—Utopia

(Continued from Page 7)

system, and probably, "the largest video screen in the area," according to Norm Patterson, currently acting as an entertainment consultant.

On the night we visited, the group "Troup" was there to sing. Their performance included their song currently out called, "Mamacita."

When groups aren't appearing at the club, good old R&B music is played, as well as the latest sounds on the air waves, accompanied by videos.

Boasting a crowd ranging from ages 21-49, Patterson says the club pulls in an average of 600 plus a night. "The club services Washington, Maryland, and Northern Virginia."

Ali and Shuron Rahmaan, (both originally from Baltimore), are the owners of Utopia, and they each take turns monitoring the club.

Norm Patterson has been affiliated with the club since its inception, and the general manager is named Al Sanders, not to be confused with the TV anchor.

The Rahmaans believe in tight security to ward ott potential problems.

At any given time, there are three security people on the door, while others are patrolling the premises throughout the night. They work in cooperation with the P.G. County police.

Other features of the club include a comfortable upstairs lounge, video games, "D. J. Master T" spinning the records, a beautiful waterfall in the lobby, and a private VIP room and balcony which overlooks the entire club.

Utopia is open seven nights a week, Sunday through Thursday until 2 a.m. and 'till 4 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.

It is a classy, black-owned club with a strictly enforced dress code.

For those who like to party to good, loud music, watch music videos, and who like to socialize amongst the crowd, Utopia is this side of paradise.

Utopia is located at 7752 Landover Road in Landover.

For information on cover charges, their special happy hours, or special attractions, call the club at 301-386-2289.

PHOTO CREDIT: Kim Moir

The crowd participates in the festivities at the Utopia club.

PHOTO CREDIT: Kim Moir

Couples are enjoying the slow pace of the music on the club Utopia's dance floor.

'Crocidile,' 'Rambo' lead summer movies

By Lawrence E. Katz

The summer of '88 - movies, movies, movies . . . up to 100 will be released between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

"Willow" kicked off the season but two sequels follow on May 23 and I'm going to call it the battle of the big knives. The films are "Rambo III" and "Crocodile Dundee II."

Both films feature the adroit and intriguing use of a big knife. As a matter of fact, I'm not sure who lent the knife to who. Have to ask the union props' man.

The two films are similar in many ways. At any rate, Sylvester "Hey, You" Stallone returns to the screen with a vengeance in his third installment of this highly successful "Rambo" series.

This time we find our hero working in a religious commune for some Monks in Thailand. He has been asked to help out the U.S. effort in Afghanistan by his old buddy and superior Colonel Trautman, nicely played as usual by the reliable Richard Crenna.

Rambo turns down the offer deciding to live the peaceful life, but the Colonel on assignment at the Afghan border is kidnapped by the Russians. Guess who finds out and decides he must go to the rescue?

Rambo III looks, of course, a lot like the first two. There's action aplenty. It's a very visual and noisy film and Stallone has ample opportunity to show off his ample form.

He journeys to the border and becomes friendly with a group of the Afghan people. It is here and in confrontational scenes between Trautman and his Russian captor that the film delivers its verbal message and political comment against war, Soviet aggression, etc.

They are rather obvious and sometimes stilted but nevertheless at times a welcome relief from the constant action.

That's part of the problem with this film. The continuous action, guns, knives, fighting, etc. lingers too long. "Rambo I" had less action and violence and was a more entertaining film.

It more fully explored the central character's psyche. Additionally, Rambo's revenge in I and II was enacted upon people who had done him extreme harm.

Yet, somehow despite the defects in the content of the film, it still maintains an entertaining flavor and Rambo fans will leave feeling satisfied.

There is one rather unusual scene. Rambo is shot but manages to push the bullet out of his stomach with a fire-sterilized knife. Children are asked not to try this at home.

"Crocodile Dundee II" is the long awaited sequel to "Crocodile Dundee," a film that became the most successful September release in movie history. Well, of course, there had to be a sequel and like any other sequel the second is never as good as the first.

Australian Paul, ("throw a shrimp on the barbie") Hogan returns with his American girlfriend played by Linda Kozlowski.

This time they start out in New York City, end up in the outback . . . the revers being true in the sequel.

Well, Kozlowski's ex-husband is in Central America and takes photos of a drug-related murder. He mails them to Koz before being killed by the dealers. The dealers then come to New York to recover the film.

Kozlowski is kidnapped by the drug dealers; and herein lies the coincidental (or is it) similarity between "Dundee II" and "Rambo III."

The entire rest of Crocodile is the effort to free Kozlowski and wreak havoc against the drug dealers. Dundee does just that and then lures the dealers somehow into the outback of Australia to finish the job. He picks them off one by one.

Two film critics said they liked this film more than the first because it had a more distinct plot. That is actually the problem here.

The first film was a series of funny one-liners meshing with Hogan's naive journey to New York and his romance with Kozlowski. But this humor can only go so far before it becomes too trite and cutesy.

The creators knew that and turned the film around with more action and violence. It just doesn't work. This time the film becomes overbearing and tedious and less believable than the first.

Written by Hogan and his son, the lack of funny and satiric one-liners is evident here and the film has to rely too heavily on sight material . . . most of which we've seen before.

In short, the banter between Paul and Linda that made the first one so popular, is just not here. Again, the type of humor that "Dundee I" brought doesn't work when it's stretched too far.

But, it's summer time. Hogan and Stallone are bigger than life heroes in two films that, although mediocre, still maintain enough entertaining portions to keep most leisure summer movie fans entertained. Both films on a scale of one to ten knives rate a six.

Larry Katz reviews movies on WTTR Fridays at 2:00 p.m.

SOUNDS

By Carl Matthews

MC LYTE
"Lyte As A Rock" (First Priority Music)

Here's the first album for a 17-year-old rapper from Brooklyn whose first single, "I Cram To Understand U (Sam)," was one of the hottest rap 12-inches in New York last year.

Although most of the stuff here is standard-issue drum-programmed rap, which non-rap-lovers will probably tire of quickly, Lyte's producers, Audio Two and King Of Chill have come up with some interesting def beats for Lyte to rap with. It's amazing how they can take the drums from Tommy Roe's oldie "Sweet Pea" and create a spiffy rhythm background just right for Lyte. Only time will tell whether she outsells Salt-N-Pepa.

NEW EDITION
"If It Isn't Love" (MCA)

Has it really been over six years since Ronald DeVoe, Michael Bivins, Bobby Brown, Ricky Bell and Ralph Tresvant first hit the charts with the sweet and light single "Candy Girl"?

Well, here it is, 1988, and though Bobby has left the group, New Edition will be pleasing millions of fans with their new single produced by Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis.

This is the kind of stuff New Edition should be doing, not stale covers of "Earth Angel" or "Duke Of Earl." The guys' harmonies have never sounded better. This single is from their new album, "Heart Break."

The closet gallery shop at Rockland Arts Center

The Closet Gallery Shop at Rockland Arts Center offers a variety of original art and craft items for the discerning eye.

New this spring are hand blown glass Hummingbird Feeders, traditional and funky jewelry, handmade paper fans and hand-painted greeting cards.

The Closet is in the main office of the Rockland Arts Center in Ellicott City. Shopping hours are Monday-Thursday 10-3 p.m. or by appointment. For information call 301/465-6700.

—Smithsonian festival

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p.m., representing one of the folk artist groups.

The festival sales tent will offer recordings from the Smithsonian's Folkway Records, including their new release (cassette) entitled "Music from the people of the Soviet Union." Other sales items include books, tapes, records and objects produced by festival craft persons.

PHOTO CREDIT: Smithsonian Institution

In the photo, basket weaver Lucreaty Clark of Lamont, Fla. demonstrates her craft at the 1981 Festival of American Folklife.

All events are free of charge. The general Smithsonian visitor information center telephone number is (202) 357-2700.

A recorded festival agenda telephone number is (202) 357-4574.

Sign language interpreters will be available each day from 11-5:30 p.m.

Hearing impaired persons may call for information at (202) 357-1729 (TDD).

The festival grounds are located on The National Mall between 10th and 14th streets. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. each day from June 30-July 4.

Sisterfire to hold festival

For the first time in its six-year history, Sisterfire—one of the world's largest women's arts festivals—is presenting two evenings of films by and about women.

The film festival is a new part of Sisterfire's two-day celebration of women's culture, which also features music, theatre, poetry, dance, crafts, storytelling and children's theatre by women artists from around the world.

The open air Sisterfire festival will be held July 2 and 3 at The Equestrian Center in Upper Marlboro, Md.

The new film festival will be held under the stars in the main concert stage area after the last live program of the day (at approximately 8:45 p.m.).

The films will be shown on the main concert stage, and will be free to all who come to the regular Sisterfire activities, which start at 11 a.m. on both days.

The film program planned for Saturday, July 2:

STORME: LADY OF THE JEWEL BOX — Local filmmaker Michelle Parkerson made this fascinating documentary about the life of male impersonator Storme DeLaverie, the M.C. of the legendary Jewel Box Review. The Review was America's first integrated female impersonation show, which played to packed houses in mainstream theatres during the '40s, '50s, and '60s.

A FAREWELL TO CHARMS—Zany Australian satire about Emma, "a reformed lipstick addict," and her friend Cecily as they go on an adventure, which makes them question romantic love as a woman's ultimate goal in life. Directed by Carla Pentiac.

WOMEN LOVING: FILMS BY BARBARA HAMMER:—Three short experimental films celebrating Lesbian sensuality and lifestyle. "Dyke Tactics" explores images of Lesbian relationships; "Double Strength" is a narrative about love between two trapeze artists; and "Women I Love" is a collection of images taken by the filmmaker over a period of five years.

The program for Sunday, July 3:

PAINTED LANDSCAPES OF THE TIMES: THE ART OF SUE COE — A documentary about the British painter and illustrator whose "nightmare visions" of suffering, pain and political violence has made her one of the most moving and relevant artists of today. Directed by Helene Klodawsky.

HAIRPIECE — This animated cartoon became an instant women's film classic; it's a hilarious look at the attitudes of black women towards their hair. Directed by Ayoka Chenzira.

RUN, SISTER, RUN — This dance documentary offers a behind-the-scenes look, as well as concert footage, of the making of a dance. Cleo Robinson is the choreographer, and the dance is based on the fugitive flight of Angela Davis. Directed by Margie Soo Hoo Lee.

BETTY — A tongue-in-cheek short by Washington's favorite "rock-a-pella" trio. BETTY will also be performing live at this year's Sisterfire.

Women, men and children are invited to attend Sisterfire. For more information about the film festival or any other aspect of Sisterfire, contact Roadwork at (202) 234-9308 or (202) 234-9309 (TTY).

Wild World to hold fire works

The Sixth Annual Fireworks Aerial Spectacular will take place at Wild World on Sunday, July 3rd.

This special Fireworks display will be part of the day's events at Wild World using imported fancy shells, gysers and salutes. Hundreds of bombursts will take place in the Golden Palm Tree display.

Dazzling fireworks, crackling shells and spangle shells — featuring color changing, flickering silver, glittering gold and combinations of colors will be used by Vitale Fireworks.

The show will build to a grand finale. Gysers will preface over 250 assorted color star shells and flash salutes for the finale.

Wild World is located at Exit 15-A, off the Capital Beltway, on Central Avenue, and is Maryland's largest Water/Amusement Park. For more information call Wild World at (301) 249-1500.

YOU GOTTA BE THERE, TO WIND-UP IN THE WIN COLUMN.

ORIOLES PROMO GIVE-AWAYS FOR JULY 1988

DATE	SPONSOR	OPPONENTS	ITEM/EVENT	ELIGIBLE
Thurs., July 7	Giant Food	Rangers	Three-Buck Night*	Everyone
Fri., July 8	Miller Lite	Rangers	Floppy Hats	21 & over
Sat., July 9	Toyota	Rangers	1966 World Series Pin	Everyone
Sun., July 10	Gatorade	Rangers	Bats	14 & under
Thurs., July 14	Giant Food	Twins	Three-Buck Night*	Everyone
Fri., July 15	WMAR/Carefirst	Twins	Umbrellas	15 & over
Sun., July 17	HomeTeam Sports	Twins	Rally Caps	Everyone
Sat., July 30	WIYY (98 Rock)	Royals	Fireworks	Everyone
Sun., July 31	French-Bray Prtg.	Royals	Photo Cards	14 & under

*Any upper reserved, lower reserved grandstand, or adult general admission seat available for $3.00

Ticket Center
301-481-6000

Orioles You Gotta Be There '88