What's Happening

By IDA PETERS Theatre and Amusement Editor

"PIPPIN"

Ben Vereen is acclaimed as a superstar for his impressive performances in Broadway's new musical comedy sensation "Pippin".

He was in the Los Angeles edition of "Hair" and in 1969 joined the Broadway cast as Berger. In 1970, he toured Europe and played Johnny, the bar owner in a San Francisco production of "No Place To Be Somebody".

• • •

"CHARLEY"

If you've missed Bonnie Butler, Advertising Sales Representative for the Baltimore AFRO....she's in Tuscon, Arizona on location where Larry Spangler is shooting "Soul of Nigger Charley"

Sequel stars Fred Williamson and Denise Nichols. Bonnie, along with lots of local people, plays a slave, in a head rag and long skirt. She's a Production Assistant and a stand-in for Denise Nichols.

BONNIE BUTLER

"THE CREATION"

Arthur Miller's "The Creation of the World and Other Business" is now playing at the Eisenhower Theatre at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts through November 11th prior to a Broadway opening.

The plays stars Bob Dishy as Adam; Stephen Elliott as God; and Zoe Caldwell as Eve. The time of the play is creation and the place, the World.

This is the story of creation of Adam and Eve and God's effort to get them started on populating the world. Lucifer, played by George Grizzard, puts a new light in his role of snake-in-the-grass.

Funny moment when God comments to Lucifer, that he had never heard his name praised so well....as when Eve.... first mating with Adam. . .exclaims. . . "Oh Lord".

Eve's costume...while supposedly nude...had a smile face to accent her belly button.

"BLACK CAESAR"

American International has acquired and is scheduling for release early in 1973, "Black Caesar," a definitive black gangster film in the tradition of such great pictures as "Scarface," and "Little Caesar."

Filmed primarily on location in New York's Harlem, "Black Caesar," was written, produced and directed by Larry Cohen and stars Fred Williamson in the title role. Sharing star honors with Williamson are D'Urville Martin and Don Pedro Colley, who appeared with him in the recent screen hit, "The Legend of Nigger Charley"

Heading a stellar cast of supporting actors recruited from the hit picture, "Super Fly," is co-star Julius W. Harris, Starred in distaff roles are Gloria Hendry and Minnie Gentry, star of Melvin Van Peebles Broadway stage hit, "Ain't Supposed to Die a Natural Death"

"Black Caesar," is a Larco Production dramatic film tracing the rise of a New York gangster from the age of 14 up to the present as he takes over the Harlem underworld and makes a bid to control the entire East Coast crime syndicate.

• • •

"DIRTY WEEKEND"

"Dirty Weekend," a comedy starring Oliver Reed and Marcello Mastroianni, has been acquired for worldwide distribution by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer.

The Carlo Ponti Production directed in English by Dino Risi is presently filming on location in Viareggia, Italy.

The story focuses on an amorous weekend planned by a middle-aged businessman and his young secretary which turns into disaster when both are kidnapped and held for ransom by a gang of young anarchists.

BOWIE—Art, Carl Ruff, who won control of a tightly knited organization, is about to show Pandora, Bonnie Jones, who is the boss, in a scene from Ed Bullins' "Goin' A Buffalo" was presented last week at Bowie State College, Department of Speech and Theatre, Robinson Hall Auditorium.

TOGETHER AGAIN — Al Hickey (BILL COSBY, right, and Frank Boggs (ROBERT CULP) are two private detectives on trail of $400,00 in stolen bank money, in "Hickey And Boggs," a United Artists release.

D. C., INTERNATIONAL All the excitement and color of horse racing will be displayed as WBAL-TV presents the twenty-first running of the Washington, D. C., International from Laurel to be televised on WBAL-TV Saturday, November 11, at 3:4 PM live and in color on TV 11.

Stable's Riva Ridge, representing the United States, in the lineup are Meadow

(Continued on Page D-39)

JAZZ REVIEW

John Mayall

By SCOTT PONEMONE

Few times does a performer make personal appearances with as many recognized individual talents as John Mayall did at his Painters Mill concert last Saturday.

Four of the five members of Mayall's back-up group have their own albums. They include, guitarist Freddie Robinson; acoustic bassist, Victor Gascon; drummer, Keith Hartley and trumpeter Blue Mitchell.

• • •

The fifth member, however, was no musical slouch. Fred Clark blew sax with an easy aggressiveness and did a congratulatory jig when not playing.

These five, along with Mayall, played the electric organ and the mouth organ, (often in his characteristic, sputtering fashion,) and produced sounds that earned the group standing ovations from the larger than usual Painters Mill crowd.

Perhaps the music was not terribly innovative but the group members complimented each other nicely, at times taking turns at solos. At times two or them would enter into mutual-admiration musical dialogues.

About half way through their two hours on stage, Mayall invited requests but then proceeded to refuse most of them, mainly because the present band has not been together that long, or as Hartley remarked, to one request, "We don't f—ing know it."

This aloofness did not seem to disturb the audience too much, nor was Mayall too disturbed by the crowd's general ignorance of his current music.

He thanked the audience with, "That was a fantastic reception that we'll remember."

HENRY JONES (JAMAL MOORE), a crime syndicate agent, is cornered and prepares to defend himself, in "Hammer," a United Artists release.

INTERVIEW

Curtis Mayfield

By ANIGE THORNTON

"I have no reaction to the talk of boycotting the movie, "Super Fly" said writer, producer, and singer Curtis Mayfield in a short but informative interview. Mr. Mayfield appeared at the Lyric Theater on Nov. 5, to a packed house.

In a discussion about the movie "Super Fly", this former member of the Impressions stated, "I thought that the controversy that came from the movie was good. I feel that in all cases controversy is good because it brings out realism and idealism. It brings about ideas, opinions.

"Super Fly" as I saw it was a grave reality. Everything depicted in the movie was life. Perhaps this why some people protested. When things are put before us that are real and they are not clean and sweet, we often want to reject them."

"When reality brings the truth, it rips people off, it hurts them. If truth hurts, we don't want to accept it. Instead we want to shut it up." The music for the motion picture "Super Fly" was composed, produced and sung by Curtis Mayfield.

The music for the daring movie of a cocaine pusher who was trying to escape the world of snorting and shooting was written after Mr. Mayfield read the script. This young talented composer, singer, producer and musician said that the movie gave quite a few messages in both sound and visual concepts.

After leaving the Impressions singers, Mr. Mayfield started his own label known as the Curtom Label. On this label he has produced such hits as "Check Out Your Mind", "If There's A Hell Below We're All Going to Go" "Stone Junkie." "Mighty, Mighty Spade and Whitey", and the current hit "Freddie's Dead."

The repertoire for the evening included "Give M Your Love", I'm Pusherman", "Super Fly Theme", 'Stone Junkie", and others. Also included on show were the Main Ingredient.

If it's happening now and it's important to Blacks

you'll hear about it, no holds barred, in

VERNON DOBSON'S COMMENTARIES

Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday on

TV 11 NEWS 11 PM

WBAL TV 11

$2.00 PER PERSON At all times

Carlin DRIVE-IN U.S. 40 East

Box Office Opens 6:30 P.M. FIRST RUN! CHARLES BRONSON "The Valachi Papers" R

THE SICILIAN CLAN

ELEC. IN CAR HEATERS OPTIONAL

APOLLO Harford & Central Ave. NOW PLAYING

Super Fly

Plus 2nd Big Hit CHARLTON HESTON THE OMEGA MAN

HARLEM GILMOR ST. at EDMONDSON AVE. 728-1020 NOW PLAYING

The SIG SHORE Production Super Fly

A dude with a plan to stick it to The Man!

R Starring RON O'NEAL CARL LEE JULIUS W. HARRIS

2nd Hit James Garner Lou Gossett Susan Clark Skin Game PG

MET North and Penna. LA. 3-3700

Weekdays—$1.25 to 1 p.m.—$1.75 After; Sat. & Sun. $1.75 All Day 75c For Children Any Day Doors Open 11:15 a.m., Sun.—Open 1:30 p.m.

NOW PLAYING

"HAMMER" IS GOING TO TAKE THIS TOWN APART!

"HAMMER" FRED WILLIAMSON IS HAMMER" R

United Artists THEATRE

2nd Feature "MORE DEAD THAN ALIVE" VINCENT PRICE

FINE FILM! DIANA ROSS PERFORMANCE HAS TO BE A SURPRISE. Robinson N.A.

"LADY SINGS THE BLUES' A RED HOT SMASH!" —Gene Shalit, NBC-TV

LADY SINGS THE BLUES An PARAMOUNT PICTURE Filmed in PANAVISION & COLOR R

NEW 202 Park Ave. 727-7108 HELD OVER!

A New HANG TOUGH BANG-GANG!

THEY KEEP SHOOTING TILL THEY HIT . . . EVERY DAY'S A NEW BLAST!

BILL COSBY AND ROBERT CULP PG "HICKEY & BOGGS"

HIPPODROME 12 W. Eutaw St. • LE. 9-4175 DAILY AT: 10-12 2-4-6-8-10 P.M.

'Oh! Calcutta' Film Deserves Triple 'X'

By WALTER F. HERMAN

"Oh! Calcutta!" is as wild a show as one can put on the screen. The actors make no bones about giving the audience all it can handle in raw, uninhibited sex, drawing from both real life and fantasy.

It is X-rated, and should rate a triple X. It covers about everything popular today in reading and viewing from child's play to male impotency.

The opening scene gives the audience a hint of what's to come - - - all 10 actors and actresses are introduced in the nude.

For those who shudder at four-letter words, then "Oh! Calcutta!" is not your type of movie. If scenes of intercourse and other types of sex play cause you anguish, then pick out a Walt Disney show for your entertainment.

HELD FOR AN E-X-X-X-CITING E-X-X-X-TRA WK.! Oh! Calcutta! ...THE ULTIMATE "X" CHARLES 1711 N. Charles St. • MU. 5-2273

STARTS WITH ALL DAY PREVIEW FRIDAY NOV. 17 COME ANYTIME & SEE 2 FEATURES: Trouble Man plus Hickey and Boggs

ONE CAT...WHO PLAYS LIKE AN ARMY! COLOR TROUBLE MAN R

"Asylum" You have nothing to lose but your mind.

Daily At: 10:30 12:25-2:10 4:15-6:10 8:05-10 P.M. HELD OVER! PG TOWN 315 W. FAYETTE ST. • JF 9-2294

SUPER BIG! "Makes "The French Connection" look like a Mickey Mouse Movie." —BILL GUNN

SIG SHORE Super Fly

plus THE WILD BUNCH R TECHNICOLOR PANAVISION

CREST 5425 Reisterstown Rd. 358-5300 REGENT 3427 Pennsylvania Ave. 523-0470

OPEN LETTER TO D.C. MAYOR

Walter Washington

Dear Mayor Washington:

Recently our club, "The Firesiders" as part of our cultural activities visited the very beautiful John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts on the banks of the Potomac, Washington, D.C.

This huge beautiful monument is located near the fabulous Watergate complex, about which we have read so much.

We arrived early and had an Italian lunch in the Arlington Towers Penthouse in Arlington, Va. with a clear view of Arlington National Cemetery.

And like all tourists, not knowing our way . . . we finally picked our way slowly to the entrance of Eisenhower Theatre at 1:45 p.m., in time to make the 2 p.m. curtain to see Arthur Miller's "The Creation of the World and Other Business".

We were following long line of cars (there were twelve of us). In front of the Kennedy Center, a police car pulled in front of the car ahead of us.

He asked for our license and registration. The driver handed them over. We were astounded . . . and we asked softly . . . "what for?"

He told us we had run a stop sign. We asked where? and he said "New Hampshire and F."

After he handed both cars $10 summons for running a stop sign . . . we went back to look for the sign, and found it partially obscured.

We find it hard to believe that you train your officers to treat tourists so discourteously.

We know in other cities, in such a situation, the officer will give tourists a warning or will at least tell them in front what they have done.

We feel Officer Clark Rosensky, Badge No. 358 of the Metropolitan Police Department should have helped us get there.

We also noted leaving the beautiful Kennedy Center, your police officers directed cars through stop signs, red lights and everything else.

This critic is taking this opportunity to warn other visitors to your fair city to beware . . . unless you are planning some new courses in Community Relations like "How To Treat Visitors Who Are Spending Cold Cash" (our theatre tickets cost $7.50 each).

Sincerely,

Ida Peters
Public Relations Director
AFRO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS

MOVIE REVIEW

'Lady Sings The Blues'

Diana Ross as Billie Holiday; Billy Dee Williams as Louis McKay; Richard Pryor as Piano Man; Berry Gordy, executive producer; Sidney J. Furie, director. Rated R.

After seeing "Lady Sings the Blues" and getting over the disappointment that it had nothing to do with the life and times of Billie Holiday, I went twice more to the theatre to see what exactly this film was about. And what it is about is what most other recent Black films are about: Nothing.

It is the portrayal of complex human conditions without assigning any rank of importance to them and without any meaningful exploration of the causes and effects of the conditions. It emphasizes spectacle rather than thought.

"Blues" shows the spectacular pictures of a lonely Black victim: a teenage maid in a Baltimore hotel; a respectful prostitute; a struggling singer; and a [illegible] drugs, and opportunism. [illegible]tures is explored in depth [illegible] exploring and defining the character.

We see activities which are the results of decisions previously made, but the decisions themselves and the reasons for them are usually no more than partially glimpsed and are often the subjects of wonder and conjecture. Billie's actions are involuntary, emotional, impulsive, and [illegible] seldom do we see Billie's actions [illegible]erned by reason, will, faith, and belief in some principle. The scarcity of the latter makes Nothingness.

Diana Ross is a fine, entertaining singer. But the choice of a fine singer without any acting experience to portray a complex human being who happens to be a singer is itself a typical Nothingness decision. That decision alone signals us that Director Furie wishes to emphasize the spectacle. But the director equivocates; he cannot decide if Miss Ross is to be an actress or a singer. He tries both by placing her in situations that demand an acting expertise that Miss Ross cannot deliver. Like most beginning actors, Miss Ross mimics. And while I sympathize with her mimicking, I am untouched, unmoved, and unconvinced. I even wonder if Miss Ross should be grateful for this opportunity to have a public [illegible].

Billy Dee Williams needs no such opportunity. As indicated by his performance in the bathroom scene (McKay takes away Billie's drug paraphernalia; she threatens to kill him), Williams is a good actor. But his role does not call for acting, but posing. So, for the most part, Williams poses handsomely.

Richard Pryor is one of the funniest comedians around. He plays himself so well that the decision to increase his role from ten lines to that of a supporting character is one of the few wise casting decisions.

That there are so many Black films informed by Nothingness bothers me. They, like most hard-Hollywood assembly pieces, are consequally and technically designed to entertain, not inform.

But the Nothingness of "Blues" is somehow more troubling than that of say "Hammer." For "Hammer" is a nothing but a Nothing. "Blues", on the other hand, purports to be based on the life of our greatest blues singer, a [illegible] product is a staple in the Black community. To represent her life in such a non-statement making way is serious business.

Samuel A. Hay

AFRO talks to

SLAPPY WHITE

Melvin "Slappy" White, now playing the Playboy Club downtown, remembers when the Harlem and Regent were very classy.

He used to dance at the Hippodrome, watch Abbott and Costello, Red Skelton, Red Buttons, Phil Silvers at the Gayety, At the Royal where he was a candy boy he liked Tim Moore, Kingfish, and Dusty Fletcher and his "Open The Door Richard Routine."

You have until Saturday to catch him at the Playboy. He's on his way back to California to make three more Sanford and Sons episodes with Redd Foxx.

Starting February, 1973 he has a million dollar contract with the Flamingo Hotel in Las Vegas.

Today, Baltimore-born Slappy White has his own "white" house (actually pink split-level) in White Plains, Westchester, N.Y. surrounded by a pool, apple and pear trees and Japanese maples... (plus "For Sale" signs...he cracks).

He closes his show with his famous white glove-black glove routine which ends: So why don't we get together, And let all men share God's grace.

What's happening

(Continued from Page D-38)

Countess Margit Batthyany's San San representing France; Ravi Tikoo's Steel Pulse and Roderick More O'Ferrall's Parnell running for Ireland; Dolan's Boreen, Ireland; Toyokichi Kikano's Musashi competing for Japan; Lee Ah Seong's Jumbo Jet from Singapore, and Mrs. Beatrice Latimer's Belle Geste represents Canada.

CENTER STAGE AUDITION

Center stage needs 12 talented young people from the Baltimore area to make up the cast of "The Me Nobody Knows," a musical based on the writings of ghetto school children, which opens as the final production of its eleventh season on April 10.

The script requires both black and white cast members who can portray characters ranging in age from 10 through 18. In previous productions the younger roles were taken by 12 to 14 year olds and the older ones by 18 to 22 year olds. The roles require singing ability.

Auditions will be held in the theater on the following dates: Friday, December 8 2:00 P.M. through 7:00 P.M. Saturday, December 9 10:00 A.M. through 7:00 P.M. Sunday, December 10 9:30 A.M. through 1:00 P.M. The auditions are by appointment only.

These will be singing auditions and two minutes in length. A pianist will be in the theater. Applicants are asked to prepare a song show, popular or gospel and if they have sheet music to bring it with them.

"FAT ALBERT"

"Fat Albert and the Cosby Kids," the new Saturday-morning children's series starring noted actor-comedian Bill Cosby, will present the following episodes in November (Saturdays, 12:30-12:55 p.m., EST) on the CBS Television Network.

NOV. 11: Russell and Bill fear going to the hospital for tonsillectomies, but will a little ice cream, care and attention from all the people around them, they realize that the ordeal isn't frightening after all.

NOV. 18: The kids have a new hero until he blames item for a misdeed.

NOV. 25: The kids' new friend, a prankster, finds out that the joke's not so funny when it's on you.

Fess Parker as a big man in a big frontier country

DANIEL BOONE

weekdays 5 pm

WBAL TV 11

The Left Bank Jazz Society proudly presents

ITS 1972 ATTRACTIONS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1972

JOE WILLIAMS ELLIS LARKIN

Jazz Singer JOE WILLIAMS and THE ELLIS LARKIN TRIO

November 19th—Howard McGee Quintet and Joe Carroll

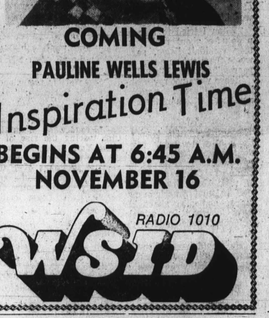
November 26th—Charles Lloyd Quartet. Benefit of WBJC-FM Public Radio — Tickets on Sale Next Week.

December 3rd—The Studio Band of the U.S. Army Field Band (FREE).

December 10th—Carlos Jarnet University Black Force.

December 17th—Duke Ellington and His Orchestra

NEW TIME



COMING PAULINE WELLS LEWIS Inspiration Time BEGINS AT 6:45 A.M. NOVEMBER 16

RADIO 1010 WSID

TV-RADIO TUBES

COMPLETE LINE OF PHONOGRAPH NEEDLES $1.25 WE MAKE KEYS

(TUBES CHECKED FREE) RELAY ELECTRONICS TUBE OUTLET 311 S. BROADWAY • PHONE 675-0588 Open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.—Saturday till 7 CLOSED THURSDAY

Kelson "Chop-Chop" FISHER

MON. Thru SAT. 6-10 A.M.

WWIN

1400 KC 24 hrs. A day

100% Blended Scotch Whiskies. 86.8 Proof. Imported by Somerset Importers, Ltd., New York, N.Y.

Good things come in small, not so small, pretty big and gorgeous packages.

Say "Johnnie Walker Red." You won't get it by just saying "Scotch."