This Week

Baltimore

UMBC is presenting Oscar Wilde's **"Salome"** April 19 thru May 7. This play is for mature audiences only. Call 455-2476 for more information.

"Steel Magnolias" runs at the **Morris Mechanic** Theatre thru Sunday, April 30. The engagement stars **Barbara Rush** and **June Lockhart.** Call 625-1400 for more information.

Jazz vocalist **Jackie Jones,** will perform at Club Eubie's in the **Baltimore Fishmarket** April 11 thru 16. Call 385-4949 for further information.

The women of **Kuumba** presenting a special adaptation of "Time Trek" at **Howard's Restaurant,** 1218 N. Charles St. every Friday thru April 21. Showtime is 8 p.m. and tickets are $6 in advance and $7.50 at the door. Call 298-7970 for further information.

The award-winning musical **"Dreamgirls"** will be performed at the Harborlights Dinner Theatre thru June 4 on Thursdays and Sundays. Call 522-4126 for more information.

The **Arena Players** will present the Jeff Stetson drama "The Meeting" Friday, April 14 thru May 7, running weekends only. Curtain is 8:30 p.m. Fridays and 7:30 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

James Lawrence will exhibit his artworks at the playhouse during the performance, Lawrence, who just returned from Baltimore after teaching, painting and drawing at the California College of Art, is currently teaching at the Maryland Institute of Art. Call 728-6500 for more information about "The Meeting" and 488-3495 to reach James Lawrence.

Gallery Talk in "The Play Life of a City" will be held on April 15 at the **Peale Museum.** Admission is free but reservations are encouraged. Call 396-3523 for more details.

Sunday, April 16 is the date for the New York Apple Style Awards show 1989 to be held at the Holiday Inn Downtown. Admission is $10 in advance and $12 at the door. This will be an amateur night talent search. Call Sheila at 467-6619 for more information.

The **Baltimore School for the Arts** is presenting the new stage adaptation of "A Wrinkle in Time" as part of their annual festival of performances and exhibitions April 14-16 at the School. Call 396-1185 for further details.

Washington, D.C.

The Living Stage Theatre Company is hosting its 23rd season benefit on Monday, April 17 at 6:30 p.m. at the Decatur House, 748 Jackson Place, N.W. Special guest will be Oscar winner **Olympia Dukakis** with music by **Julia and Company.** Call 202-554-9066 for further information.

"Options," an art exhibit featuring the paintings of twelve African-American women, will be held beginning April 22 at the Bethune Museum, 1318 Vermont Ave., N.W. For more information call Antoinette Mitchell at 202-332-1233.

"Gold of Africa: Jewelry and Ornaments from Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali and Senegal" will be on display at the Smithsonian's **National Museum of African Art.** Call 202-357-2700 for further details.

The **National Museum of American History** will host an exhibit **"Duke Ellington, American Musician"** running indefinitely. Call 202-357-2700 for further information.

The **Living Stage Theatre Company** is hosting a benefit featuring special guest **Olympia Dukakis** with music by **Julia and Company** on Monday, April 17 beginning at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are $50 with food catered by Occasions. Call 554-9066 for more details.

Coming Soon

Baltimore

The **Morgan State University Dance Ensemble** will present its annual spring concert on Saturday and Sunday, April 22 and 23 in the Little Theatre on the campus. Call 444-3463, 3210 or 3022 for more information.

★★★ CALL NOW- 522-4126

F. SCOTT BLACK'S

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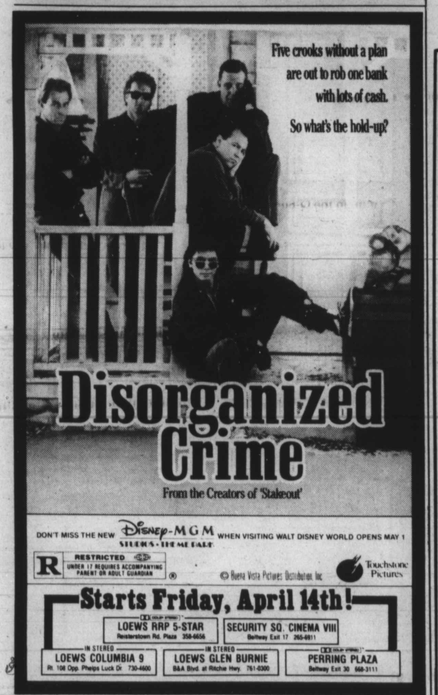
THE BROADWAY MUSICAL SENSATION

DREAMGIRLS

MARCH 25–JUNE 4



(Top) Donna Sherman as Salome and (bottom) Robert Tyree as Jokanaan in "Salome," opening at UMBC on Wednesday, April 19 and running through Saturday, April 22.

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ON-XYZ set to play Max's on Broadway

ON-XYZ reggae band will bring their show-stopping furious funk-rock-reggae music from the Motor City to Max's on Broadway, 735 South Broadway in Baltimore on Wednesday, April 19, starting at 9:30 p.m. The "Reggae Showcase" will feature SISTAH (the band's all-girl straight-ahead back-up singers and dancers) performing brand new material from their upcoming album during an exclusive three-set show. This will be ON-XYZ's first live performance ever in Baltimore City.

Formed almost ten years ago, ON-XYZ hails from Detroit and has already received rave reviews for their new independent release titled, "Primal Electric Dub," (Popp Records).

This very special show at Max's will give reggae, funk and new wave fans a real treat because ON-XYZ will be opening shows for hard rockers Living Colour and Fishbone during their Summer tours. ON-XYZ is a charter member of the Black Rock Coalition.

On-XYZ has gained a huge following and they have been invited to perform at Reggae Sunplash in Kingston, Jamaica this summer. Their music will be featured in the sound track for a new film by new wave film director Jonathan Demme.

Long proclaimed to be one of America's finest reggae bands, ON-XYZ has been making innovations in music since 1978. The band has a unique reggae sound combining polyrythmic elements of funk, rock, rap, and African beat music with half-chanted vocals to create a special musical 'DUB' sound which the band calls, "primal electric dub" music.

Dub music is the music that was first produced by Jamaican 'sound system operators,' record shop owners turned record producers, local musicians and present day "dance hall style" DJ's, Lover Rockers and Toasters in urban Black communities in England, New York and Jamaica.

'DUB' music is known for it's innovative use of electronic effects such as echoplex, reverb, equalizers (now sampling) and vocal rapping with heavy bass playing that is driven by very powerful amplification. The music is mostly dance music.

ON-XYZ integrates 'DUB' effects in their funk-rock-reggae music by playing rocking rhythms with a pair of dynamic guitars aided by inventive synthesizers with half-sung vocals and haunting lyrics.

Along with SISTAH, ON-XYZ features Kevino Cabelli (synthesizer and Keyboards); Gabriel Gonzales (drums); Dwight Braxton (bass guitar); Ronald Smith (lead guitar); Farouk Z. Bey (saxaphone); and Mychael "Clip" Payne (vocals and synthesizers).

Band member Kevino Cabelli, says "I am hopeful that ON-XYZ's Baltimore debut (visit) at Max's will result in a higher profile and subsequent fan support when their new album is released this summer. These six musicians are indeed, among the most sought after session musicians and trend-setting players in music today.

"They play reggae music with just enough hardcore 'DUB' spacy electronic and soft rapping to give them a very highly textural sound. Because they play reggae music live with such proficiency, energy and with a sense of involvement their music is often called "the wave of the 90's" by both music critics and fans.

THEATRE NEWS

'Steel Magnolias' pure theatre

The situation comedy is a familiar device to television watchers, and one of the "situations" has been translated to the legitimate stage—or maybe it was the other way round.

At any rate, the type of comedy typified in the series "Designing Women," wherein the southern belle is portrayed—thick accent and all—is an example of what we're talking about.

"Steel Magnolias," at the Mechanic Theatre through April 30, portrays a group of these "belles" as they converge on a beauty parlor, run by Truvy (Margo Martindale).

The setting is in Chinquapin, La., a small southern town, where there really isn't much to do for entertainment. Thus, gathering at the beauty parlor is more a social event than necessity.

At first, the action seems to wander a bit aimlessly, but the characters are being individualized in the process, until by the second scene, each can be categorized.

There is the widowed, moneyed former wife of the mayor, played superbly by June Lockhart; there is the heart-of-gold shop owner, whose motto at the shop is "there is no such thing as natural beauty."

Barbara Rush is the mother of Shelby, who is a diabetic, and around whose plight a lot of the action and dialogue revolves.

Our favorite character is Ouiser, played to the hilt by Carole Cook. Ouiser is the blustering nonconformist who has some of the best lines in the play.

All of this doesn't tell you one of the main virtues of the production — it is funny. I mean, thigh-slapping, roll on the floor funny. Some of the lines will leave you gasping with laughter.

And, true to the tradition of the theatre, there is both comedy and tragedy in this production. In fact, we dare say, there wasn't a dry eye in the place as the scenes unrolled.

M'Lynn, played by Barbara Rush, puts on a tour de force performance that wrings all the pathos possible from the situation involving her daughter's marriage and developments.

This is really one of the high points in the play, and during it, the noise heard in the theatre was the occasional crinkle of a tissue being used.

The character of Annelle, played by Dawn Hopper, is the only weak link in the play, in our estimation. Not the acting, but the focus of the newcomer to the beauty parlor as the "goter" apprentice.

But, it is not a distraction—for this is a play that is alive, riveting and compelling. Even if you want to dislike this play — you can't—it's that gripping.

Not that it is classic theatre in the standard sense, but it is totally recommended for that evening out when you want to be entertained instead of instructed.

Further information, (301) 625-1400. — MATT

Ossie Davis stars as B.L.'s best friend Oz on "B.L. Stryker," airing on The ABC Mystery Movie Monday, April 17 at 9 p.m.

'Hair' comes to CCC

The Magic of CCC Theatre is presenting a Barnstormers Production of "Hair," to be performed April 14 thru April 29 at 8 p.m. in the Q-Building Theatre.

"Hair" is the controversial rock musical that traces the lives of a group of young people in the turbulent 1960's.

No production before or since better captures the attitudes, dreams and controversies surrounding the most rebellious decade in recent memory.

The musical stars Mike Norris as Hud, Kim Swann, Patrick Egan, Khristine Luca and Dennis Dodsinorth.

"Aquarius" and "Hair" are just two of the popular tunes you can expect to hear in this production.

For more information call 455-4508.

Mike Norris (center) stars as Hud in the CCC Theatre production of "Hair," opening April 14.