Night club dancer explains job

Deloris Proctor tells why she'left home for bright lights

By KEN PITTMAN

The first thing you ask an interpretive shake dancer is "why?"

And almost always she answers, "Because I like it." If you ask Deloris Proctor, without doubt the most popular dancer in Washington, D.C., the answer will be a bit more detailed.

"I dance because I like it. I like it because I'm a good dancer and the people who watch me dance know that I'm good. That's what is important, to perform well and have everybody appreciate it. I like applause."

She Has It

On the surface this self-evaluation seems boastful.

However those who have seen Deloris know it is just a candid statement of truth. When Deloris goes on stage she carries much equipment, in the form of beauty, personality, and genuine talent.

DELORIS PROCTOR

Club owners will admit that it's hard to find a local dance act to follow her into their clubs Nitelifers, grown accustomed to there is little to distinguish her from many another very pretty Washington girl. She might be a college co-ed, a school teacher or a government girl.

On the street a man will stop and look when she passes. His gaze may linger a split second longer than usual, but inevitably it moves on with the passing of the next "young tender."

On stage it's another story Deloris is the very center of attraction. No man and a few women look at anything or anyone but Deloris from the moment she appears until she makes her exit. She has complete control of her audience in much the same way as the young Josephine Baker is reputed to have had.

What gives her this control right agent to take over that end."

Ray Sneed, Jr., formerly featured with the Katherine Dunham Dancers and now heading his own group, has this to say: "Deloris is a real dancer. She thinks while she's performing not about the audience, but about the music.

"She lets herself become wrapped up in the mood. This makes whatever she does her very own creation, fresh and pleasing to even the most blase audience."

Like many another entertainer, Deloris Proctor got her start by winning an amateur contest. This particular one was held at the Republic Gardens while she was still in high school, but to impress her date (on whom she had a crush) with her "worldliness" she danced and won first prize.

Own Manager

Of her future plans, she says, "I am going to keep going until I'm famous and rich. It'll take a while, because there's still a lot I have to learn and, of course, I've got to get myself an agent with the right connections.

Her career has her parents' blessings. It took some doing to win over her father, but she's done that. From the very first her mother was pleased. It is she who keeps the bulky scrapbook up to date.

Romance is important. But the young dancer, who is a divorcee, is in no hurry to remarry. She recalls that her first marriage was a casualty of her career. "Boy friends don't mind you dancing, but husbands do," she says.

In another mood, she admitted that she might marry a rich man like Ali Khan," or a talented one like Ray Sneed Jr.

In yet another mood she pointed out, I'm too possessive for most men. I like lots and lots of attention. I like to be babied and coddled. I guess I'm jealous too."

When not working Deloris spends most of her time with her two year-old son, Ricky, and her "thousands" of brothers and sisters actually there are ten: six girls and four boys.

She doesn't care much for parties. "Either people want me to show off when I don't want to or vice-versa. That's not much fun."

Her hobbies are singing (she takes voice lessons), acting, the violin, writing poetry and scrubbing floors. "It relieves tension when I'm upset," she explained.

Secret Desire

Her secret desire is to dance barefooted by the Kenelworth lily ponds. "It is such a beautiful place. The air is so fresh and invigorating. I often feel like taking off my shoes and dancing until I'm exhausted. But people wouldn't understand."

Eating is her vice (she doesn't drink or smoke). "I eat tons of food a day. But I don't have any problem with weight."

Asked if she thought her dance could be called a bit naughty she answered, "No, I don't think so. I try to entertain people, not upset them. I sometimes wear elaborate costumes and I sometimes wear practically nothing for the same reason a sculpture is motivated Venus de Milo is virtually nude; it looks better that way."

No better summary could be found than the words of a stuttering sailor after seeing Deloris dance for the first time. "That there girl is all right, you know it!"

Herewith are vital statistics for those with a bent for figures:

Age, 22; Height, 5'6"; weight 130 lbs.; waist, 26"; bust, 37"; hips, 35"; ankles, yes.

Dislikes the term 'shake,' has another word for her act

"Well," says Deloris. "To begin with, I'm not a shake dancer. I'm against that term because it's not accurate. I don't shake.

"I may wiggle, but I don't shake. I'm an interpretive dancer and I try to transmit to the audience the mood of the music. I wiggle because the music they play for me is wiggle music. Most of the music I dance to has an Afro-Cuban beat."

Deloris' presentations find their appetites too rich for the usual run-of-the-mill offerings. Many of them follow her from club to club.

To combat this "luring away" of their customers, club owners sometime import "name" shake artists from New York at great expense, or go to other extremes like hiring not one, but three or four dancers. It seldom works satisfactorily. There's no substitute for excellence.

To say the least, the 22-year-old native of Dee Cee is a very pretty girl.

Long Hair

However, in the nation's capital, she's just one more pretty girl among the thousands. Aside from a profusion of wavy hair, in this era of short hair styles,

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Arena players present two comedies at playhouse

The Arena Players are presenting two one-act comedies tonight (Friday) and Saturday night at 8:15 p.m. at the Arena Playhouse, 1908 Warwick ...e.

One an American work, "The Happy Journey," Thornton Wilder, author of "Our Town," has all the intimate touches which go to make up a family comedy.

The second play is an adaptation from the French comedy "The Bronze Lady and the Crystal Gentleman" by Henri Duvernois. It reaches the touch of the continental comedy.

Debuts in Play

Making their debuts with the group in the Wilder comedy are Mary Carter, as Mrs. Kirby (Ma), Verna Day as the married daughter, Beulah, and Osborne Boykin as Arthur, the son.

The rest of the cast includes Clifton Smith, Baltimore artist, who has recently been added to the scenic design staff of the Arena Players.

Cora Williams, last seen in Tennessee Williams' "This Property is Condemned," and Arthur Thorgood, from the cast of "27 Wagons Full of Cotton."

A last minute substitution has been in casting Joe Colbert, a newcomer as the Stage Manager. He is replacing Irvin Turner who was chosen to portray the role of Donald.

"The Bronze Lady" cast includes Joyce Somerville and Jim Campbell, both new players on the arena stage, and Carroll Seward, Joe Wilson, Joe Colbert, and Sam Wilson.

A highlight of the show will be the exhibit of the works of

MARY MORTON IN CONCERT

NEW YORK

The Roerich Academy of Arts of NYC will present Mary Morton, pianist, of Washington in recital on April 10, in Steinway Concert Hall.

For the past six years Miss Morton has been a student of Sta Fosick, director of the Academy.

PIANIST TAKES HONORS

ST. LOUIS (ANP)—Miss Vivian Wilkerson last week was one of six winners in the annual Young Artists' Contest held here. The event is sponsored by the Women's Association of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra.

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Adele Addison heard in concert

By CLARENCE REED

Adele Addison, youthful soprano appeared in a recital Sunday at the National Gallery of Art.

An overflow audience found Miss Addison a sincere, artistic, and carefully trained singer.

Her voice, beautiful in tone and color, was used skillfully in the Handel and Mozart Arias.

She concluded the program with French and Creole folksongs.

HOPKINS CHILDREN'S THEATRE TO PRESENT COPPERFIELD PLAY

The Johns Hopkins Children's Educational Theatre of McCoy College will give four performances of "The Boyhood of David Copperfield" at the Johns Hopkins Playshop on campus, Charles and 33rd sts., Friday, (Special School Matinee) March 26, at 4 p.m.; Saturday, March 27, at 10:30 p.m. and 3 p.m., and Sunday, March 28, at 3 p.m.

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'First Run' Films of The Week in Review

IN PRISON RIOT — Whit Bissell, a prison guard, is held as hostage by the kill crazed leader of the rioting inmates, Neville Brand, the new star find in Walter Wanger's sensational Allied Artists' production, "Riot in Cell Block 11," starting Thursday, March 28th at the New Albert theatre.

HARLEM HIT — "It's yours if that's what you mean. But I don't trap my men this way." That's the way Ida Lupino talks to Edmond O'Brien in a new picture, "THE BIGAMIST," now playing at the Harlem Theatre.

WESTERN ACTION SPARKS REGENT THEARE FILM

The wise ways of a great Chief are made to prevail among the Apache Indians in "Taza, Son of Cochise". It is now playing at the Regent Theatre.

Rock Hudson in the title role is in command of the sweep of events from the moment he receives the mantle of Apache rule.

Hudson undertakes the challenge of rebellious members of his nation, the evil plans of a brother, and the ominous threat of Geronimo, who is waiting to stage the uprising.

It would wreck Cavalry rule and with it the legacy of Cochise.

PRISON RIOT SHOWN ON NEW ALBERT SCREEN

Conditions in a modern maximum security prison, confining more than 4,000 inmates, are shown in "Riot in Cell Block 11."

It starts Thursday, March 28 at the New Albert theatre.

The interior of real cells at Folsom are shown. Two men share spotless white - washed cubicles scarcely four feet wide, and just deep enough for upper and lower bunks, with a small bowl and basin.

TRAILER CAMP COMEDY IS CARVER'S FILM FARE

Only Marjorie Main could break up the wedding night of Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz in M-G-M's hilarious Ansco Color comedy, "The Long, Long Trailer."

It is now playing at the Carver Playhouse.

In a sequence in the laugh-filled story of a mobile marriage, Miss Main, enthusiast, does her best to make the young couple welcome to trailer life.

What she doesn't know is that it is also the start of their honeymoon!

MAN WITH TWO WIVES PROVIDES HARLEM DRAMA

"The Bigamist," a drama of a man trapped by his devotion to two women, unites the talents of a quartet of Hollywood's stars. They are Joan Fontaine, Ida Lupino, Edmond O'Brien and Edmund Gwenn.

Now playing at the Harlem theatre, the picture, is filmed in wide 4 screen. It forthrightly reveals the story of a tragic love triangle, a problem that has found its way to the front pages of newspapers and magazines.

Edmond O'Brien portrays the title role of "The Bigamist." The Misses Fontaine and Lupino are the women who suddenly and bewilderingly become aware of the other's presence.

Gwenn is cast as a new type of detective — an investigator for an adoption agency. He delves into the lives of a couple who seek to adopt a child and discover the prospective father keeping an amazing secret from society.

UNDERWATER DRAMA WIDE SCREENED AT MET

The awesome vastness of the ocean bed is intensified with the new screen process, Cinema-Scope, in Twentieth Century-Fox's "Beneath the 12 - Mile Reef."

It is now playing at the Met Theatre starring Robert Wagner, Terry Moore and Gilbert Roland.

More than 80 percent of "Beneath the 12-Mile Reef" consists of sequences filmed on or beneath the waters of the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean. It tells a dramatic story of the rugged men who gather sponges off our coastline.

'MISS SADIE THOMPSON' AT ROYAL

Rita Hayworth, appears as notorious, "Miss Sadie Thompson," torrid new South Seas drama filmed in color by Technicolor and Jose Ferrer, Academy award winner also stars and Aldo Ray is featured.

Miss Hayworth, one of the most beautiful and glamorous women plays the lusty, free-wheeling, down-to-earth "Sadie," appears among some 100 women - hungry Marines on a tropic atoll.

It is going into a 2nd week Friday on the Royal's big screen.

Governor McKeldin visits Crownsville

Governor Theodore McKeldin visited Crownsville State hospital Thursday to inspect the institution's new administration building.

The Crownsville administrative staff moved into the central area earlier in the week. Patients will be housed in another section of the building within six weeks.

The structure has facilities to accommodate 120 patients.

HAZEL SCOTT HERE

The Mu Lambda chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity is presenting Hazel Scott in a concert at Cardozo high, April 4.

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Show bill

APOLLO — Fri., Sat., Sun., Mon., Jeff Chandler in "WAR ARROW" also Joyce Holden in "GIRLS IN THE NIGHT."

BRIDGE — Fri., Sat., John Hollak in "MISSION OVER KOREA" also Larry Parks in "LOVE IS BETTER THAN EVER." Sat., Rainbow Trail in "LAST OF THE MOHICANS" also Abbott and Costello in "TIME OF THEIR LIVES." Sun., Mon., Robert Taylor in "ALL THE BROTHERS WERE VALIANT" also John Ireland in "COMBAT SQUAD."

CARVER — Now playing Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz in, "THE LONG LONG TRAILER."

DUNBAR — Fri., Sat., Glenn Ford in "THE MAN FROM ALAMO," also John Payne in "TO THE SHORES OF TRIPOLI." Sun., Mon., Tues., Forrest Tucker in "JUBILEE TRAIL" also Tony Curtis in "ALL AMERICAN."

EDEN — Fri., Sat., John Lund in "BATTLE OF APACHE PASS," also Tony Curtis in "SON OF ALI BABA." Sun., Mon., Tues., Jeff Chandler in "THE GREAT SIOUX UPRISING" also Abbott and Costello in "MEET DR. JEKYLL AND MR. HYDE."

HARLEM — Now playing, Joan Fontain, Edmond O'Brien, Ida Lupino in "THE BIGAMIST."

LENOX — Fri., Sat., Robert Newton in "BLACKBEARD THE PIRATE" also Charles Starrett in "WESTERN CARAVANS." Sun., Mon., Tues., Esther Williams in "EASY TO LOVE" also Gene Autry in "WINNING OF THE WEST."

LINCOLN — Fri., Sat., Walt Disney's "PETER PAN" also Red Cameron in "WOMAN OF THE NORTH COUNTRY." Sun., Mon., Tues., Coley Wallace in "THE JOE LOUIS STORY" also George Montgomery in "THE PATHFINDER."

MET — Now Playing — Terry Moore, Robert Wagner in "BENEATH THE TWELVE MILE REEF."

NEW ALBERT — Starts Thurs., March 25 — Neville Brand, Ernie Meyer in "RIOT IN CELL BLOCK 11."

PARK — Fri., Sat., Crazylegs Hirsch in "CRAZYLEGS" also Audie Murphy in "GUNSMOKE." Sun., Mon., Tues., Edward G. Robinson in "LITTLE CAESAR" also James Cagney in "PUBLIC ENEMY."

RADIO — Fri., Sat., Sun., Mon., Jeff Chandler in "WAR ARROW" also "GLASS WEB."

REGENT — Now playing, Rock Hudson, Barbar Rush in "TAZA SON OF COCHISE."

ROOSEVELT — Fri., Sat., Coley Wallace in "THE JOE LOUIS STORY" also Yvonne DeCarlo in "FORT ALGIERS." Sun., Mon., Tues., Red Skelton in "HALF A HERO" also Burt Lancaster in "HIS MAJESTY O'KEEFE."

PULASKI ST. SALE

The two-story brick dwelling at 311 N. Pulaski st., will sell at public auction, Friday, March 26, at 3:45 p.m. A deposit of $600 in cash or certified check will be required at time of sale. Balance must be paid in cash.

CARVER FEATURE — Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz, America's No. 1 favorites, are nuttier than ever on the screen in "The Long, Long Trailer," a honeymoon on wheel Marjorie Main and Keenan Wynn also add to the laugh of the Ansco Color attraction, now showing at the Carver Playhouse.

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