By Ida Peters

What's Happening

World Premiere 'Hangup' Bill Elliott Day Oct. 22

Dionne Warwicke, Marki Bey coming

Benefit AFRO's Mrs. Santa

William (Bill) Elliott, son of Ann and Ralph Doty of Winchester St., has been married to a star, Dionne Warwicke, for a long time and they have two sons, David 6, and Damon, 1.

Now Bill Elliott is coming home, a movie star in his own right, for the World Premier of the Brut Presentation for Warner Brothers, "Hangup," at the Hippodrome Theatre, Tuesday, Oct. 22 at 7:30 p.m.

Just like in 1969, when Dionne starred in the movie, "Savages" at the Hipp and Bill Elliott, brought her to his hometown . . . now Dionne is flying out to support Bill . . . in this, his first big top movie role.

Bill played a supporting role as a policeman in "Coffy" starring Pam Grier and has had leading roles on television in "Outcasts," Dragnet and "Bridget Loves Bernie."

Also flying in for the premier is Bill's co-star Marki Bey. She's the former Playboy Bunny and you saw her recently in "Sugar Hill." She was also in "The Landlord" and in "Hello Dolly."

Mrs. Santa . . .

In talking with Bill in California this week, he was most happy that the premiere will be a benefit for the AFRO's Mrs. Santa. Each year this newspaper raises more than $1,000 to help more than 900 families have a happy Christmas.

Tickets for the gala premiere are $5 and are now on sale at the Hippodrome and the AFRO office, 628 N. Eutaw St. Price of ticket includes contribution to Mrs. Santa.

MONDAY — Mondawmin. 'Bill, Dionne and Marki will be in town for press interviews and will be at Mondawmin Shopping Center at 12 noon, Monday. The Julius Brockington 7-piece band, Magic Force, will provide the music.

Brickington's group includes Ralph Fisher, Marcel Turner, Tyrone Langston, Jimmy Wilson, David Smith and Dorsey Brockington.

Bill Elliott Day — Tues.

12 Noon — Hopkins Plaza — Mayor William Donald Schaefer will proclaim Bill Elliott Day In Baltimore. The Winchester Cadets will play as well as the Jasmin's, headed by Deoleous Bridges. . . .

5:30 p.m. a gala salute to Bill, Dionne and Marki will be held at a pre-premier cocktail party at the Hilton Hotel.

7:45 p.m. Autograph party in the lobby of the Hippodrome Theatre.

8 p.m. — Presentation to AFRO's Mrs. Santa; introduction of stars; showing of film, "Hangup."

Co-sponsors of the World Premiere of "Hangup" include the AFRO's Mrs. Santa Program; the J.F. Theatres, and radio stations WWIN, WSID and WEBB.

Singer Dionne Warwicke will fly in for hubby Bill Elliott's World Premiere of "Hangup"

More Happening

The black version of the "Wizard of Oz" is being readied for Broadway and has a preview opening this Sunday, October 20. The World Premiere will be held Monday sponsored by The Maryland Conference for Social Concern.

Baltimorean, Andre De Shields is The Wizard of Oz, Clarice Taylor, Good Witch of the North; Mabel King, Wicked Witch of the West; Tasha Thomas as Aunt Em; Dee Dee Bridgewater, Good Witch of the South; Butterfly McQueen as The Queen of the Mice.

I 5-y e a r-old Stephanie Mills is Dorothy; Stu Gilliam The Scarecrow; Tiger Haynes as The Tinman; and Ted Ross as the Cowardly Lion.

Costumes by Geoffrey Holder will be something else and will have the Tinman in a Cardin silver suit, and the Lion in high heels.

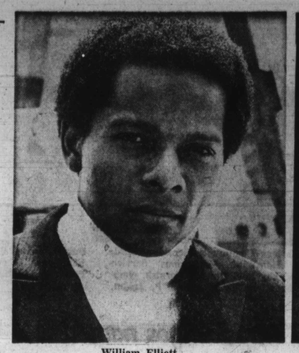
Coming

O.C. . . .Smith, . . .'Little Green Apples" and his new, "La La Peace Song"

was married last Saturday night to Barry Hankerson an aide to Detroit's Mayor Coleman Young.

The bride is 29; the groom is 26, and a second marriage for both. It was the first wedding performed in Detroit's river front mansion.

Quincy Jones, the internationally known composer who is still recuperating from double surgery married Peggy Lipton of the Mod Squard television series last September.



William Elliott

Marki Bey

SWEET SWEETBACKS BAADASSSSS SONG
A film of MELVIN VAN PEEBLES
YOU BLED MY MOMMA YOU BLED MY POPPA BUT YOU WONT BLEED ME
BLACK SLAVE vs WHITE SLAVE
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PARKING IS A BREEZE

In this rehearsal photograph from "THE WIZ," the new and exciting musical version of "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz," which has its World Premiere at the Mechanic Theatre in Baltimore October 21st through November 2nd, Mabel King as Evillene, The Wicked Witch of the West, scolds Ted Ross as The Cowardly Lion while Stephanie Mills, 15 year old ABC-Dunhill recording artist who is playing Dorothy, looks on.

Skip McHoney and the Casuals new B-More-D.C. group.

"Bye, Bye, Birdie" which opens at the Susquehanna Festival Theatre, Belair, Md. on October 30th, is the second production for Gwen Clark to be involved in. She returned to the stage from the Theater's last musical "West Side Story." Gwen is a dancer and singer in the "Bye,Bye, Birdie" chorus.

James Ross, road manager for Skip McHoney and the Casuals and the Manhattans will join in gala events for Bill Elliott.

The McKenzie report

Make TV a family affair

By Vashti McKenzie

Take next week and make television a family affair.

ABC-TV is holding Open House Week for all children's programs beginning October 19 to 26 inviting parents (singles, swingers grandparents, teens and young marrieds too) to tune into the programs that future leaders are viewing these days.

What I asked in the first part of this article on Tuesday was for you to view children's programs on all three networks and respond accordingly to either the networks or to me in writing.

BLACK

What I noticed in watching programs geared to youngsters over the past few weeks, was that blacks play few, if any significant roles in cartoons and live action dramas.

Every now and then, a black character will appear in a cartoon show usually as part of the crowd or as "yes" men.

There has not been much black participation in children's programs since the advent of the cartoon show about the adventures of the popular singing Jackson 5, Sesame Street, Bill Cosby's Fat Albert.

There has yet to be an all-black live action drama just as there has not been a black MC for all those daytime and prime time game shows. There has yet to be an all black local kid. de show.

Why?

Blacks . . . black children . . . are too much a part of this country to be ignored this way. The networks are at least making an effort to produce good "black" adult shows on prime time TV. You'd think they'd want to make a better effort for the youngsters . . . at least in the interest of human understanding . . . and the eradication of the prejudices and bigotry choking this country today.

Cosby's cartoon show is by far the best veiwing for black . . . and white youngsters. It deals in realities . . . neighborhood living (the ghetto) sibling rivalry, peer pressure, school hooky, being ugly and black. And, it entertains.

The Electric Company, the Blue Marble, Zoom and The Harlem Globetrotters Popcorn Machine are also good to watch.

The latter is a new program featuring the antics of the famous black trick basketball team with Curly, Meadow Lark Lemon and Marcus Haines.

Six years-old Rodney Allen Rippy, he's a doll, co-stars along with veteran comedian, Avery Schreiber. You remember Rodney, veteran of all those tee shirts and hamburger commercials. You'll remember every to . . . he's the nut in those Fritos commercials.

Each week there is a theme . . . last Saturday it was "F for Family . . ." and guest stars like Esther Rolle and Ted Knight.

It's done before a live audience and features bright costumes, songs, one line jokes a la Laugh-In with a little social comment and education thrown in for good measure. The brothers also do a lot of fancy foot work and dance routines. It's good.

The FADS

Children's programming is not without its fads. Well, what would television be without fads?

The Kung Fu rage is represented by the cartoon show . . . "Hong Kong Phooey" It's about the adventures of a meek police station janitor, Penrod Poorch, who in reality is none other than the fearless Hong Kong Phooey.

The hero is an ordinary looking "underdog", type who learned his martial arts through correspondence courses. He spends half the time looking up in his text book what moves to make when he is on a mission. He bungles his way to success everytime. His loyal Spot, a cat, often turns out to be the real hero.

Evel Knevel tried to jump the Snake River Canyon not too long ago. Even though he didn't make it, the toy manufacturers are. There are more cycle toys on the market than you can imagine. There is also a cycle cartoon adventure on TV. It's "Devlin." This cartoon show features three orphans. The Devlin Family, who make a living by performing as a motocycle stunt team. The two older boys go to college in the fall and winter months on the money they make during the summer. Little sis goes to junior high. There is a tremendous emphasis on safety first, in fact the safety factor is so over done it might cause some kids to tune it out.

The good ole days are represented by "These Are The Days." It is the cartoon adventures of "The Day Family," three kids, widowed mother and grandpa, on their farm in the early 1900's. It's done in the style of "The Waltons."

TRENDS

The trend in children's programs?

It's more live action programs and less cartoons.

Joining "Sigmund and the Sea Monster" is "Run, Joe Run" a story about a beautiful German Shepeard being chased by authorities for something he didn't do.

"Land of the Lost" features a forest ranger and two children who tumble into a time vortex and onto a mysterious universe populated by strange creatures.

One of the most unique is "Korg: 70,000 B.C." This drama is about the struggle for survival of the Korg family in the Neanderthal era. Primitive life is explored and youngsters get to share the family's discoveries.

Life in the primetime, "Planet of the Apes," actors and actress are made up to look exactly like the Neaderthal man. The American Museum of Natural History in N.Y. and the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History act as resource consultants to the program.

Captain Marvel jumps from the pages of comic books and onto the TV screen in "Shazam!" Shazam is the word that trasforms Billy Batson into Captain Marvel, who resembles the character Superman. The live action program is often peppered with animation.

VARIETY SHOWS

Would you believe variety shows for kids? "The Harlem Globetrotters Popcorn Machine" is one and "The Hudson Brothers Razzle Dazzle Show," is another.

The Hudson brothers, Bill, Mark and Brett made quite a hit during their summer replacement show on CBS producers of the Sonny and Cher Show, Sonny Comedy Hour and Andy Williams' Show put their night time show together and also this Saturday morning children's show. Allen Blye and Chris Bearde have found their mitch. They've always included animation in their adults shows and created zany characters as the cookie stealing bear and Cosak dancers. They really let loose on the Hudson Brother's Show. It too has elaborate sets, costumes and comedy capers. They should do more shows, they've got that flare. A lot of money has gone into both variety shows.

BONUSES

The best bonuse is CBS "In the News" a five minute segment on Saturday every half hour. It features current events of interest to children . . . and adults. The show doesn't talk down to the youngsters and makes quite an affair of the news.

ABC's "Schoolhouse Rock" featuring "Grammar Rock" and "Multiplication Rock," like "In the News" is shown between programs with over 300 exposures during the year. (I think I've seen the Interjection episode of "Grammer Rock" so many times that I know the song by heart).

However, these are three-minute musical segments. This year five segments will deal with history and government.

"Make a Wish," a multi-award winner from ABC is not to be missed. It's an educational live/animated program. It's informative and entertaining.

Its host is guitar slumming, jean-wearing Tom Chapin. He guides the viewer through all the possible usages of two key words each week. And, let's say if you happen to be talking about glass, you'll get a tour of a glass blowing factory . . .

The original songs are written by Tom's brother, rock musical composer/performer, Harry Chapin.

NEVER ON A SATURDAY

Some of the best children's programs never appear on Saturday and Sunday mornings.

There will be six Peanuts specials this season. The first will be aired Oct. 28, "It's the Great Plumpkin, Charlie Brown."

This is just a bird's eye view of what's on for TV for children this season. Spend the time this week to watch TV with your kids, whether they're 6 or 60 years old . . . you might learn something!

The circus is coming to TV this winter featuring none other than Ringling Brothers, Barnus and Bailey, Dr. Seliss returns and so does ABC's cricket series with Yankee Doodle Cricket.

In the field of art, there will be the "Festival of the Lively Arts for Young People." For the Long hairs, "The Young People's Concert."

The airways are flooded this year with American heritage programs promoting the upcoming Bicentennial celebration. Watch out for a four part biography on Benjamin Franklin and perhaps the re-run of Sandburg's Lincoln."

The best of the non-Saturday shows, is "ABC's Afternoon Playbreak," live-action dramas dealing with contemporary problems and situations. Last season, one of the playbreaks dealt with a young girl's determination to play baseball on her brothers team. I saw that one and it was excellent. "Rookie of the Year" won an Emmy for Best Daytime Children's program.

In "Santiago Ark," the struggle of a young Puerto Rican boy was depicted as he tried to transcend the stagnant confines of the ghetto. The impact of divorce on a young boy was shown in "My Daddy Lives In A Downtown Motel." I cried watching this one.

This reason the playbreaks will deal with the American political system and electoral process, consumer education and the difficulties of entering adolescence and themes of morality.

Enoch Pratt

October 20 . . .

Monday, October 21 . . .

"Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad," film at the Pratt Library's Clifton Center, 6:30 p.m.

"Man the Adapter," lecture by Dr. G. James Fleming, Professor Emeritus, Morgan State College, at Pratt Library's Forest Park Branch, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, October 22 . . .

"The American Revolution," film at the Central Pratt Library, Wheeler Auditorium, 2:00 p.m.

"Dracula," "Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein," and "Abbot and Costello Meet the Mummy," films at the Pratt Library's Walbrook Branch, 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 23 . . .

"Pigs!," "The Fabulous Harlem Globetrotters," and "The Big Thumb," films at the Pratt Library's Kirk Avenue Center, 6:00 p.m.

"David: Off and On" and "The Ringer," films at the Pratt Library's Hollins-Payson Branch, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 24 . . .

"'This is War,'" "Munro," and "Hypothese Beta," films at the Pratt Library's Pennsylvania Avenue Branch, 12:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 26 . . .

"The General," film at the Central Pratt Library, Wheeler Auditorium, 2:00 p.m.

"David: Off and On" and "The Ringer," films at the Pratt Library's Hollins-Payson Branch, 6:30 p.m.

"Pigs!," "The Fabulous Harlem Globetrotters," and "The Big Thumb," films at the Pratt Library's Walbrook Branch, 4:00 p.m.

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