first place."

His latest album, "Royal Garden Blues," is a studio session whose title track is a nod to the Marsalis family's New Orleans musical roots. His evolving style often refers back to the 1950s tenor playing of Sonny Rollins and John Coltrane.

BRANFORD MARSALIS

Since his split from Wynton's group — a matter of practically, not animosity — the only times the Marsalis brothers play together in surprise appearances when scheduling brings them to the same town at the same time. There remains a feeling between the two that Branford can only describe as "musical telepathy."

"When we first started doing that, I'd say, 'Lock man, I'm going to play what you don't play.' We figured out this thing, when he's playing lines, I'm playing rhythm. When he's playing rhythm, I'm playing lines.

"When you grow up with somebody, you know how they are," he explained. "That will never happen with anybody else. I remember before one gig, we were screaming at each other, arguing before the gig.

"We went out and didn't speak to each other for the whole show, man. Then we played 'Hesitation,' the song we do that on. We did that, and started smiling," Marsalis said. "We were sharing. You can't be mad at somebody and do that. Wynton and I play TOGETHER."

Marsalis' early development came in Clark Terry's big band and a stint alongside Wynton in Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers. Now, he is enjoying his options. But he seems to realize he will have to settle down musically in order to galvanize a sound of his own."

Woman claims Berry belted her

NEW YORK — Rock 'n' roll legend Chuck Berry, who twice failed to appear to face an assault charge, is accused of slugging a woman in the mouth and causing a cut that required five stitches to close, court documents have revealed.

The Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame member, whose hits include "Johnny B. Goode," and "Maybellene," is accused of belting Marilyn O'Brian Boteler, who "suffered lacerations of the mouth, requiring five stitches, two loose teeth, contusions of the face," documents filed in state Supreme Court in Manhattan showed.

Boteler said the attack occurred at 1 a.m. on Dec. 18 at the posh Gramercy Park Hotel in Manhattan.

If convicted of the third-degree assault charge, a misdemeanor offense, the musician could face up to one year in jail.

CHUCK BERRY

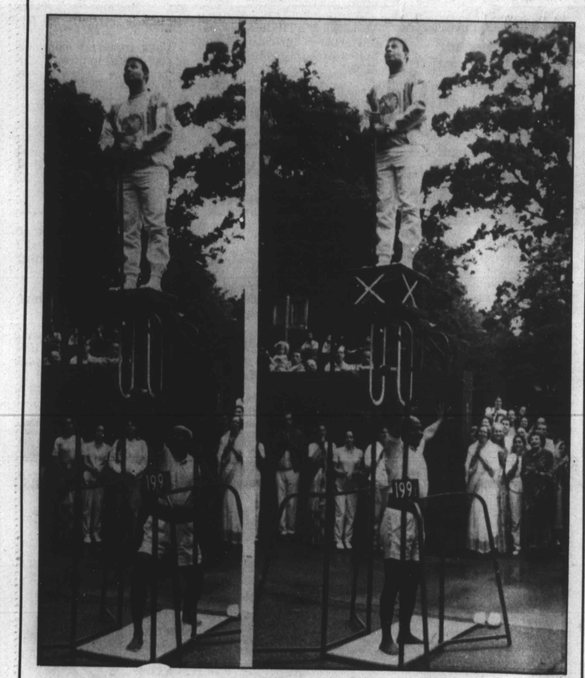
The 62-year-old rock 'n' roll legend failed to surrender to police June 5 on a bench warrant issued by Judge Harold Beeler after Berry failed to appear for a hearing in January.

Police said Berry's failure to show up stemmed from an apparent mixup between prosecutors and the performer's lawyer as to when he would surrender.

His attorney, William Krasilovsky, declined comment.

Berry's appearance in court was scheduled only hours after he finished two shows at The Ritz, a Manhattan nightclub.

Berry spent three years as a teenager in a reform school for attempted robbery. Later, as a superstar, he served two years in federal prison for violating the Mann Act and 100 days in 1979 for income tax evasion.—(UPI)



Music Producer of the Year, Narada Michael Walden, experienced a new lift in his two-time Grammy Award winning career today in New York City as he was raised overhead with one arm by his spiritual teacher, Sri Chinmoy. Weighing 151 pounds, the 57 year old meditation leader and athlete lifted Narada plus the apparatus (199 1/2 pounds) to full extension.

Walden, a former leading fusion drummer, has produced such celebrities as Aretha Franklin, Whitney Houston and Eddie Murphy. Having studied meditation with Sri Chinmoy for the past 14 years, Walden states, "Sri Chinmoy has been such a major role model in my life. I get so much inspiration from his vast achievements, and I take his inspiration to the studio."

Sri Chinmoy explained that through his lifting, he wishes to honour Narada and also to show that "player and meditation can definitely help people in all aspects of their lives."

Have you heard?

VANESSA WILLIAMS

OPRAH WINFREY

By Penny S. Demps

THAT comedian/actor Richard Pryor and his former wife, Deborah, recently got together again to attend the third annual American Cinematheque Moving Picture Ball in honor of funnyman Robin Williams at the Century Plaza Hotel in Los Angeles.

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THAT boxing legend Muhammad Ali's oldest daughter Miriam, (AKA May May), loves the limelight as much as her dad. It seems May May, 18, has been performing a one-woman stand-up comedy routine in nightclubs and will be making her debut as a rap singer with the release of a new disc!

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THAT "Freedomfest—Nelson Mandela's 70th Birthday Celebration," the 6-hour anti-apartheid concert broadcast June 11 at London's Wembley Stadium, was beamed live by satellite to an estimated 65 countries, making it the largest international TV and radio event since Live Aid. Among the long list of scheduled performers: Harry Belafonte, Whoopi Goldberg, Miriam Makeba, Hugh Masekela, Sly & Robbie, Whitney Houston, Roberta Flack, Natalie Cole, Robert Townsend, and Philip Michael Thomas.

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THAT the 22-year-old son of musician Isaac Hayes has trouble with the law. Vincent Hayes was arrested recently in Meridian, Miss., and jailed under $10,000 bond on charges of stealing a car. Hayes, 22, who is in the Navy and stationed at the Meridian Naval Air Station, is married and has one child.

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THAT former Miss America Vanessa Williams makes a confident (and commercial) debut with her single "The Right Stuff" - a strong urban record with pop potential much like that of "Girlfriend."

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THAT "A Different World" star Lisa Bonet and her musician husband Lenny "Romeo Blue" Kravitz, married six months ago in a secret ceremony in Las Vegas, are expecting their first child. The 20-year-old actress and her 23-year-old husband, who is the son of Roxy Roker of "The Jeffersons" fame and hubby Sy Kravitz, a Jewish businessman, were reportedly discontent with their marriage, but appeared to be very much in love during a celeb party held in N.Y.C.

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THAT movie crews are swarming over Eastside High School in Paterson, N.J., filming "Lean on Me" about the school's no-nonsense principal, Joe Clark. Oscar nominee Morgan Freeman is starring but Clark, who won a national reputation for patrolling the halls with a baseball bat and bullhorn, says "He's a good actor but I don't think anyone can fully portray me. There's only one Joe Clark." Robert Guillaume co-stars.

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THAT about 400 people gathered over the weekend for a tribute to Chicago TV talk show host Oprah Winfrey at the white frame house in rural Atala County, Mississippi, where she was born. Winfrey, who attended college and worked as a journalist in Nashville, said she was glad to be home and then spent time in the church cemetery where five generations of the maternal side of her family are buried. Later, Oprah commented, "It's humbling to be here."

'TONY' WINNER L. SCOTT CALDWELL received a Tony Award as Best Featured Actress in a Play for her acclaimed performance in August Wilson's "Joe Turner's Come and Gone." She originated the role of Bertha Holly in the original production of "Joe Turner ..." at the Yale Repertory Theatre and has subsequently toured with the production nationwide prior to its Broadway opening.

METRO PROFILE

■ Community Living 2C
■ Lifestyle 3C
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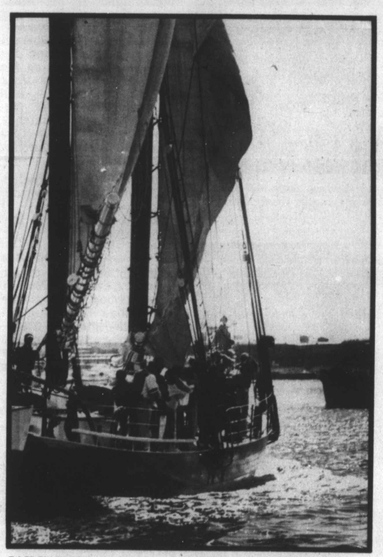
A Day on the Bay

Students sail into science on the Lady Maryland

LEARNING ABOUT THE BAY—Forest Park students boarded the Lady Maryland for a hands-on learning tour of the Chesapeake Bay on June 10.

THE LESSON CONTINUES — Forest Park students listen attentively to their instructor.



SAILING ALONG — Forest Park students enjoy the ride as the wind whips the sails above them.

By Catrice Greer
AFRO Correspondant

June 10, 1988, ninth and tenth grade Forest Park students, were accompanied by their teachers Rosa Greene and Marcia Brown for an educational sail upon the Lady Maryland.

What they experienced however, was a day of seafaring fun.

This gaff-rigged schooner is manned by Captain Art Reed; First Mate, Chris Leeman; Crew: Tracy Brown, Mark Rosner and Education Program Director, James Bond.

The Lady Maryland is unique in that it is the only existing pungy in the world to date.

Pungy's were originally schooners active in the 1800's as oyster dredgers of the bay.

Later, because of their efficient speed, these gaff-rigged schooners were employed to transport perishable food.

At the approach of the 1920's and 30's, industrialization initiated the extinction of pungy by the increased usage of trucks and trains as more efficient means of transportation.

Formulated on the idea of G. Dennis O'Brien, president and founder of the Lady Maryland Foundation, the pungy was constructed to educate Baltimore's children about the history and ecological aspects of the Chesapeake Bay.

In this way the students would learn through hands-on-experience in the Chesapeake Bay environment rather than in the traditional classroom setting.

The day upon the Lady Maryland began with opening words from Education Program Director, James Bond.

At this point, Bond elaborated on the historical background of the Lady Maryland and using a map, he displayed the course that would be followed that day.

After all of the children boarded, Captain Art Reed proceeded to inform the children of safety precautions to be used abroad the Lady Maryland.

Then all of the children were allowed to raise the mainsail and foresail by using teamwork and pulling the halyards together.

Afterwards the students separated into five groups where each group was alloted one bulletin board apiece.

On these boards each group was responsible for recording their on-deck observations about different types of boats, industries and how each of their ecological and economical observations were an integral part of the urban environment and the Chesapeake Bay.

Within that same hour the students congregated to disclose their numerous observations in conjunction with their classroom knowledge.

Later during the day, a few of the children participated in a fishing exercise where they collected numerous types of marine life.

At mid-afternoon the students were separated into three groups. Each group visited various stations situated at different locations on the pungy.

The knot-tying station instructed the children on the construction, location, and purpose of certain types of knots on the Lady Maryland.

How to determine the direction of the ship, wind and speed of the wind, were some of the skills learned by the students.

At the marine biology station the students touch, identify, and learn about the different types of marine life found in the bay.

In addition they measure the amount of oxygen, the salinity and temperature of water samples.

As the Lady Maryland docked in the Inner Harbor, the Forest Park students ended their day by displaying their skills in a knot tying contest.

June 10, proved to be an exciting yet educational experience for the ninth and tenth grade students of Forest Park Senior High School.

"It was fun. It was a real exciting experience. I've learned about different types of duties you have on a boat," said freshman Sean Miles.

The Lady Maryland sails from March until late November.

Since 1986, over 10,000 students to date have sailed aboard the Lady Maryland.

Twenty-four school systems and fifteen private schools are currently involved with the Lady Maryland's educational programs.

During the month of July, the Lady Maryland will be actively hosting the Baltimore Youth at Risk Crew Program, for adolescents receiving counseling and treatment for substance abuse.

Concurrently during the month of July, there will be a Girl Scouts Urban Sail Camp. Here the Girl Scouts will be taught sailing skills and participate in determining ways in which they can aid in the conservation of the bay.

During August the Lady Maryland sponsors a week long sail. For each of the four weeks in August groups of students will accompany the crew of the Lady Maryland for week long sails to the extreme reaches of the bay.

During these weeks, students become actively involved in the management of sailing aboard a pungy schooner.

For further information about the educational programs offered or volunteer information call: Lady Maryland Foundation, 1444 World Trade Center, Baltimore, MD 21202; (301) 837-0862.

LET'S KEEP PULLING — Forest Park students practice what they learn during their tour of the Lady Maryland.

HARD AT WORK — Forest Park students learn that work can be fun.