SOUNDS

By Carl Matthews

CULTURE
"Cumbolo" (Shanachie)

Fans of the roots reggae sound should grab this new ten-song collection on Shanachie by the trio known as Culture.

Joseph Hill, Albert Walker, and Kenneth Dayes formed the group in 1976 and released their critically acclaimed debut LP, "Two Sevens Clash," the following year. After several more albums, the group split up in 1981, but reformed five years later.

Well-known reggae musicians Sly Dunbar (drums) and Robert Shakespeare (bass) contribute to the raw, classic-reggae sound on such tracks as "They Never Love In This Time," which shows off Culture's tight harmonies, and "Poor Jah People," a likeable pro-human-rights anthem.

Culture

VARIOUS ARTISTS
"Rooftops — Original Motion Picture Soundtrack" (Capitol)

"Rooftops" is a New Visions Pictures release starring Jason Gedrick ("Iron Eagle," "Heavenly Kid"), Troy Beyer (TV's "Dynasty"), Eddie Velez and Tisha Campbell. The film is about a group of kids who retreat from the streets of New York's lower east side to the rooftops of abandoned buildings where they create their own private, unique living spaces.

The soundtrack album opens with Etta James' new single "Avenue D," a street-tough rock and roll number written by The Eurythmics' Dave Stewart.

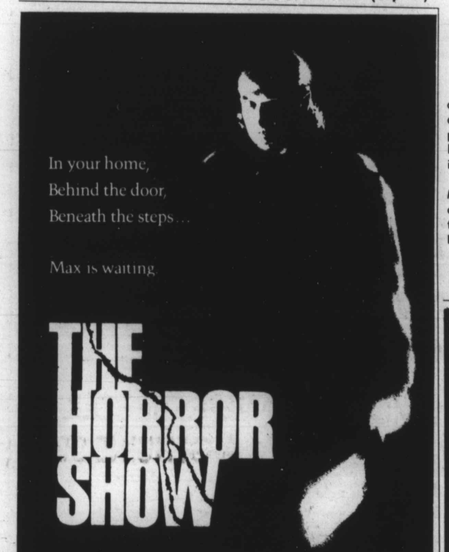
The title song from the film is sung by Jeffrey Osborne, former lead singer for LTD ("Holding On (When Love Is Gone)," "We Both Deserve Each Other's Love") who's had quite a few solo hits as well. The Eurythmics contribute "Revenge," an ideal showcase for Stewart's fiery guitar work. Grace Jones, who's been on the charts with such memorable dance tunes as "Pull Up To The Bumper," performs "Bullet Proof Heart," and Trouble Funk gives us the mid-tempo jam "Keep Runnin'," complete with James Brown samples and plenty of percussion.

Music Notes

Been to a record store lately and noticed more and more CDs and cassettes where vinyl LPs used to be?

According to Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) figures, in 1987 CDs and LPs were selling about equally well. But by the end of 1988, CD sales soared 47 percent while vinyl sales fell 32 percent.

And while CD sales accounted for about $2.1 billion in sales in 1988, sales of cassettes were even greater, around $3.4 billion worth.



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'The Meeting' of Malcolm X and MLK

Historical docu-dramas have always evoked a feeling of doubt as to the accuracy of the events portrayed. But they can be totally fascinating, provocative and instructive.

Such is the case with "The Meeting," a 90-minute drama about a fictional meeting between Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, Jr.

It airs as a part of the American Playhouse series on PBS, May 3, beginning at 9 p.m.

It should not be missed, for this is one of the most powerful presentations delineating the whys and strategies of two leaders of the civil rights movement.

The action is set in 1965 at the Theresa Hotel in Harlem, N.Y., and opens with Malcolm indicating to his bodyguard that he had invited Rev. King for a visit, and he had accepted.

The struggle of wills, the delineating of purpose, the motivations behind actions, and predictions of the future are all brought out in the tense meeting.

The meeting never happened, of course, existing only in the imagination of playwright Jeff Stetson, written to educate his students at Cal. State U.

The acting is superb. Dick Anthony Williams as Malcolm X,

(Continued on Page 5)

Travis Winkey and Lafayette Courts
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"A New Image"
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"HOT and COLD BUFFET"
(All proceeds to benefit Lafayette Courts Development)

—Things to do

(Continued from Page 3)

April 29. Tickets are $13 in advance and $15 at the door. Call 202-328-3838 for more details.

CONCERTS

The **National Museum of African Art** has scheduled a series of free concerts through June 18. April 29 is **Paul Sekyere-Nyantakyi,** the principal horn player at the Asante Court in Ghana and Sunday, April 30 at 2 p.m., Dr. **William K. Amoaku,** professor of music at Central State University in Ohio will lead the **Sankofa Drum Ensemble.** All musical performances are held in the museum's second level lecture hall. Call 202-357-4600 for more information.

Theatre

This is the last weekend for "Paul Robeson" at the Kennedy Center's **Eisenhower Theatre** and Duke Ellington's "Sophisticated Ladies" is in the **Opera House** through May 27. Call 800-424-8504 for further details.

—'The Meeting'

(Continued from Page 4)

and Jason Bernard as Dr. King are completely absorbed in their roles, creating an aura of believability that simply soars.

Watching a preview copy of the play, we initially had a "let's get this over with" attitude. Before 10 minutes had elapsed we were totally captivated, perched on the edge of the seat, caught up in the events unfolding.

For the first time, the drive and motivations of these two leaders are portrayed in a manner easily understood — for many, this will be a revelation.

It airs Wednesday, may 3 at 9 p.m. on Maryland Public Television, Channels 22/67. — MATT

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