COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Baltimore Branch NAACP

The Baltimore Branch NAACP is sponsoring a Freedom School Seminar, August 9 from 6 to 9 p.m., to be held at the Delta Community Center, 2501 Springhill Ave. The public is invited to come and learn how freedom schools will develop in the African American child an appreciation of his heritage, a positive self concept and skills for effective citizenship. Call 366-3300.

Cylburn Arboretum Association Inc.

Open House at Cylburn Arboretum, 4915 Greenspring Ave., will be on Saturday, August 5 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Cylburn Arboretum's All-America Selections Garden Committee will conduct its Annual Display Day. At this time, the public is invited to tour the garden and vote for their favorite flowers by ballot. Call 367-2217.

Art Exhibition

The NAACP Maryland Penitentiary Branch and the Baltimore NAACP Prison Support Committee invite you to attend an Opening Reception featuring, "Expressions From Within," an exhibit and sale of original art from the penitentiary on Sunday, July 23 from 3 to 7 p.m. at NAACP National Headquarters, Roy Wilkens Auditorium, 4805 Mt. Hope Drive. All art will remain on view and for sale at the Roy Wilkens Auditorium during the week of July 24 following reception. Call 462-1688.

High School Reunion

Edmondson High School's Class of 1969 will celebrate its 20th Year Class Reunion, Friday, Nov. 3 from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. at Martin's West, 6817 Dogwood Road. Call 233-7829 or 944-4956

Horizons Baton and Drum Corp

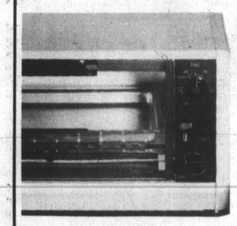
The Horizons Baton and Drum Corps will host a CAMA field competition for Majorettes, Color Guard and Drum Lines from around the state, July 22. This fundraising event will be held at the Kenwood High School, Stemmers Run Road in Essex from 8 p.m. until.

MID-SIZED MICROWAVE, 159.99

SAVE 20% TO 50% ON MICROWAVES, COOKWARE AND SMALL ELECTRICS

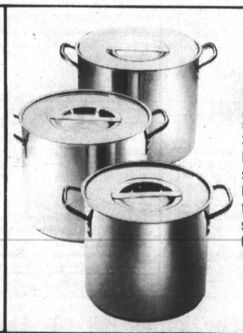
SALE 159.98
SAVE 45% ON SAMSUNG® MID-SIZE MICROWAVE OVEN*.
Save 45%. Cook a meal in minutes with the Samsung® 5710 mid-size microwave, great for hot summer nights when you don't want to heat up your kitchen with a conventional oven. Features include 0.9 cu. ft. capacity, 600 watts of power, 10 power levels, auto start, auto defrost. Outside dimensions 21x12x14". (D.127) Orig. $300

SALE 39.99
SAVE 40% ON VITREX® 7-PC. NON-STICK COOKWARE SET.
Vitrex® enamel-on-steel cookware is as handsome as it is functional. Non-stick Teflon® interiors for easy clean-up. 7-pc. set includes 1-qt. covered saucepan, 2-qt. covered saucepan, 4½-qt. covered Dutch oven, 10" open skillet. Available in slate blue, black or grey. (D.365) Orig. $70

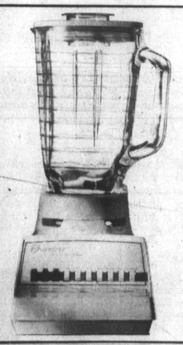


SALE 39.98
BLACK & DECKER TOASTER OVEN.
Save 33%. Ideal for snacks or quick meals. Toasts, browns, bakes and defrosts. Features swing-out crumb tray, light-to-dark toast setting and easy wipe-clean exterior. Model TRO-20. (D.127) Orig. $60

SALE 29.98
BRAUN 10-CUP COFFEEMAKER.
Save 40%. Braun 10-cup coffeemaker features lighted on-off switch, hidden cord storage, auto drip stop and flip top lid with measuring scale. Model KF400. (D.127) Orig. $50



SALE 19.99
SAVE 20% ON 16-QT. STOCKPOT.
Stainless steel construction. Perfect for soups, stews and steaming your favorite foods. Especially good for summer foods: corn on the cob, shellfish and more. (D.365) Orig. $25



SALE 39.99
OSTER® 10-SPEED BLENDER.
Save 25%. Oster® blender features 7 continuous speeds, 3 pulse speeds and a 40-oz. glass container with a filler cap cover and removable stainless steel blades. (D.127) Orig. $55

SALE 9.98
WEAR-EVER® 2-PC. SKILLET SET.
Save 33% on Wear-Ever® 2-pc. skillet set. Aluminum construction with non-stick interior makes cooking and cleaning up a breeze. 2-pc. set includes 8" and 10" sizes. (D.365) Orig. $15

SALE 19.98
SPRINGTIME 7-PC. COOKWARE SET.
Save 50%. Decorated enamel-on-steel construction, stay cool handles. 7-pc. set includes 1-qt. and 2-qt. cov'd saucepans, 4½-qt. cov'd Dutch oven, 10" open skillet. (D.366) Orig. $40
Limited to stock on hand.

*Sale in progress.

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The Afro-American Section B

METRO PROFILE

■ Lifestyle B4
■ Kids Talk B6

Saturday, July 22, 1989

FILM NOIR:
Focusing on African-American Cinema

By Delfield S. Yoes, III
AFRO Staff Writer

Go back to the 1930's and witness the unbridled erotic power of Josephine Baker, "La Baker" as she was known in Europe, bounding across stage and screen as she did in the films, "Princess Tam Tam" and "Siren of the Tropics."

The paradox of her regal bearing and her frenzied energy epitomized by her famous, "banana dance," make her possibly the grandest talent of all time.

Now, fast forward to the late 60's, early 70's, the tail-end of our nation's most turbulent decade. The era of the "blaxploitation" film.

"Rage Noir," was the rage, when Melvin Van Peebles burst out with, "Sweet Sweetback's Baadassssss Song," one of the most important and powerful films of all time, in the eyes of some.

Move up one more decade to 1980 and the arrival of Spike Lee with his very first, "joint," a 20-minute short titled, "The Answer."

Lee has become an integral and the most visible component of the recent African-American independent filmmakers movement.

Bringing these black celluloid treasures to the consciousness of our community is what, "The African-American Film Festival," is all about.

The festival, presented by The Joshua Johnson Council of the Baltimore Museum of Art, Morgan St. University's radio station, WEAA and the Baltimore Film Forum, has run on Thursday nights at the BMOA since June and culminates July 27 with a screening of Spike Lee's earliest works.

"The Joshua Johnson Council brings programming and exhibitions to the African-American community, this is our focus," says Nashormeh N.R. Wilkie, a member of the council and the coordinator of community services for the BMOA.

Wilkie, who is a painter and responsible for pulling the festival together says, "Television and film influence us a great deal.

They influence our values, lifestyle, ethics, etc. and it's important for us to talk to each other about how we are represented by these mediums."

The film/lecture series began June 15 with the documentary, "Black Shadows on a Silver Screen" by Thomas Cripps. The documentary, narrated by actor Ossie Davis depicts black cinematic history from 1900 to 1950.

The documentary utilizes extraordinary footage from over 40 films including, "Body and Soul," by black filmmaking pioneer, Oscar Micheaux, starring Paul Robeson and "By Right of Birth," by the Johnson Brothers.

Ethel Waters, Josephine Baker and Duke Ellington, among others, made appearances in the film.

The special guest for that evening was the films screenwriter Thomas Cripps who is also the author of **Black Film as Genre** and **Slow Fade to Black: The Negro in American Films, 1900-1942.**

Fight the power. Spike Lee is the focal point of the African-American independent filmmakers movement.

A scene from Melvin Van Peebles 1971 release, "Sweet Sweetback's Baadassssss Song."

"Xala," a humorous satire about modern Africa made in 1974 by Senagalese director, Ousamane Sembene, was featured on June 22.

On June 29, the Baltimore premiere of, "Voices of Sarafina," a film by renowned director Nigel Noble, was the centerpiece of the evening. The film documented the world-wide musical sensation, "Sarafina!" by South African director and playwright Mbongeni Ngema.

The evening ended with a lecture by Dr. Leslie King Hammond, Dean of Graduate Studies at the Maryland Institute College of Art.

July 6, the Baltimore premiere of two newly rediscovered and restored treasures starring Josephine Baker were screened.

"Zou Zou," made in 1934 and directed by Marc Allegret and "Princess Tam Tam," made in 1935 and directed by Edmond Greenville, capture the iconic Baker in her resplendent prime.

July 13, Baltimore got its first glimpse of certain selections from the Black Filmmaker Foundation's 10th anniversary film and video competition.

The selections were presented by Warrington Hudlin, independent producer and President, The Black Filmmaker Foundation.

The Black Filmmaker Foundation was established in 1978 to help support the efforts of independent African-American filmmakers.

The foundation now serves as the country's main black media arts center and the largest distributor of African-American independent film/video.

July 20 was the screening of, "Sweet Sweetback's Baadassss Song."

"Sweetback," has been listed by some as one of the 10 most important films ever made. The film made in 1971, was produced, directed, written, financed and scored by Melvin Van Peebles.

Van Peebles, who also starred in the movie, is the prototype for the jack-of-all-trades filmmakers of today, like Robert Townsend and Spike Lee.

The final evening of the festival, July 27, will showcase the earliest works of Spike Lee.

"The Answer," Lee's first film is about a struggling screenplay writer who is hired by a major studio to direct a remake of the D.W. Griffith film, "Birth of a Nation."

Lee produced and directed, "The Answer" and he also made a cameo appearance in the film.

In, "Joe's Bed-Stuy Barbershop: We Cut Heads," Spike boldly delves into the world of the neighborhood barbershop where old men gather, discuss world and local events and occasionally get a haircut and a shave.

After the viewing, a panel discussion about Lee's films past and present will take place.

Baltimore's first African-American film festival has illuminated some of the most remarkable pieces of art ever created.

Art that looks like us, about us, created by us; this is important.

Members of the cast of the hit musical, "Sarafina!" which was made into the movie, "Voices of Sarafina!"

(AFRO Photo by P. A. Greene)

Shedding light on our art. Nashormeh N. R. Wilkie, coordinator of the African-American Film Festival.

A scene from Ousmane Sembene's, "XALA."

The grandest diva of them all, Josephine Baker, with friend.

Commentary

The movie industry is one of our most powerful medias, because it creates bigger than life images that sear into our conscious.

History has shown us over and over again that Hollywood does not have a place for African-Americans, at least not the place where we belong.

In Hollywood, we are grinning black buffoons, whores, loyal companions, or we just don't exist.

Even in movies that are supposed to be about us, e.g., "Mississippi Burning," black people serve only as a shadowy backdrop for our white heroes to save the day.

If we want to see the truth, we better invest the 1.11 billion dollars that we invest in the movie industry, 25 percent of last year's domestic box office sales, into black cinema every chance we get.

We can only trust us, to make movies about us.