AREA ENTERTAINMENT

Coming Events

Anton's 1201 Club

Anton's 1201 Club, 1201 Pennsylvania Ave., NW will present The Shirelles, Jan. 16-21; Kool & The Gang, Jan. 23-28 and B.B. King, Jan. 30-Feb. 1.

American's Black Forum

"Blacks in the 80s," a panel discussion with reflections on the past decade airs on WBFF-TV in Baltimore on Jan. 29. Topics of discussion will include impact of Crack cocaine, politics "The Reagan Years" and Racial Attitudes.

Film Series

Dar Ul Hikmat in conjunction with Sojourner-Douglass College, Baltimore, invites you to the "Wednesday Night at the Movies Film Series." The series will begin Jan. 31 and will run through Feb. Showings will begin promptly at 7 p.m., Sojourner-Douglass College. Jan. 31, Brother From Another; Feb. 7, Bob Marley (documentary); Feb. 14, Witness to Apartheid; Feb. 21, Miles Ahead (Miles Davis) and Feb. 28, The Harlem Renaissance.

Baltimore Film Forum

In honor of Black History Month, the Baltimore Film Forum is presenting a Feb. film series featuring works directed by contemporary Black women directors. The series will take place Thursday nights (Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22) at the Meyerhoff Auditorium in the Baltimore Museum of Art.

Sugar Cane Alley will be shown Thursday, Feb. 1. Feb. 8 will offer three film shorts. Two of the shorts are directed by Michelle Parkerson, who will be featured speaker. Parkerson, who is based in Washington, has received international attention. "But Then, She's Betty Carter" is an unforgettable cinematic portrait of the legendary jazz vocalist, Betty Carter. "Storme: The Lady Of The Jewel Box" is a documentary piece of Storme DeLarverie, former, emcee and female impersonator with the legendary Jewel Box Revue.

The Arena Players

The Arena Players, 801 McCulloh St., Baltimore, follows its block busting production of Charles Fuller's Pulitzer Prize drama, "A Soldier's Play" with "Divine Comedy". Production will begin Friday, Jan. 26 at 8:30 p.m. and will run weekends through Feb. 18. Call (301) 728-6500 or 6501, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Kennedy Center Concert Hall

Gospel Showcase Series featuring The Clark Sisters and Walter Hawkins & The Family Saturday, Feb. 3 at 8:30 p.m.

SOUNDS

By Carl Matthews

IT'S GRAMMY TIME AGAIN

This year's Grammy Awards, courtesy of the National Academy Of Recording Arts And Sciences (NARAS), will be presented February 21 in Los Angeles.

I know, I know... Some of you are still miffed about the Academy giving Jethro Tull a Grammy in the "heavy metal" category. And rightfully so. Jethro Tull is about as "heavy metal" as George Michael is "country and western."

But, if you're one of those who are still interested in the Grammys, and you who haven't heard who's nominated for 1989, here's a brief look at some of the major categories.

For **Best R&B Performance By A Duo Or Group With Vocal**, the following are nominated: **Soul II Soul**, "Back To Life"; **Bebe And Cece Winans**, "Celebrate New Life"; **Aretha Franklin And James Brown**, "Gimme Your Love"; **Aretha Franklin And Whitney Houston**, "It Isn't, It Wasn't, It Ain't Never Gonna Be"; and **Deniece Williams And Natalie Cole**, "We Sing Praises" (album track).

If I were an Academy voter, I'd give the award to Soul II Soul. Deniece and Natalie also deserve the award, I think, and stand a good chance of winning it.

Now, for **Best R&B Vocal Performance, Male**, we have: **Prince**, "Batdance" (single); **Bobby Brown**, "Every Little Step" (single); **Al Jarreau**, "Heart's Horizon" (album); **Luther Vandross**, "She Won't Talk To Me" (single); and **Smokey Robinson**, "We've Saved The Best For Last" (single).

"Batdance" is my personal favorite of the five, however I think Luther or Smokey will take the award this year. Luther already has an American Music Award to his credit (for Favorite R&B Male Vocalist of 1989).

For **Best R&B Vocal Performance, Female**, we have: **Vanessa Williams**, "Dreamin'" (single); **Anita Baker**, "Giving You The Best That I've Got" (album); **Natalie Cole**, "Good To Be Back" (album); **Janet Jackson**, "Miss You Much" (single); and **Aretha Franklin**, "Through The Storm" (album).

I'd vote for **Anita, who's already won an American Music Award for Favorite R&B Female Vocalist of 1989. Natalie and Janet also stand a good chance of grabbing a Grammy.**

For **Best R&B Song** (a songwriter's award), there's: "Every Little Step," "If You Don't Know Me By Now," "Miss You Much," "Superwoman," and "When A Man Loves A Woman."

One of these five are the best R&B song of 1989, if you ask me.

For **Best Rap Performance**, the following singles are nominated: **Young M.C.**, "Bust A Move"; **Public Enemy**, "Fight The Power"; **Tone-Loc**, "Funky Cold Medina"; **D.J. Jazzy Jeff And The Fresh Prince**, "I Think I Can Beat Mike Tyson"; and **De La Soul**, "Me Myself And I."

I can hear the gripes now. No Kool Moe Dee? No L.L. Cool J? No N.W.A.? No Ice-T? No M.C. Hammer?

We won't be surprised if Jeff and the Prince wins.

For **Best Jazz Instrumental Performance, Big Band**, the following albums are nominated: **Miles Davis**, "Aura"; **Mel Lewis Jazz Orchestra**, "The Definitive Thad Jones"; **The Count Basie Orchestra**, "The Legend, The Legacy"; **The Duke Ellington Orchestra**, "Music Is My Mistress"; and **McCoy Tyner Big Band**, "Uptown/Downtown."

All of the above releases are worth owning.

Now this year's nominees for **Best Metal Performance, Vocal Or Instrumental** are: **Dokken**, "Beast From The East" (album); **Queensryche**, "I Don't Believe In Love" (single); **Metallica**, "One" (single); **Faith No More**, "The Real Thing" (album); and **Soundgarden**, "Ultramega Ok" (album).

Although "One" doesn't represent their best work, I'd vote for Metallica.

(To be continued next week)

February at the Smithsonian

Smithsonian Celebrates Black History Month

African Americans have made significant contributions to American history. As a tribute to the many men and women who have played vital roles in that history, the Smithsonian has planned a host of programs and special events. Included is a sampling of events to commemorate Black History Month, offered by the Smithsonian. For a more complete listing, call 357-4574.

African American Inventors. A series of public programs in conjunction with the exhibition "The Real McCoy: African American Invention and Innovation, 1619-1930." Anacostia Museum. (Throughout February. For details, call 357-2700. All events are free.)

African Religion in the New World. A film series. Museum of African Art. (Throughout February. Free. For details, call 357-4860.) Following the film on Feb. 4, a panel discussion on this topic will take place at 3 p.m. in the Ripley Center.

African American Artists. A group tour titled "Free Within Ourselves" highlights works by blacks. Museum of American Art (Throughout February. For details, call 357-3111. Free)

The Eastern High School Choir. This local choir will perform. Air and Space Museum. (Feb. 1 at 7:30 p.m. Free)

Dr. Mary Frances Berry. This historian and member of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will be guest speaker for the institutionwide observance. She will discuss "The Present Crisis: African American History and Culture in Public Institutions." Music by Jeffnajors and Yasmeen. Hirshhorn Museum. (Feb. 2 at 10 a.m. Free)

African American Dance: Beauty, Rhythm and Power. A two-day conference. Museum of American History. (Feb. 2-3. Free. For details on registration, call 357-4176.) Dianne McIntyre and the Sounds in Motion Dance Company will perform both days.

Cultures in Motion. "Kaleidoscope: Black Women Writers of the 18th and 19th Centuries." Dramatic readings by local artists. National Portrait Gallery. (Feb. 4 at 2:30 p.m. Free. For reservations, call 357-2720.)

Jazz in the Palm Court. "Ellington and Tap" examines the relationship between 1930s jazz and tap dance as performed to Ellington music. Museum of American History. (Feb. 4 and 18 at 1:30 and 3:30 p.m. Free)

The Blues. A film on the lives and music of female singers Ida Cox, Bessie Smith, Ethel Waters and more. Hirshhorn Museum. (Feb. 8-9 at 8 p.m. Free)

Artist Lois Mailou Jones. Docent-led tour of Meridian House where some 50 of Jones' paintings are on view. (Feb. 8 and 22 at 12:50 p.m. $12.)

Women of the Calabash. These women combine traditional instruments and music forms stemming from African music. Museum of Natural History. (Feb. 9 at 7:30 p.m. $16.)

African American Survival. In a performance of "The Storyteller," Colonial Williamsburg's Dylan Pritchett examines the morals, values and survival techniques of Blacks during the Colonial period. Museum of American Art. (Feb. 10 at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Free) Pritchett will also perform at the Museum of American History on Feb. 15-16 at 10:30 a.m. and noon. Free.

Itabari Njeri. This Los Angeles Times writer discusses her latest book. Hirshhorn Museum. (Feb. 12 at 6 p.m. $10.)

Blacks in Aviation. A lecture by John Morrow. Air and Space Museum. (Feb. 13 at 7:30 p.m. Free) The museum will offer two additional free lectures: "The Rise of the Phoenix" with Louis Purnell, a member of the first all-black squadron of World War II pilots, on Feb. 21 at noon, and "Black Wings" with visiting historian Theodore Robinson on Feb. 28 at noon.

Jazz Impromptu. Jazz vocalist Mark Murphy and pianist/composer Reuben Brown. Museum of Natural History. (Feb. 16 at 7:30 p.m. $16.) More on Feb. 18 at 7:30 p.m. in the Museum of Natural History with Kent Jordan and his quartet. The cost is $16.

Damon Evans. This actor/singer, who appeared in "Roots: The Next Generation," will sing the best of Duke Ellington and other black songwriters. Museum of Natural History. (Feb. 17 at 7:30 p.m. $16.)

Discovery Theater. Two performances for young audiences. "Straighten Up and Fly Right" through Feb. 17 and "We the People" Feb. 20-March 8. Arts and Industries Building. (Adults, $3.50; children 12 and under, $3. Group rates available. For details, call 357-1500.)

Sculpture of William Edmondson. Howard University's Trinobia Benjamin discusses this Black artist's life and work. Museum of American Art. (Feb. 18 at 5 p.m. Free)

Dylan Pritchett, "The Storyteller"

Poetry, Stories and Songs. A program about the lives of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Robert Kennedy, Harriet Tubman and Malcolm X. Museum of American Art. (Feb. 21 at 1 p.m. Free)

Tracing Your Genealogy. Members of the Wellington-Worthington family present an original play detailing the history of their family. Sponsored by Friends for the Preservation of Afro-American Culture. Anacostia Museum. (Feb. 21 at 1 p.m. Free)

The Archaeology of the Black Diaspora. Museum's Theresa Singleton discusses this topic. Museum of Natural History. (Feb. 25 at noon. Free)

Jazz. The Keter Betts Trio introduces jazz to the entire family. Museum of Natural History. (Feb. 25 at 2 p.m. $16.)

New Exhibits

Culture and Commentary: An '80s Perspective. An exhibition that reflects guest curator Kathy Halbreich's view of 1980s art works. Hirshhorn Museum. (Feb. 8-May 6)

George Ohr: Modern Potter, 1857-1918. Eighty-two works. Renwick Gallery. (Feb. 9-June 3.)

Variations on a Script: Islamic Calligraphy From the Vever Collection. Twenty-one objects that show various styles of Islamic calligraphy. Sackler Gallery. (Feb. 18-Indefinitely)

Hughes H-1 Racer. An aircraft designed by Howard Hughes. Air and Space Museum. (Feb. 28-Indefinitely)

Films

Ethnic Notions. An award-winning documentary that traces deep-rooted stereotypes. Portrait Gallery. (Throughout February. Free. For details, call 357-2920.)

Shorts: New and Notable. "The Way Things Go" and more. Hirshhorn Museum. (Feb. 1-2 at 8 p.m. Free)

Deconstructivist Architects. The work of Frank Gehry, Peter Eisenman and more. Hirshhorn Museum. (Feb. 1 at noon and Feb. 3 at 1 p.m. Free)

Time Travelers Film Series. Air and Space Museum. (7:30 p.m. Free unless noted.)
- *Buck Rogers* (Feb. 2)
- *Time After Time* (Feb. 9)
- *Unidentified Flying Oddball* (Feb. 16)
- *Back to the Future II* (Feb. 23. There is a $1 admission fee.)

Art and History in Africa. Two films "Different but Equal" on Feb. 3 and "Kings and Cities" on Feb. 24. Museum of African Art. (2 p.m. Free)

Nomads. Three films in conjunction with the exhibition "Nomads." Museum of Natural History. (Feb. 5 from 12:30 to 3 p.m. Free)
- *Herders of Mongun Taiga*
- *Grass: A Nation's Battle for Life*
- *The Shahsavahn Nomads of Iran*

Strategic Bombing. "Air Force," the story of a fictional B-17 bomber crew during WWII. Air and Space Museum. (Feb. 7 at 7:30 p.m. Free)

Fourteen Americans. A documentary on contemporary artists. Hirshhorn Museum. (Feb. 8 at noon and Feb. 10 at 1 p.m. Free)

Voice of the Whip. Documents an 800-mile camel drive from Kordofan Province in Sudan to Egyptian camel markets. Museum of Natural History. (Feb. 9 at noon. Free)

Art and Life in Mali. Museum of African Art. (Throughout February. Free. For details, call 357-4860.)

Workers and Managers. A film/forum on worker-management cooperation. Museum of American History. (Feb. 15 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Free. To register, call 357-4085.)

A New Spirit in Painting. Michael Blackwood's film about figurative expressionism in the 1980s. Hirshhorn Museum. (Feb. 15 and 22 at noon and Feb. 17 and 24 at 1 p.m. Free)

CLIO Awards, 1988-1989. Favorite TV commercials. Hirshhorn Museum. (Feb. 15-16 at 8 p.m. Free)

Asian Visions. Two documentaries. "Jama Masjid Street Journal" and "India Cabaret." A Sackler Gallery program. Ripley Center. (Feb. 18 at 2 p.m. Free)

The Wizard of Speed and Time. A comedy by Mike Jittlov. Hirshhorn Museum. (Feb. 22-25 at 8 p.m. Free)

Paris, 1900 to World War I. The history. Renwick Gallery. (Feb. 22 and 24 at 11 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. Free)

Family Events

Animated Tales From Africa. Hirshhorn Museum. (Feb. 3 at 11 a.m. Free)

African Art Club. Children, ages 9-13, draw African art. Museum of African Art. (Feb. 3 from 1 to 3 p.m. Free. Registration required: call 357-4860.)

Draw-In. Children, ages 12 and older, draw items in the Naturalist Center collection. Bring own materials. Museum of Natural History. (Feb. 4 from noon to 5 p.m. Free.)

Dumbo. Disney cartoon. Hirshhorn Museum. (Feb. 10 at 11 a.m. Free)

Ganges Family Day. Through performances, live music and more, discover life along India's Ganges River. Sackler Gallery. (Feb. 10 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free. For details on events and tickets, call 357-2700.)

Craft Demonstration. Silhouette-cutting in Colonial America, techniques and history by experts Helen and Nell Laughon. Museum of American Art. (Feb. 14 from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free)

The Rescuers, Mouse Feature. A cartoon in which a variety of animals survive a flood. Hirshhorn Museum. (Feb. 17 at 11 a.m. Free)

African Folk Tales. Lore and history. Museum of African Art. (Feb. 17 at 1:30 p.m. Free)

Mouse Shorts. A program of cartoons with Minnie, Mickey and others. Hirshhorn Museum. (Feb. 24 at 11 a.m. Free)

African Puppets. A family workshop. Museum of African Art. (Feb. 24 from 1 to 5 p.m. Free. To register, call 357-4860.)

Lectures

Caribbean: Legacies of a Link. John Homiak, film archivist, examines links between North America and the Caribbean. Museum of Natural History. (Feb. 2 at noon. Free)

Monthly Sky Lecture. "Star Laws: What Are the Rules in Space?" Air and Space Museum. (Feb. 3 at 9:30 a.m. Free)

Painted Furniture. Regional and ethnic forms of American painted furniture will be explored in a lecture, demonstration and tour. Museum of American Art. (Feb. 5 from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free)

Folk Art. Museum's Andrew Connors discusses social and cultural context of "Treasures of American Folk Art" exhibition. Museum of American Art. (Feb. 7 at noon. Free)

Pilgrimage and Hindu Villagers. Cornell University's Ann Grodzins Gold examines the many dimensions of a pilgrimage to the Ganges. A Sackler Gallery program. Ripley Center. (Feb. 8 at 6 p.m. Free)

General Electric Aviation Lecture. "The Lifting Body Aircraft Program." Air and Space Museum. (Feb. 8 at 7:30 p.m. Free)

Winold Reiss. Three lectures on this German artist who painted America's ethnic groups. Portrait Gallery. (Feb. 8, 15 and 22 at noon. Free. For details, call 357-2700.)

In Search of the First Egyptians. Exhibition Curator Michael Hoffman explores ancient Egyptian civilization. Museum of Natural History. (Feb. 9 at 1:30 p.m. Free)

Asafo Flags: Appliqué. Workshop on the appliquéd flags of the Fante people of Ghana. Museum of African Art. (Feb. 10 from 1 to 5 p.m. Free)

African Art Works. Museum's Veronika Jenke discusses uncommon elements found in African art works. Museum of African Art. (Feb. 10 at 2 p.m. Free)

Drawing. Maryland Institute's Barbara Price discusses the role of drawing in education of artists. Museum of American Art. (Feb. 11 from 2 to 4:30 p.m. Free. Reservations required; call 357-4581.)

Capitol Writers. Novels of intrigue with David Wise and W.T. Tyler. Museum of American History. (Feb. 11 at 7 p.m. Free)

Exploring Space Lecture Series. "The Search for Dark Matter in the Universe." Air and Space Museum. (Feb. 14 at 7:30 p.m. Free)

Ancient Mosaics of Aztec Mexico. British Museum's Anthony Shelton discusses this topic. Museum of Natural History. (Feb. 16 at noon. Free)

The Image of the Rider in African Art. Museum's Edward Lifschitz examines this subject. Museum of African Art. (Feb. 17 at 2 p.m. Free)

Will Angkor Survive? Jamie James, lecturer and writer, discusses this capital city of Cambodia's civilization. A Sackler Gallery program. Ripley Center. (Feb. 19 at 6 p.m. Free)

20th-Century Crafts. Museum's Judy Coady discusses works from the museum's collection. Renwick Gallery. (Feb. 21 at noon. Free)

FOCUS: Reassessing the '80s. Local curators discuss 1980s art. Hirshhorn Museum. (Feb. 21 at 6:30 p.m. Free)

Space Telescope Lecture. How the Hubble Space Telescope was developed. Air and Space Museum. (Feb. 21 at 7:30 p.m. Free)

Cultures in Motion. Highlights from Walt Whitman's works. Portrait Gallery. (Feb. 25 at 2:30 p.m. Free. For reservations, call 357-2729.)

American Textiles. Museum's Allen Bassing discusses fabrics and styles during the early days of industrialization. Renwick Gallery. (Feb. 28 at noon. Free)

Performances

Musical Theater. The music of Kurt Weill. Museum of American History. (Feb. 9 at noon and Feb. 11 and 25 at 1:30 and 3:30 p.m. Free)

Cultures in Motion. Joanne Shenandoah, an American Indian singer and songwriter, performs her music about the Blackfeet Indians. Portrait Gallery. (Feb. 15 at 7:30 p.m. Free. For reservations, call 357-2729.)

Hours/Information

Ride Metro to the Smithsonian museums and the National Zoo.

General Visitor Information. Call 357-2700 or 357-1729 (TDD). An audio cassette edition of this calendar is available by calling 357-1697 (voice) or 357-1696 (TDD).

Museum Hours. The following museums are open from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily: Air and Space Museum; Arts and Industries Building; Hirshhorn Museum; International Gallery, Museum of African Art, Museum of American Art, Museum of American History, Museum of Natural History, Portrait Gallery, Renwick Gallery and Sackler Gallery. The Anacostia Museum is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The National Zoo's hours are 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (buildings) and 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (grounds). For information on the Cooper-Hewitt Museum in New York City, call 357-2700. The Smithsonian Information Center in the Castle is open from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily.

Resident Associate Events. Advance tickets are usually required; call 357-3030 for availability. Discounts for members.

For confirmation of all Smithsonian events, call 357-2700.

The March Calendar will appear February 24, 1990, in the Washington Afro-American.

AREA ENTERTAINMENT

AT THE MOVIES:

'Driving Miss Daisy'

By Frederick I. Douglass

Morgan Freeman is on a role.

His role in "Driving Miss Daisy" further accelerates an outstanding acting career that has been distinguished by his superb performances in critically acclaimed movies such as "Clean and Sober," "Lean on Me" and "Glory," a flick that is currently showing in the nation's theatres.

Both "Driving Miss Daisy" and "Glory" are listed in the nation's top ten grossing movies this week according to *Variety* magazine.

While you may initially have a problem with the fact that Freeman plays chauffeur to a 72-year-old southern Jewish matron, you will soon be caught under his spell.

He develops the character Hoke Colburn as an intelligent, charismatic individual who has talents far beyond his job description, but who also has the ability to maneuver in the South without losing an ounce of his dignity.

"Driving Miss Daisy" deals with one of the relations that developed between Blacks and Whites in the changing South over a 25 year period, beginning in 1948.

Alfred Uhry, the author of this Pulitzer prize winning play turned movie says "... the story is intended to serve as a metaphor about the relations between southern White and Black cultures in the period of the emerging Civil Rights movement."

Miss Daisy Werthan (Jessica Tandy) is a stubborn, defiantly independent and somewhat odd senior citizen who is determined to drive her Packard automobile and otherwise maintain her self reliance.

When she crashes her car in a neighbor's garden, her son Boolie (Dan Akroyd) defies her wishes and hires Hoke Colburn to drive her around.

Miss Daisy resists at first, but Colburn, who is also strong willed, but patient and considerate of her feelings, ultimately persuades her to let him do his job.

This is the beginning of a deep friendship that lasts for more than a score of years.

While they motor around town in her Packard, Daisy and Hoke become strange Siamese twins, an odd couple bound together in a platonic and symbiotic relationship that transcends cultural and racial barriers.

The performances of the three major characters in "Driving Miss Daisy" are powerful, and, in the case of Dan Akroyd, pleasantly surprising.

Jessica Tandy and Morgan Freeman in a scene from the award-winning "Driving Miss Daisy."

Morgan Freeman is most impressive in this movie, taking what could have been a subservient role and developing Hoke Colburn into the pivotal character of the movie.

He overwhelms Jessica Tandy who also played the role of Miss Daisy in the stage version opposite Brock Peter's interpretation of Hoke Colburn when the play was here in Baltimore at the Morris Mechanic Theatre.

He displays the breadth and depth of his acting abilities as he propels the other members of the cast to deliver their best.

At times, Freeman's delivery reminds one of a John Coltrane solo as he takes his role to the ultimate limits of character interpretation.

Tandy and Akroy function as a rhythm section, laying down the acting equivalent of a percussive and chordal foundation contrapuntal to his soulful, but highly structured acting.

Freeman dominates the screen in this movie and has earned a Golden Globe nomination for his display of acting prowess.

Jessica Tandy attacks her role with all of the professionalism that she has developed during her 64 years as an actress, one who has won three Tony Awards.

Her interpretation of Daisy is poignant as she portrays a woman who is unable to come to grips with being a victim of prejudice such as the 1958 bombing of The Temple, synagogue to Atlanta's oldest Jewish congregation.

Dan Akroyd is also a strong figure in this movie, shedding the image of a slapstick comedian to demonstrate that he can play a dramatic role.

This is an entirely different Dan Akroyd than you have come to know. Akroyd should consider more dramatic roles in the future.

Pattie Labelle is in rare form!

By Paula Brooks

Honeychild let me tell you—if you missed the Patti Labelle/James Ingram tour, you've missed an opportunity for ecstasy! Patti's opening night at the Lyric in Baltimore was an emotional experience for everyone present.

Patti interplayed heavily and established a wonderful rapport with the audience — and sang her heart out as well.

James Ingram started his set with the up-tempo hit "Real," to the accompaniment of marvelous female dancers. He then performed a repertoire of the mellow ballads that made him famous such as "You Make My Love Come Down," "Just Once," "100 Ways," and "You Make Me Feel Like a Natural Man."

The audience enjoyed his music immensely, but it was not until Labelle appeared, that they began to really cut loose.

The concert was a benefit for Coppin State College, and the audience was a prestigious mix of doctors, lawyers, and indian chiefs. Resplendent in jewel-toned velvets, lots of rhinestones, sequins, and leathers, the audience was the essence of good taste and sophistication.

One couldn't help but remember a time when the dynamic, outrageously attired all-girl band, known as Labelle attracted a much different audience. In those days the group asked the audience to wear something silver, and "The Children," were more than happy to oblige.

Patti has always had a passionate cult of followers in the Baltimore/D.C. area who loved her with undying devotion. Many faces were among the same ones seen at her concerts ten years ago, but many belonged to people one would never expect to see at a Labelle concert.

This just goes to show that if you have a little talent and a lot of determination, you can see your dreams come true. Patti of course, has no short supply of either, and she gave the performance of her life this night.

Her control over her voice has increased, and she was in rare form. "I'm going to take my time, before time takes me! At 45 it's time to slow down!" she told the audience amid peals of laughter. This proved to be a biggest joke of the night, as Patti carried on for almost three hours.

Patti Labelle

She was magnificent in a royal blue velvet gown, encrusted with rhinestones down the stiff, leg of mutton sleeves. The back had a bustle and train, and the front was graced with a thigh high slit.

One minute Patti was exhorting the audience to "Be Yourself," the title of her latest album. The next thing we knew, she had thrown herself down on the stage, and rolled over three times before coming to rest peering out at the audience with her chin supported by her elbow.

She could have bought anyone there for 50 cents! The audience was in the palm of her hand! She proceeded to sing just about anything you could have wanted her to do. "New Attitude," "I Love & Need & Want You," Billy Holiday's "Lover Man," "Isn't It A Shame," and "Yo Mister."

It was time for a costume change and Patti reappeared in a lush black two piece gown with peplum and side slit, sprinkled liberally with rhinestones. She told us how trying 1989 had been for her. She lost her sister Barbara to cancer a couple of years ago, and lost her other sister, Jackie and her father this year.

Lamenting the diminished size of her family, she told of adopting her sister's two children, and laughed because the audience thought Patti was on stage when the show opened, but it was her niece.

She entered from the back of the theater, and made her way down the aisle, voice first, just like "the good old days." "They call her "little Patti," but she's so shy, we have to beg her to come out."

Patti dedicated the show to all those family and friends who had died, including Sylvester, and the many others stricken with Aids. She told the audience tearfully," If there's someone that you love, tell them so tonight, because tomorrow is promised to no one."

Kicking her shoes off in a high arc over the stage she said" Sometimes I can't help thinking what's my life for? Even though '89 was rough for me, I can't complain."

The empathy felt by the audience was intense, and when Patti launched into "You Are My Friend-and ended it with "What A Friend We Have in Jesus," more than a few people were seen with tears in their eyes.

Debbie Harry, a back-up singer, with a voice as powerful as Patti's put the icing on the cake by singing the old spiritual from "Imitation of Life," "Soon We'll Be Done With the Trouble of the World." Also exceptional were the sax solos performed by Pam Williams.

All in all if you missed this concert, you missed a chance to be healed. There was a special soothing energy exuded that did body and soul good. Several people remarked that they felt better than they had in weeks!

Patti has a lot to give, and she's not hardly holding back. In fact she's on a mission! She's determined to spread love and light to all those within the range of her miraculous voice.

Patti has been tempered by the fire and has risen from the ashes like the true phoenix — that mythical bird — that she is. She will be performing at The Kennedy Center in D.C. this weekend, and if you can beg, borrow or steal a ticket, by all means, do so!

WASHINGTON WPAS PERFORMING ARTS SOCIETY

Gospel Showcase — Saturday, February 3, at 8:30 p.m. Kennedy Center Concert Hall

"It's a Family Affair" - Powerful and Beautiful experiences of a unique Afro-American art form

Starring

The Clark Sisters

The number one female group in gospel music today!

and

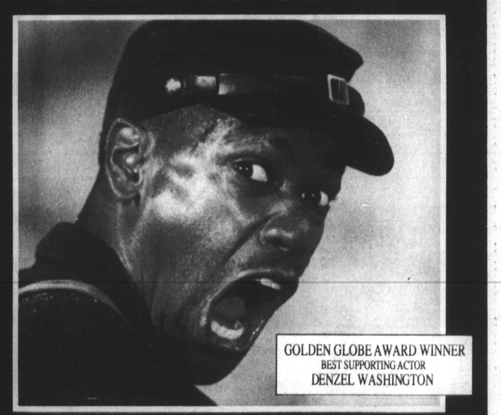
Walter Hawkins & The Family

From "Oh Happy Day" to the "Love Alive" album series, the Hawkins Family have remained at the top of the gospel music industry!

TICKETS: 467-4600

Kennedy Center Box Office: Instant Charge 467-4600; Group Sales 393-3600; Phone Charge 432-0200; All TicketCenter Outlets

SOME MEN ARE BORN FOR GLORY



GOLDEN GLOBE AWARD WINNER
BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR
DENZEL WASHINGTON

MATTHEW BRODERICK — DENZEL WASHINGTON — CARY ELWES — AND — MORGAN FREEMAN

Glory

TRI-STAR PICTURES presents A FREDDIE FIELDS production An EDWARD ZWICK film "GLORY"
Produced by PIETER JAN BRUGGE Music by JAMES HORNER Edited by STEVEN ROSENBLUM Production Designed by NORMAN GARWOOD
Director of Photography FREDDIE FRANCIS Screenplay by KEVIN JARRE Produced by FREDDIE FIELDS Directed by EDWARD ZWICK
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