AREA ENTERTAINMENT

ASPECTS OF THE ARTS

By J. W. Robinson Horne

'Starlight' spectacle

WASHINGTON—The Opera House of John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts has never housed a theatrical production of this musical magnitude before.

"Starlight Express," Broadway's most extraordinary skating musical, began its 32-day engagement in Washington, one of the 24 cities of the North American Tour. It is a super spectacle that is an entertainment extravaganza for all ages.

Composer Andrew Lloyd Webber, the melodic musical genius of our age, whose successes are such shows as "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," "Jesus Christ Superstar," "Evita," "Cats," and "Phantom of the Opera," has had a longtime fascination with trains that inspired "Starlight Express."

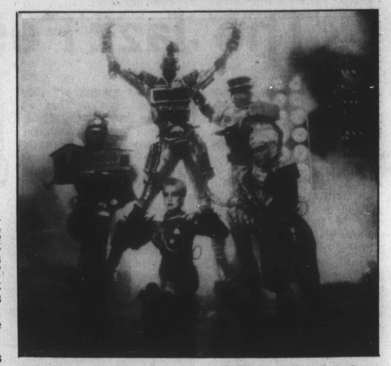
The musical evolved from his idea for a "Cinderella" story for children about trains, into a concert before becoming one of the most spectacular musical theatre events of all time when the fully-realized production premiered in London in March, 1984. Mr. Webber's score is a colorful combination of contemporary pop styles which includes rock, blues, western, gospel and rap.

"Starlight Express," subtitled "Tracking Across America," has been described as the story of "the little fellow who is bullied by two bigger fellows, but because he has faith, he turns out bigger than both of them." Three fellows are the three rival engines and their trains.

Three Black performers who excelled in their roles in this musical fantasy were: Ms. Rice as the curvaceous dining car who sang her beautiful ballad of bewilderment, "Make Up My Heart' and her reuniting romantic duet with Mr. McDermott: Mr. Lockett's soulful lamenting of his "Poppa's Blues" and later his powerful bass voice (offstage) rendering "I Am the Starlight," to inspire Rusty (onstage) to compete to win, giving him confidence; and Mr. Clausell, tall, lean and limber, who sang and danced provocatively in the "AC/DC" number.

Noteworthy was Mr. McDermott's stirring vocalizing of the title song, "Starlight Express" and Mr. DeVito's pulsating performance of "Pumping Iron." "Light at the End of the Tunnel" was the company's spiritive, gospel-style song of hope finale.

Raymond Huessy's massive set featured high-tech skating bank curves and a huge ramp that extends forty feet into the theatre and a giant screen for film projections. Rick Belzer's and Ted Mather's elaborate lighting designs were breathtaking.



Eric Clausell as Electra is surrounded by cast members from the North American Tour of "Starlight Express."

Awesome was one scene of green wide arc laser beams accentuated with billowy clouds. Definitive futuristic costumes were designed by John Napier and incredible skating choreography was created by Arlene Phillips, who described this starlight spectacle.

HOW TO ROCKET DOWN TO THE HARBOR ON THE 4TH.

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• MTA bus service will operate on a Sunday schedule, with no Metro Connection bus service.

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• For more information, call 539-5000.

MTA MASS TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

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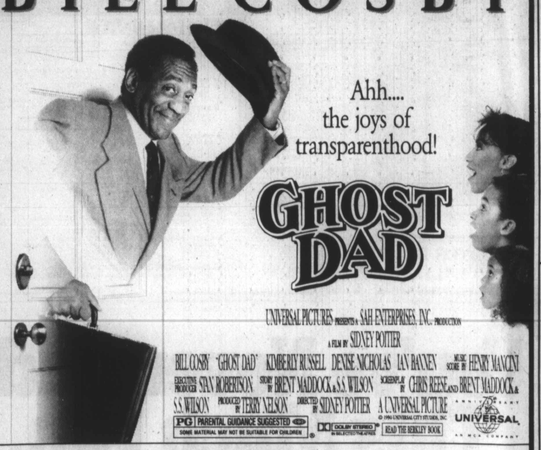
Bill Cosby & Sidney Poitier stage a welcome reunion with 'Ghost Dad.'" — Bob Thomas, ASSOCIATED PRESS

"SEE 'GHOST DAD'...Enough fantasy for the kids, enough warmth for the parents." — Patrick Stoner, PBS-TV

BILL COSBY



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MAKING THE ROUNDS with Bonnie Butler

"We came to Baltimore because we were told that if you can't make it there, you can't make it anywhere," says **George Fulton** who, along with his business partner, **Ceolia**, are the owners of C and J Restaurant and Lounge on McKean Ave. and Westwood Avenue (formerly the Red Rooster).

The Fultons arrived in this town about two months ago from Columbia, S.C., where they had operated a club and restaurant in that city.

"When we arrived, we immediately contacted a real estate agent expressing an interest in purchasing a business and we were told the Red Rooster was up for sale. After doing some research, we found that this club was the place for us."

The Red Rooster has gone through several managements beginning in the 1960's when **Askew Gatewood** owned and **Bluetop** managed the spot.

Next came **Vernon** and **Vivian Turner** who sold their supermarket on Poplar Grove and Franklintown Rd. in order to invest in the club.

They sold the business to **Harold** and **Franeine Ashby** who have now turned over the reins to **George** and **Ceolia Fulton.**

The Red Rooster has always been known for its succulent foods and according to Fulton, that tradition will continue.

"Our motto and goal is to provide good service and to make sure you can get what you pay your dollar for," says Mr. Fulton. "We will stress good food and good drinks."

He will begin a daily luncheon special Monday thru Friday beginning at 11:30 a.m. with barbeque pork, chicken and ribs as the speciality. The kitchen will be open seven days a week until closing.

Welcome to Baltimore's nightlife George and Ceolia Fulton from Making the Rounds.

* * *

Baltimore's internationally known Sphinx Club on Pennsylvania Ave. is one of the oldest family - owned membership clubs in the world. It came into being long before **Hugh Hefner's** famed Playboy Club.

It was founded in 1946 by **Charles P. Tilghman,** with a Board of Directors that boasted some of Baltimore's most prominent names . . . the late **Furman Templeton** of the Urban League was among this august body.

In July of 1988, **Charlie Tilghman** died and the reins passed on to his children, **Randy, Ronny** and **Barbara.**

They have designated July 1990 as a month of remembrance for their Dad and all are invited.

It all begins Sunday, July 1, when Sphinx Club members will go en masse to a theatre party at the Arena Playhouse on McCulloh St. where the musical "One Mo' Time" is the fare for the evening. One of the stars of this exciting musical is none other than **Randy Tilghman.**

Among the highlights of the month - long celebration will be a stint by jazz and blues organist **Richard (Groove) Holmes** and his band "New Groove." They'll be holding down the fort July 15, 16, 17 and 22 with a matinee and nightly appearances.

But before you get to see the Groove, on Wednesday, July 4, they are hosting an indoor "bring your own basket" picnic that starts at 4 p.m.

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WIC FOR FARMERS

Maryland's successful "Women Infant and Children's Farmer Market Coupon Demonstration Project" (WIC) is expanding into two more counties for 1990, bringing the total of participating counties to eight plus Baltimore City.

A program funded by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, the Maryland Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Maryland Dept. of Agriculture, it has as its objective, encouraging WIC program recipients to shop at farmers markets by issuing them coupons good only at participating markets for fresh fruits and vegetables. A total of 13 farmers markets are participating this year on a voluntary basis, almost double the number from last year.

YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

Adelle International, Inc., a public relations firm co-owned by 26-year-old Black entrepreneurs Djana Adele Pearson and Gini Adelle Wilderson, hosted it first annual Minority Business Forum recently at the Howard Inn.

Many businesses have a desire to hire minority contractors, but may not know how to locate them. During the forum, corporations met the best owned catering, public relations, computer systems management firms, etc. in the Washington, D.C. area. About a year ago they formed Adelle International, with the idea of focusing on direct marketing and mail order. For information call (202) 387-8939.

MINORITY DEVELOPERS COURSE

Applications for the Minority Developers Executives Program (MDEP) are available now from the MIT Center for Real Estate Development (CRED). It is an intensive 10 day educational program offered by MIT CRED to minority individuals who are owners, principals, or senior-level managers in development firms. It is designed to expand participants' business skills and to also enable them to diversify their firms and manage change more effectively.

The goal of the program is to increase opportunities for minority development firms to participate in more complex, larger-scale commercial and industrial projects. Applications are available through CRED. They must be completed and returned no later than July 10, 1990.

ACT-SO SEMI FINALS

McDonald's Family Restaurant and NAACP's ACT-SO program honored this year's winning ACT-SO students recently at the National NAACP Headquarters, in Baltimore, Md. The program is established to acknowledge the achievements of Black students and to create a climate for improved academic excellence.

ACT-SO is the Afro-American, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics program sponsored by NAACP. Black high school students compete in a variety of academic categories ranging from contemporary art to classical music to dramatics and poetry writing.

The winners, from six chapters in Baltimore and Washington, performed their competitive entries and received gifts from McDonald's as they advance to the National ACT-SO competition in Los Angeles.

CARTOONS FOR THOUGHT

"Think 'Bout It!" a hard driving, uncompromising line of cartoons focusing on the plight of Black people in America was started approximately four months ago and can be seen bi-weekly in the nationally distributed "The Final Call" newspaper.

The cartoons are designed and created by Benjamin Muhammad. They are humorous, sometimes cause disgust, and always stimulate thought. For subscription cost and information call (202) 289-0048.

ICE CREAM FANTASY

The International Ice Cream Association (IICA) and the Milk Industry Foundation (MIF) hosted a capacity crowd of about 10,000 guests recently for their eighth annual Capitol Hill Ice Cream Party.

Member of Congress, their families and staffs, government officials, and other VIPs ate almost 2,500 gallons of ice cream and frozen yogurt, 250 gallons of topping, 12,000 cherries, 5,000 root beer floats and 40 pieces of pie-a-la mode were consumed at this three-hour ice cream lovers dream with manufacturers from all over the country.

Tired of junk, garbage? Turn your trash into cash!

New kit teaches you how debris can fund dreams

It's June, and many people are contemplating having a summer garage sale. They look at the clutter in their closets, the piles of stuff in the basement, and the accumulated "junk" in the attic. "What a lot of work!" they think.

All that work is much more manageable with the help of the Garage Sale Success Kit, created by Janet and Lloyd Cooper. The kit provides everything needed to have a smooth and successful sale, including price tags, posters, a marking pen and a 24-page handbook.

"Preparing for a garage sale that is going to be a big success can take some time," states Mr. Cooper, "but by following the guidelines outlined in the Garage Sale Success handbook and using the other items in the kit, the process is much easier and more money will be made. That money can be used for vacations, back to school funds, or for buying something special that may otherwise be unaffordable."

The kit is fairly new on the market, but has already met with tremendous success, including a significant order from the U.S. Army and Air Force Exchange. "People always tell us our garage sales are the best and most organized sales they have seen," explains Mr. Cooper. "So, we decided to put our knowledge into a kit that would help others understand and benfit from the steps that can help ensure a very successful sale."

The kit's handbook details every aspect of having a sale: What items will sell, how to price, what days are best for the sale, how (and if) to advertise the sale, tips for multiple-family sales and more.

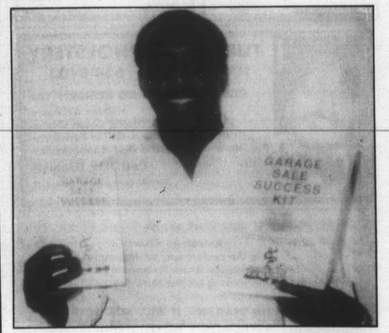
The Coopers have packed the handbook with tried and true garage sale guidelines, advising th reader to treat one's things as merchandise rather than "junk" when preparing for the sale. "Items will sell much quicker and for a higher price when they are cleaned, polished, dusted and mended," says Mr. Cooper.

To order the Garage Sale Success kit, send $9.95 plus $1.10 for postage to:
GARAGE SALE SUCCESS
P.O. BOX 7173
KANSAS CITY, MO. 64113
Allow two weeks for delivery.

Best bets for garage sale items

"Here are some thing sto consider," says Lloyd Cooper, "as you search through drawers, closets, the attic, the basement and your garage for possible sale items."

*Jewelry
*Small Appliances
*Children's Clothing
*Knicknacks
*Dishes and Kitchen Items
*Books
*Records, Tapes and CD's
*Make-up/Cosmetics (Un-used)
*Toys
*Sports Equipment
*Adult Clothing
*Purses, Belts, Scarves
*Coats and Books
*Electronic Equipment
*Furniture
*Curtains, Curtain Rods



LLOYD COOPER —"You don't need prior experience, but you do need to know some basic tricks of the trade."

Md. small business gains from $10,000 bank grant

BALTIMORE, MD — The First National Bank of Maryland donated $10,000 to the Maryland Small Business Development Center (SBDC) program during a training session sponsored by the program earlier this year.

First National Bank Executive Vice President Joseph E. Peters and Vice President G. Rex Sizemore presented the check to SBDC State Director A. Elliot Rittenhouse to show the bank's appreciation and endorsement of the program.

"It is this type of program that puts Maryland's businesses in business. We are very pleased to support such a worthy program," Peters said.

"We deeply appreciate First National Bank's ongoing support and participation in workshops and training sessions for our clients.

"We look forward to their continued support in the future," said Mr. Rittenhouse. "This is a good example of how the public and private sectors can work together to benefit Maryland's business community."

This is the second year the First National Bank of Maryland has made a donation to the SBDC program. The funds have been forwarded to four SBDC centers throughout the state. They will be used to train and consult with aspiring entrepreneurs and small business owners.

The Maryland Small Business Development Center program is a statewide program established through a cooperative agreement between the U.S. Small Business Administration and the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) to provide managerial and technical assistance, as well as leadership skills, for small businesses in Maryland. As part of their continued effort to support the small business community, the SBDC's offer low cost seminars, courses and workshops on such topics as marketing strategies, personnel management and how to start a business. The program also aids new businesses with bank presentations and business plan development.

For further information on the Small Business Development Center program, the public may call (301) 333-6996.

DR. LEON SULLIVAN, (left) Founder of Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC), accepts a picture of a bronze bust of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. from Rodney A. Coleman, executive director Urban and Municipal Affairs, the General Motors Corporation. The bust, which was presented in honor of Dr. Sullivan's 20 years of service on the GM Board of Directors, was given along with a $25,000 donation from the corporation to the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library in Austin, TX. so that the library could acquire the bust.

National honors for Signet Bank

Signt Banking Corporation was a gold award winner and finalist for annual reports entered by regional commercial banks from across the United States, Canada and broad.

A certificate of honor for Signet's Summary Annual Report was presented at the fourth annual competition awards banquet to be held in New York City on June 28. The competition was sponsored by the National Media Conference honoring excellence in annual reporting.

Signet Banking Corporation is a $12 billion organization with 235 full-service banking offices throughout Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia.

It also offers investment services including municipal bond, government, federal agency and money market sales and trading, foreign exchange trading and discount brokerage, an international operation concentrating on trade finance, and specialized services for trust, leasing, asset based lending, cash management, real estate, insurance, concumer financing and investment banking.

PACK YOUR BAGS

Conference Update

BIG SPONSORS 12TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Blacks in Government (BIG) will hold its 12th Annual National Training Conference in Kansas City, MO., August 22-26, 1990 at the Hyatt Regency Crown Center.

This is the second training conference held outside of Washington, D.C.

BIG is a non-partisan and non-profit corporation concerned with enhancing the quality of public service by promoting equal employment opportunity and the professional and career development of government employees.

For more information please call (202) 638-7767.

12TH ANNUAL NBMBAA CONFERENCE

The National Black MBA Association is having its Twelfth Annual National Conference & Exposition October 3-7, 1990 at the Westin Century Plaza Hotel in Los Angeles, CA.

The NBMBAA has been fostering minority education and business development since 1970. This year's theme is "Competitive Strategies for a Changing Global Economy."

For further information, please call (312) 938-1270.

14TH ANNUAL CAL-PAC CONVENTION

The California Package Store and Tavern Owners Association 14th Annual State Convention will be held August 19-23, 1990, at the Mirage Hotel in Las Vegas, NV.

CAL-PAC brings together a network of retailers, manufacturers, wholesalers, advertisers, exhibitors and corporate sponsors. By doing so, you will be demonstrating your commitment to build alliances with African-American consumers, retailers, suppliers and businesses.

For more information please call (415) 835-8453.