This Weekend

Theatre Hopkins' final production of the season will be Truman Capote's **The Grass Harp,** to be performed outdoors at Evergreen House, 4545 North Charles St.in Baltimore on Saturday and Sunday evenings, June 18, 19, 25, and 26.

Grounds will open at 4:30 on performance days for those wishing to bring a picnic. The production will begin at 6:15 in the Evergreen meadow.

The cast of this romantic comedy includes **June Thorne.** Created by one of the most poetic voices of the South, **The Grass Harp** is the tale of a band of sweet eccentrics who escape the confines of their narrow Southern town.

* * *

The **Big Band Society of Annapolis** presents the **Artie Shaw Orchestra** this Sunday, June 19 from 7-11 p.m. at the **Governor Calvert House Ballroom.** From 6-7 p.m. complimentary dance lessons will be provided by the **Fred Astaire Dance Studios.** For reservations or further information, call 301-263-2641 or 202-261-2206.

* * *

This Saturday **Moja Nya** provides high energy reggae live at the **Roxy** on the 18. For this show and others, call the **Roxy** at 202-296-9292.

Goin' to the Ocean man? This is the weekend to go to Ocean City. Sunday is the day to party all afternoon, eat and be entertained and to help raise money to refurbish the governor's mansion. **Gov. William Donald Schaefer** will be the guest of honor and Ocean City will be the host at **Jolly Roger Amusement Park** from 1 to 5. For more information on the festivities, call 1-800-492-3224 or 289-8311.

Jane Powell

Jane Powell who boasts an astonishing five - octave range, will provide an electrifying performance singing a medley of song styles, ranging from the **Beatles** to **Billie Holiday.** —Powell and her five piece band will perform at the **Baird Auditorium in the Natural History Building** of the **Smithsonian** in D.C. on Friday. Call 202-357-3030.

Gerald Albright brings his melodic sax sounds to **Blues Alley** in Washington through Sunday. For reservations, call 202-337-4141.

* **

Annapolis Arts Festival in the Country features arts, crafts, dance, music, culinary delights and a nationally acclaimed discovery tent for children.

Under blue skies and starry nights on the Anne Arundel County Fairgrounds, Route 178, Crownsville. Hours: Fri. 3-11 p.m., Sat. 11 a.m.-11 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

Tickets in advance or at the age. Call (301) 267-7922.

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FAMILY DAY

The public is invited to a Garden Party celebrating the opening of the Ryda and Robert H. Levi Sculpture Garden of The Baltimore Museum of Art on Sunday, June 19 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. The day's activities will include music by the Trinidad Steel Band as well as other entertainment. Admission to the Sculpture Garden is free. Call 396-7101 for more information.

Coming Soon

Renowned piano player **Ahmad Jamal** performs at **Blues Alley** from Tuesday June 21 through Sunday June 26. The Alley is located in D.C. and for reservations, call 202-337-4141.

Coming to the **9:30 Club** are the groups **Soul Asylum** with **Living Colour** on Wednesday the 22 and rapper **Ice T** singing his hot hit, **Colors** on Friday the 24.

Just added for two shows at the 9:30 Club is the group **Aswad.** Their current single, **"Don't Turn Around,"** has been high on the music charts and the video is currently being played on **BET** and **VH-1** consecutively. For ticket information, call 1-800-233-4050.

Larry Blackmon and Maurice Hines (right)

The **Shakespeare Theatre** in the **Folger Library** presents **"In Such a Night as This,"** on Wednesday June 22 at 8 p.m. Shakespearean scenes will be presented by minorities. The theatre is located on 201 E. Capitol Street, S.E. in D.C. and reservations can be made by calling 202-547-3230.

The **Arena Players, Inc.** presents a musical by **Langston Hughes, "Simply Heavenly,"** from now until June 26. Showtimes are 8:30 p.m. on Thursday and Friday and 7:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. For more show information, call 301-728-6500.

For a special engagement at the **Warner Theatre** in D.C., **Jennifer Holliday** and **Maurice Hines** star in the new dance musical, **"Harlem Suite,"** which was conceived, choreographed and directed by **Maurice Hines.** For show and ticket information, call 202-626-1050 or 1-800-233-4050. Portions of the ticket proceeds will benefit the Doug Williams Foundation for underprivileged children.

Minister **Louis Farrakhan** appears at the **Palladium,** located at 2900 Liberty Heights Avenue and Druid Park Drive in Baltimore on Friday, June 24. Tickets can be purchased at 3010 W. North Ave. and call numbers 301-945-7766 or 566-5825 for more information.

Vocalist **Arnae** and her group **In the Tradition** perform on Thursdays the 23 and 30 at the **D.C. Space** on 443-7th Street, N.W. in Washington. She will present a creative compositional output of five significant American women vocalist/composers in the production, **"Silhouettes; Sound; Portraits of Vocalist/composers Ida Cox, Billie Holiday, Nina Simone, Abbey Lincoln,** and **Cassandra Wilson."** Call the theatre at 202-546-5465 for more information.

The **Reggae Sunsplash** sponsored by **Kalahari International Productions** features reggae artists such as **Yellow Man, Pato Banton, Toots and the Maytals, Sophia George, Bloodfire Posse, Edi Fitzroy** and special guest, **Major Mackerel** on Saturday June 25 from 8 p.m. to 2:30 a.m. The sunsplash takes place at the DC Armory, located at 2001 E. Capitol St. For additional information, call 202-328-3839 or 202-483-8316.

CREATIVE ASCENT is once again bringing to Washington audiences exciting theater with its current production of **ANTIGONE.** Performances of this adaptation of the Greek classic by French playwright, **Jean Anouilh,** will be held at **La Maison Francaise of the French Embassy,** 4101 Reservoir Road, N.W. on June 17, 18, 23, 24 at 8 p.m. Sunday Matinees will be held June 19 and 26 at 3 p.m.

This classic tale of Greece retold by **Jean Anouilh** presents a strong and equally balanced struggle between two prototypical personalities who re-emerge in society throughout the ages. Creon, the political pragmatist, who compromises with life to ensure the survival of the state is pitted against Antigone, the spiritual idealist, who gives an unequivocal "NO" to all that she believes is wrong. Both sides pay a heavy price, but their struggle creates unforgettable engrossing drama.

Amelia Cobb Gray, director of the **Creative Ascent** production of **ANTIGONE,** underlines the university and timelessness of this play placing the action in a set reminiscent of pre-historic Stonehenge, while costuming an all Black cast in contemporary dress.

For more information call 301-587-6693.

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628 N. Eutaw St.
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(301) 728-8200
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Sterling Robinson
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Make Father's Day weekend special

By Deborah Johns Moir

Father's Day is June 19. There are concerts, plays, and exhibits to see and activities happening to fill the weekend.

Starting the weekend off early, the Smithsonian's National Museum of African Art has two exhibits opening on Thursday, June 15.

"Images from Bamum: German Colonial Photography at the Court of King Njoya, Cameroon, West Africa, 1902-1915" is on view through September 6. It contains 60 rare photographs about the Kingdom of Bamum as seen through the European eyes.

In addition to the exhibit, a series of lectures has been scheduled and a book of the same title compliments the exhibition.

The other new exhibit, "Shoowa Design: Raffia Textiles from Zaire," is on view until August 7.

There will be more than 100 woven cloths on view. The "exquisitely designed raffia textiles" are woven by men and embroidered by women. They reflect personal and group status and are worn in special ceremonies including funerals.

This exhibition also has a fully illustrated catalog. For more information on the exhibitions, call (202) 357-4600. The museum is in Washington.

Playing on the sax at Blues Alley through Father's Day weekend will be Gerald Albright. He performs from Thursday, June 16 through Sunday, June 19.

Blues Alley is located on Wisconsin Avenue below M St. The show will be at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m., and 12 midnight on the weekend. Dinner, featuring New Orleans Creole cuisine, is at 6 p.m. For reservations call (202) 337-4141.

The Roxy features the Awareness Art Ensemble on June 16 and the high energy reggae group Moja Nya on June 18. The club is at 1214 18th St., N.W. in Washington. To charge tickets call (202) 432-0200.

The Carter Barron Amphitheatre, 4850 Colorado Ave., NW, Washington, is offering two hot nights of entertainment over the weekend.

Harry Belafonte and daughter Shari.

On Saturday, June 18, Jimmy Cliff is the featured quest at a reggae festival. On June 19, Stacy Lattisaw and Mico-Wave perform. Call (202) 435-6943 or (202) 426-6943.

On the Baltimore side, Actor-singer Harry Belafonte helps bring in the eighth season of the WZJ-TV Harborlights Musical Festival at the Inner Harbor Pier Six Pavilion this weekend.

Belafonte, widely known for his humanitarianism, performs Friday, June 17.

"Good Morning America" broadcasts live from the Harbor Friday morning. Featured during the show's broadcast will be Baltimore's own singing sensation, Final Chapter, winner of this year's Best Fest competition.

The fourth annual Father's Day Tribute will be held at Munn Playfield located on the corner of 24th St. and Greenmount Ave.

The event will be held from 2 to 6 p.m. The day will be filled with music, poetry, art, games for the children, an African marketplace and much more.

Stacy Lattisaw

These are just a few of the events happening in and around Baltimore and Washington. More events are listed throughout the paper. Enjoy the weekend and have a happy Father's Day!

Andre De Shields is spreading rhythm

By Sheryl Michelle Jeffries

Baltimore is best for native Andre De Shields, who returned to his hometown to begin the first leg of the "Ain't Misbehavin" revival.

This limited engagement is in town for two weeks and six weeks in D.C. before heading to the bright lights of Broadway once more.

"It is very exciting ten years later to recreate a revival 100 percent with the five original cast members," said De Shields.

"I've completed the cycle of doing premieres in Baltimore with "The Wiz" and now with the "Ain't Misbehavin" revival," he added.

De Shields admitted he had some nervous jitters about performing in his hometown in front of family and friends, but he wanted to let it be known that he was going to give the best performance as possible to make his family and peers proud.

In reference to working with the original ensemble again in the revival, De Shields had this to say.

"We're older, wiser, and have a different approach, a more mature approach to the production. We're also peforming the show in a different era. In the seventies, it was a more liberal time, (in regard to Carter's administration), than the present conservative time during Reagan's era."

A point of concern for DeShields was his anticipation of the audience reaction to the tour de force number, "The Viper's Drag," in reference to reefer.

"In 1978, it (the song) was a period piece when drugs were in the spotlight. Now it's in the eighties and the audiences are now conditioned to just say no; so it will be interesting to see how they interpret and react to it.".

(The audience seemed to take it well and in stride, especially when De Shields offered "reefer" to the audience and when no one reached for the drug, he uttered the line, "just say no, huh?! and the audience was quite amused by his statement.

De Shields has been in show business for twenty years and the Chicago production of "Hair" was his first professional show.

But it was the portrayal of

Continued on page 8

'Ain't Misbehavin' premieres; packs a joyful, musical punch

By Deborah Johns Moir

Fats Waller would be proud. Nell Carter and company have brought "Ain't Misbehavin'" back to Baltimore's Morris Mehanic Theatre with a bang. It'll run from June 14 through June 26.

The Tony award-winning musical moves to Washington's National Theatre from June 28 through August 6. From there, it's Broadway bound.

But back to the musical. Fats Waller was a pianist, composer, arranger and bandleader. Many of his songs are still quite famous and because of this musical's success since its inception in 1978, the Fats Waller era has enjoyed new popularity.

Nell Carter at the Morris Mechanic press conference.

Waller's music spanned from the mid-twenties to the early forties. This anniversary production reunites original cast members and behind-the-scenes people, as well.

This includes director Richard Maltby, Jr., and Arthur Faria, who recreates the staging of the musical numbers. Luther Henderson is the musical supervisor again, as he was for the original production.

The play centers around five main singers: Nell Carter, Baltimore's Andre De Shields, Armelia McQueen, Ken Prymus, and Charlaine Woodard. Conductor/pianist Luther Henderson is also featured prominently.

On opening night, each performer's talents were showcased by solos as well as ensemble pieces. The comedy interjected into the non-stop singing segments was pleasant and upbeat.

Whether they were the jokes spoken as asides or from the songs themselves, the humor was a definite bonus and necessity.

Songs like "Keepin' Out of Mischief Now" (sung by Woodward), "Squeeze Me" (sung by McQueen), and "Your Feet's Too Big" (sung by Prymus), were crowd pleasers.

"The Viper's Drag," sung by De Shields, truly pleased the crowd as he shimmied, did the dance "Snakehips" (based on dancer "Snakehips" Tucker), and generally "worked" the song for all it was worth.

Duets were popular: "Fat and Greasy," sung by De Shields and Prymus and "Find Out What They Like," sung by Carter and McQueen were hilarious and playfully suggestive, respectively.

The company sounded just as good as a whole as it did singing duets or solos. The title song and "The Joint is Jumping" come instantly to mind.

The most touching moment came when the company, dressed and sitting as still and solemn as a family posing for a 1930s portrait, sang "Black and Blue."

When the company finished the first verse, there was laughter from the audience. During the second verse the words hit on serious emotions — the pain of a man dealing with depression and misery all of his life.

They sang it quietly, respectfully. The harmony was beautiful;

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