Bill Cosby and Sidney Poitier have their banquet meal interrupted by their wives, Denise Nicholas and Lee Chamberlin in "Let's Do It Again".

Fred Williamson, (Johnny Barrows) registers pain from a karate chop delivered by Aaron Banks in the new action flick "Mean Johnny Barrows".

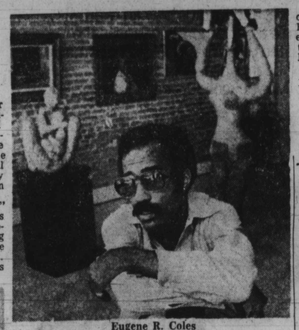
Diana Ross is the world-famous high fashion model and designer from Chicago who makes good in Rome in "Mahogany".

What's Happening

By Ida Peters

Joseph Eubanks, director of the Morgan State University Opera/Musical Theatre Workshop and professor of Music will be the featured performer in the new Broadway musical "Rotunda" which recently premiered in the American Theatre in D.C.

"Beauty and the Beast" opens the Children's Theatre Association's professional theatre for young people at the Baltimore Museum of Art 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturdays through December 6.



Eugene R. Coles in Paris exhibition.

The Walters Art Gallery opens "Japonisme: Japanese Influence On French Art 1854-1910" on Tuesday, December 9 at 8 p.m.

The Morgan State University Gallery of Art opens the exhibition "Three In One" on Sunday, November 30, 5 to 7 p.m. in the Carl Murphy Fine Arts Center.

The exhibition through December 19 features the paintings and drawings of Alemayehou Gebere Medhine of Ethiopia; Ottway Jones of Trinidad; Tesfaye Tessema of Ethiopia and Van Woodson of the USA.

"Roses for M'Lady," currently covers the current episode in the life and romance of Janet BuBois of TV's "Good Times" and Bobby Stevens of The Checkmates, Ltd.; all of which constantly raises the question among the close friends of the twosome, just how serious are they?

"Raisin," the Tony and Grammy Award winning Best Musical, is now in its last two weeks at Broadway's Lunt — Fontanne Theatre, 46th Street, West of Broadway.

Eddie Kendricks with Aretha Franklin and Destiny at Capitol Center, Nov. 29th.

Eugene R. Coles, owner of The Gallery at 620 N. Eutaw, has been invited to exhibit five paintings in the "American Painters in Paris Exhibition."

The exhibit will run through Dec. 15 through Jan. 15. Coles sent "Miles Davis" a 4' x 4' pencil drawing; "Trouble With C," 4' x 4' pencil ... fragments of African sculpture. Another sent is "We Wear the Mask," 4' x 4' color design and pencil work African sculpture and a relative's face. His last painting, "Free," 2' x 5' is a combination of realistic figures and landscape in reds, blues, yellows.

Coles is a 1971 graduate of Morgan State University and a native of New York City.

What's Happening is happy to welcome a new restaurant, Neptune's Galley Restaurant, 4201 Reisterstown Road across from Reisterstown Plaza. Drop in for a pleasant atmosphere, courteous service and delicious shrimp basket or chicken platter.

It will end its Broadway engagement on December 7 and begin its national tour on December 9 at the Playhouse Theatre in Wilmington, Delaware. The long-running musical hit will then go on to play a four week engagement at the Shubert Theatre in Boston beginning December 16.

"Bubbling Brown Sugar" continues breaking records at the Blackstone Theatre in Chicago, where in its sixth week, the show grossed $85,841.00 setting a new house record. The new musical revue, which has already grossed over a million and a half dollars, will premiere on Broadway in early 1976.

The major Bicentennial exhibition "Anywhere So Long As There Be Freedom: Charles Carroll of Carrollton, His Family and His Maryland," currently on view at The Baltimore Museum of Art, will close on November 30.

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Charles Mingus ... Bass-O-Phonics

By Frederick I. Douglass

Jazz bassist Charles Mingus has recently come out with two romping and stomping albums on the Atlantic label entitled "Changes One and "Changes Two."

Mingus has been the acknowledged master of the upright acoustic bass for more than a decade. A purist, Mingus shuns the electrified bass and prefers to use the acoustic which he says "has a better sound because the wood in the acoustic bass brings out all the overtones and the full sound of each note."

Mingus demonstrates on his two simultaneously released LP's that he can do many things that most electric bass players can't do even with the aid of mammoth amplifiers and all kinds of sound altering like fuzz-tone, phasers and wah-wah pedals.

The outstanding cut on "Changes One" is "Sue's Changes" which gives each of the participating musicians an opportunity to get off on a solo. Personnel on both albums is George Adams, tenor sax, Dannie Richmond, drums; Jack Walrath, trumpet; and Don Pullen, piano.

CHARLES MINGUS

George Adams frenetic and frenzied tenor sax solo on this jam is particularly effective. Adams also gets an opportunity to show off his vocal talents when he sings "Devil Blues," a raunchy, loudmouthed gutbucket tune that's as funny as it is funky.

Mingus solos bass intro to "Devil Blues" is superslick and the quality of the interplay between Mingus's bass and Adams' voice on this cut makes the album worth the price you will have to pay to add this jam to your collection.

"Change One" also includes a musical tribute entitled "Duke Ellington's Sound of Love" which amply illustrates the profound influence that the Duke has had on Mingus in his capacity as a composer. The Ellington influence can always be felt and heard in Mingus' music, particularly in his ballads. Mingus's rare sense of humor is often manifested through the titles of his songs such as "Remember Rockefeller at Attica."

Despite the fact that the murders that went down at Attica a few years ago are no laughing matter, "Attica" is happy music that will make you forget about the five time changes that politicians go through. But we all go through changes. Just like Donald Byrd says "Change Makes You Want to Hustle."

"Changes Two" starts off with the fast paced and bizarrely titled "Black Bats and Poles." Particularly noteworthy about this jam are the trumpet solo by Jack Walrath and the piano pyrotechniques of Don Pullen.

Pullen's slick solo leads into a scorching, searing and scalding solo by sax maniac George Adams, who is also spectacular on "Free Cell Block F, 'Tis Nazi U.S.A."

The Ellington influence can be heard again behind both high calibre recordings is Charles Mingus, the master bass player of the 20th century.

The McKenzie report

Quick Quips

By Vashti McKenzie

There will be more blacks on TV next year. A series based on the popular movie "Cooley High" is on the drawing boards at ABC.

NBC is going to bring back Ben Vereen as a mid-season replacement. It seems he scored well in the ratings game. But what about Gladys Knight and the Pips?

The word is not out on them yet. However, not wishing to rest, expect a few Christmas singles out by the group to include "Silent Night" and "The Little Drummer Boy."

Aretha Franklin is coming into the Capitol Centre headlining Eddie Kendricks and Destiny. I plan to be there and will get a few words from "Lady Soul" about her new sound, new life, new body and new album "You."

Natalie Cole is planning to come to Baltimore on her own December 21 at the Lyric. If the p.m. show sells fast, expect another show to be added. Promoters of the affair are out of Las Vegas, Cactus Productions, Inc. The young concert promotion company is made up of young [illegible] not under 21 years of age. Hal Adramson office telling us all about it. It seems he is a native Baltimoreans and from Levinson and Klein family.

Before coming to Baltimore, Natalie, who's album "Inseparable" is dynamite, will be doing some concerts on the West Coast and will tape a "Midnight Special" this week.

The voice singing behind the title song to "That's My Mama" is **Lamont Dozier.**

What will be the next trend in black films? Biographies! On the drawing boards of Hollywood studios are the film biographies of Bill "Bojangles" Robinson, Duke Ellington, Martin Luther King Jr. and Bessie Smith. How many will make the screen from the drawing board is still up in the air. At least they're doing real folks.

Also, planned is the life of Father Divine written by playwright Bill Gunn, produced by David Picker for Warner Brothers.

In case you're a Star Trek fan ..... Paramount is planning a full film version of the five year adventure of the Starship Enterprise and it's motley screw of Capt. James T. Kirk and the alein Spock.

Freddie Williamson has a new girl on his arm, TV reporter turned actress, Victoria Jee. You'll get a chance to see her debut when the movie "Adios, Amigos" hits the streets.

John Amos of "Good Times" fame is having some woman trouble. He's dating Lillian Lehman who [illegible] network, NBC. It's reported that CBS is not happy with the relationship. They think it might hurt his "fatherly" image. Well, what's a man to do?

Roscoe Browne in 'Logan's Run'

Roscoe Lee Browne, one of America's most gifted performers, has been set to complete the star cast of Saul David's MGM production of "Logan's Run."

Browne will portray a half-man, half - machine who guards the frozen food supplies for a 23rd century city in the unusual multi-million-dollar adventure drama. He shares starring honors with Michael York, Jenny Agutter, Richard Jordan, Farrah Fawcett-Majors and Peter Ustinov.

Browne, a former U.S. track star and at one time holder of the world's record at 800 meters, gave a career as a professor at Lincoln University, teaching French and comparative literature, to become an actor in 1956.

Winner of an "Obie" for his off-Broadway performance in "Bentio Cereno," Browne has distinguished himself on the Shakespearean stage, in American and Canadian television and in many films including "The Comedians," "Uptight" "Topaz," "The Liberation of L. B. Jones," "The Cowboys," "Superfly, TNT" and "Uptown Saturday Night."

Fred Williamson 'Mean Johnny Barrows'

Seven years ago Fred Williamson arrived in Hollywood an ex-football player. Today Williamson's credentials include those of actor, writer, producer and director.

The production offices of "Mean Johnny Barrows," Fred Williamson's latest film, are modest. No fancy furniture, no Hollywood glit and a surprisingly low noise factor. A feeling of efficiency pervades the two rooms.

Two secretaries are working in the outer office. Several people are waiting to see Williamson who is working in the somewhat larger inner office. The door between the two offices stands open. People come in, discuss their business with Williamson and leave.

The operation is not typical of what one imagines a Hollywood movie production office would be like. One gets the distinct feeling that this office deals with the business of doing business.

The athlete - actor - producer - writer now director doesn't seem to match the outspoken brash image the press has pictured so many times. Maybe there isn't time.

"Boss Nigger" was written, produced and featured the man in the starring role. The shooting was held to four weeks, and the unusually low six figure budget was kept. Early returns tallied a $2,500,000.00 gross.

"Mean Johnny Barrows" was then put into the works. Cast and filmed in less than four weeks, the film is now opening around the country.

Time to sit and relax? No. "Adios Amigo" is the next vehicle opening around Christmas. The shooting schedule was four weeks, budgeted again at a very low six figure amount.

That's the rush? "It's somebody else's money, they're not paying to have me or anyone connected with my company, Po-Boy Productions, sitting around a pool discussing aesthetics." It is still an outspoken Fred Williamson but it is a totally different set of circumstances.

Six foot three, two hundred ten pounds, a man in his prime, Williamson pays attention to his physique. The body and the good looks are still major assets. The intangibles, the intelligence and the theatrical abilities, are becoming more apparent as they are visibly exercised.

The physical presence is still there — the star knows it, likes it and uses it. It's a feature which he has relied on through ten years of professional football with such teams as the Oilers, the 49er's, the Steelers, the Raiders and the Kansas City Chiefs.

It opened doors in Hollytown and it opened them fast. In less than seven years he has progressed from an unknown, untried actor to a major box office draw. A man who selects his own scripts. A man now featured on both sides of the camera.

Williamson is a person to whom freedom means everything. The freedom to do whatever challenges him. He likes challenges he accepts them and deals with them.

He's been doing it ever since he was a kid on the streets of Gary, Indiana and later Chicago. His training has been excellent. He learned common sense from his mother, survival sense from the streets and book sense from schooling which included DuSable High School in Gary, then higher education at Northwestern University.

An athlete, degrees in sociology and architecture resulted from full athletic scholarships. Football was the main tag, but basketball and track were also talents.

When asked about the "big mouth" image Williamson says it's a case where the end justified the means. "There are thousands of actors in Los Angeles, some good, some great, some not worth mentioning. They are all shooting for the same thing — recognition. There's one sure fire way of getting it — controversy.

"Nobody likes a smart ass but they don't stop listening to one. It was a tool that worked. It motivated people. In my opinion, that's what life is all about — motivation. Most people don't go through life they wander through it. To 'go' involves a positive force. If you motivate the positive forces, then you're driving, you're in control, you're free. Free [illegible] free is the ultimate in my book."

It's interesting what freedom has done to Williamson. Because he has a free hand in running Po-Boy Productions, he's working harder than ever. He's taken the responsibility seriously, he takes it as a challenge. All that "lip" — well, behind it is a successful career. Po-Boy Productions is a company with outside capital. The responsibility for the profitable use of that capital lies on Williamson's shoulders.

Po-Boy was organized by Williamson and Lee Winkler, a lonetime friend and trusted advisor. Their intention is to make good films, while keeping them very tightly budgeted and even more tightly controlled in regards to production time.

Is it going to work? It will if Williamson's track record is meaningful: Twelve films — ten in release — eight have been solid moneymakers, Williamson has been bringing back for his producers more profit per dollar invested than any other single active actor in America. Po-Boy Productions intends to use this to their advantage.

A gift of music

The Baltimore Symphony has announced a new gift certificate which will be available in time for the holiday season.

Designed like a greeting card, "A Gift of Music" costs $10.00 and may be applied to the purchase of tickets to any BSO concerts at the Lyric Theatre, Merrryweather Post Pavilion, or Goucher College. It makes an excellent gift idea for the young and the elderly because students and senior citizens may use it to purchase half-price tickets, so doubling its monetary value.

... and all that jazz

By Bob Matthews

Every now and again, romantic balladeers transform a concert setting into a nice club atmosphere.

It happened last Sunday at the Left Bank Jazz Society regular concert, when the Prysock Brothers held forth.

Had predicted that the female attendance at the concert would be overwhelming . . . it was. And, the reason was soon apparent as Arthur Prysock launched into his sing-along.

He still has a rich baritone voice. . .sometimes bordering on the saccharine but nonetheless pleasing. The reaction was intense. Kinda reminded you of the late 50s when Sinatra, Eckstine and the rest had women swarming in the aisles.

Backing up Arthur was a trio led by his brother, Red Prysock, who was a fixture at a Chicago nightspot for years. Billy Gardner was on organ, and Carl Gusman, drums.

There was a bit of surprise at the session. Babs Gonzalez, who balls himself as the original bop singer was in attendance.

Babs was there to push a new book, having just returned to the U.S. a scant week ago.

He was invited to the stand, and did a few of the tunes with which he had become associated.

Chatted with Babs a bit and discovered he was one of those instrumental in getting the Left Bank Jazz Society started.

He chided one of the officers claiming" I helped get this gig started, and they have never booked me to perform."

Since the early '50's, Babs has spent nine months of each year in Europe, being of the first of expatriots musicians to settle in Sweden.

Remember talking to Babs about a month after the death of Billi Holliday. They were extremely close friends. Later, Babs told me how he had no intention of going to see "Lady Sings The Blues", because of his close association with Billie. He did ultimately, and pronounced it a farce.

Next week, LBJS will present another set of brothers, The Heath Brothers, Jim, Percy and Albert, with Stanley Cowell on piano.

Sunday, Dec. 7 will find Charles Mingus and the Jazz Workshop holding forth, followed on Dec. 14th by the U.S. Navy Band, the Commodores.

That will close out the 1975 season of concerts. LBJS will take a hiatus until Jan. 25 when the Maynard Ferguson big band will open the 1976 season.

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