'Close Encounters' about UFO's

# Other worlds contacting us and visa versa?

By Ida Peters

Dear Boss:

Columbia Pictures has produced a $20 million blockbuster of a film "Close Encounters of Third Kind" which they hope will be even bigger than "Star Wars" and "Jaws." Pix will open in this area for Christmas.

Opening in N.Y. on Nov. 15 more than 350 press people were invited to screening at the Zeigfield Theatre last Sunday and breakfast on Monday at the Americana Hotel.

The press was seated at tables of ten, given a Gucci like press bag, a brand new GE Tape Recorder and a book of six empty tapes, plus a complete press kit.

On the dias were Julia Phillips, one of Hollywood's most outstanding women, her husband Michael, the producers ... they also did "The Sting", director-writer Steven Spielberg ... he directed "Jaws" ... special effects man Douglas Trumbull ... cast members Teri Garr, Melinda Dillon and 6-year-old Cary Guffy who steals the show. Not present were stars Richard Dreyfuss and French producer Francois Truffant.

Dear Boss, I was kind of jayed to be there and to see that both the black and student press was included in this event as well as press from Europe, Asia and Canada.

The black press has been ignored by major movie makers for a long time.

My seatmates at the luncheon included Earl Calloway from the Chicago Defender; Rita Griffin from the Michigan Chronicle; Carl Edward Gill from the Cincinnati Call & Post and Natt C. Smith III from the Oracle, University of Southern Florida.

Our hostess from Columbia Pictures were Linda Goldberg, formerly with JF Theatres and two lovely professional brown beauties on the Columbia PR staff ... one Cheryl Boone, native of Springfield, Mass., now with Columbia in Burbank.

"Close Encounters" according to producer Julia Phillips is a story about UFO's and government cover-up of the whole UFO matter.

Cary Guffy, the six-year-old child star brought the most laughs from the press when he told director Spielberg "you cut out my best scenes." "Encounters" is the first movie he's seen and "I liked it and all that stuff." Take my word, when you see him in this film, he will steal your heart and make a chill run up your spine.

Dr. J. Allen Hynek who served as technical advisor is today one of the premiere authorities on UFO's. The sighting of unidentified flying objects have been reported by more than 60,000 people all over the world from all walks of life.

A Close Encounter of the First Kind — sighting of a UFO. Close Encounter of the Second Kind — physical evidence. Close Encounter of the Third Kind — actual contact with the occupants of a UFO.

No Boss, I didn't get a chance to ask any questions on NBC with Ed Newman. I did get to talk to Steven Spielberg at the Sherry Neatherland ... and got caught in a driving rain.

This pix tends to give the theses that if man can go to the moon and other planets then other people in space have been able to reach earth.

Scientists have developed a universal language and are able to communicate with humans on other planets.

Coming next week a review of "Close Encounters." Columbia has adopted the slogan "We Are Not Alone."

Just wanted you to know Boss, that I'm a scaridy cat. The climax of this pix is a confrontation with life forms from another world. It scared the living daylights out of me to see Amelia Earheart walk off the space ship along with lost flyers from World War I.

I have enough trouble worrying about people on earth I can see, without worrying about invisible people I can't.

'Which Way Is Up'

# Pryor: 'I laugh on the inside'

"I just do real people." That's Richard Pryor's simple explanation of his unique approach to comedy, one that has lofted him to stardom in films, night clubs and television, and established him as a number-one best seller on the record album counters.

"If I didn't do real characters, it wouldn't be funny," says the unpredictable Pryor, who currently stars in a challenging triple role in "Which Way Is Up? a Steve Krantz Production for Universal, directed by Michael Schultz ('Car Wash'), about the only black director in Hollywood these days.

"I couldn't to it just by doing the words of a person," he adds. "I have to be that person. I see a particular man in my mind and go by him."

And his yardstick for measuring the humor that goes into his antic repertoire?

"I figure," Pryor explains, "that if it makes me laugh, then it'll make someone else laugh. Black people have a whole other language, a whole other culture. We might as well be on another planet. 'It's like we're in a vacuum. And when we come out of that vacuum, we try to present ourselves to people who don't know about it and who don't understand it, although they say they do. So I use that as part of my ammunititon in my comedy."

There are those who take exception to some of Pryor's "ammunition," labeling it vulgar or obscene; Pryor has no patience with such charges. "With the way things are, with all this smog they're producing for people to breathe and the way they're killing people off, I'm going to worry about offending people with some words?" he demands.

Such a serious statment makes one wonder if Pryor, like many comedians, is sad on the inside.

"No," come the answer. "I laugh on the inside. I enjoy life. I have" he understates, "a sense of humor."

"Which Way Is Up?" a Steve Krantz Production for Universal adpated from the Euro International Flis, S. P. A. picture "The Seduction of Mimi" by Lina Wertmuller, stars Richard Pryor, Lonette McKee, Margaret Avery, Morgan Woodard and Marilyn Coleman.

# Enjoy

By Ida Peters

Opening this weekend, the Arena Players present "Ladies In Retirement" by Eward Percy and Reginald Denham at the Arena Playhouse.

This play deals with the story of visiting eccentric sisters who work together so that they may stay at an old friend's house since she has threatened eviction. Their wayward nephew shows up to use the house as a hideout and learns of the owner's disappearence. The game then is between the aunt and the nephew.

Under the direction of Joseph Wilson the cast includes veteran Arena Players. They include Nancy Barrick, Joan Coursey, Christine Moore, Lorraine Brown, Portia Badham, Ronnie Larkins, Ed Terry, Phillip Mills, Irvin Turner and Vacoustess Payne.

The United Methodist Women of Strawbridge United Methodist Church, Park Ave. and Wilson Street have reserved Friday, Nov. 25 at 8:30 for this new Arena play. Mrs. Ethel Saunders is chairman at 669-7526. Mrs. Vera Fervis is president.

..The New Mechanic opened Neil Simon's hilarious comedy this past Monday. Show runs through Nov. 26

The four top comedy stars who are also equally well known on television and in the motions pictures are headed by Robert Reed, well remembered as the father in "The Brady Bunch" and also in "The Defenders."

Elizabeth Allen has two Tony Awards as well as a movie Laurel Award for her role opposite John Wayne in "Donovan's Reef."

Warren Berlinger was seen on Broadway in "Come Blow Your Horn," and a host of televison shows.

Patti Karr had a featured role in "Pippin" and "Irene".

..William Henry Curry, the 1977-78 guest conductor for the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra will conduct a free family concert in Mondawmin Mall, Saturday, Nov. 19 at 6:30 p.m.

Two great composers will be featured - Scott Joplin and William Grant Still. The concert is sponsored by the Mondawmin Merchants Association and the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Art and Culture. The concert costs about $6,000, to bring to Mondawmin and the Merchants are putting up $1,000.

Christine Moore

Curry, a native of Pittsburgh comes to Baltimore from Richmond. He has had varied responsibilities and this week conducted two mid-week concerts at the Lyric for youngsters.

He also commutes back to Richmond to work with the Richmond Symphony and the Richmond Sinfonia. Last Sunday he conducted the Richmond Symphony Pops Concert which featured Melba Moore at the Mosque. The capacity audience was 50-50 black and white. (A comment for what it is worth.)

..People doing nice things - The Baltimore Chapter of J.U.G.s are presenting their Ninth Living Ads Ball, Friday, Nov. 18 at Blue Crest North. Once more with feeling they are presenting the proceeds to the AFRO's Mrs. Santa...

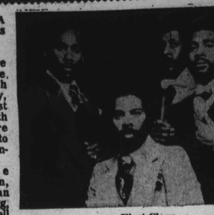
Members are Rosemary Atkinson, Betty Brown, Jean Chaney, Shirley Gregg, Patricia Hall, Rosabell Lewis, Jeanne Saunders, Mattie Slowe, Reta Cooper, Frances Stith, E. Marie Johnson and Earline Richardson.

..Mrs. Ann Richmond, Melvin Fields and members of the Powell Heirs originally from North Carolina and descendants of four Powell brothers and four sisters are getting their family together for a Christmas party at Winchester Armory on Dec. 10. They will make some contribution to the AFRO's Mrs. Santa.

More thanks to the brothers of Omega Psi Phi at Coppin State College who are starting to work for Mrs. Santa.

..Tuesday, when the Myra Brown Chapter of the Order of Eastern Stars hold its 81st convocation and will also present money to the AFRO's Mrs. Santa and other charities.

..The Softones will be entertaining at the Governor's Club, Nov. 18 thru 21 with two shows nightly. This very elegant club is at Eutaw and Dolphin. This will be their third and final show this year. They will take off for a return trip to Japan and a European tour. Their new album will be released in January.



First Class

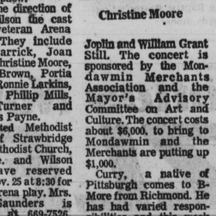
Softones have two new ladies, Yvonne Jones and Clarise. Smith. Other members are Steve Jackson, Marvin Brown and Elton Lynch.

..Earth, Wind and Fire at the Spectrum, Philly, Nov. 14-15; Capitol Center, Nov. 16-17. Denieece Williams and Balimore's own Pockets are on the bill.

..Parliament-Funkadelic with the Mothership Connection at the Civic Center, Nov. 20. Watch for Ray Charles coming to Pecora's Nov. 27.



William Curry



Grafton Gray — in "Short Eyes" in Columbia.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The McKenzie report

# 'Two Nights' of new music

By Dashti McKenzie

Washington, Dee Cee will be the scene of "Two Nights", a Thanksgiving weekend festival devoted to New American music — an event usually held in such places as Woodstock, Berkley or New Haven.

The two nights will be Friday, Nov. 25, and Sunday, Nov. 27 at DAR Constitution Hall. Saturday and Sunday workshops will be held at four downtown locations for musicians and participant-listeners.

These locations are Miya Gallery, WPA, Atlantis and District Creative Space.

Many of the musicians performing have not received significant exposure beyond avant-garde circles. But this new jazz or Creative Music, in contrast to be-bop and its predecessors had started company with the entertainment world, historically the main forum for jazz.

Because, a creative projects workshop, directed by Earl C. Bateman III, organized "Two Nights" with the idea that it was time to provide an appropriate forum for new American music, a forum that offers not just jazz or classical, but both, and a forum that offers not only performances but workshops — the opportunity to dialogue with the creators.

Sam Rivers

Sam Rivers is one of the most versatile artists in contemporary American music. Principally known as a tenor saxophonist, he is equally virtuoso on soprano sax, flute, and piano, and also plays oboe, bass clarinet, trombone, and baritone horn. He has a strong base in composition as well as improvisation, having studied at the Boston Conservatory of Music.

Rivers has been a member of the Miles Davis group, and with the Cecil Taylor group was artist in residence at Maeght Foundation in France.

Rivers is founder and director of the Harlem Ensemble, was an early member of the Jazz Composers Guild, has lectured on black music at Connecticut College and performed as soloist with the American and the San Francisco Symphony Orchestras.

Rivers' quartet will include percussionist Barry Altschul and bassist Dave Holland.

Holland will also lead a workshop on "Theory for Bass and Orchestra."

Philip Glass

Philip Glass, and his ensemble of keyboards, reeds, winds, and voice, strive to offer the listener the "presence" of sound — where process and material become the work.

Although Glass's work has its academic origins in the European tradition, i.e. the Juilliard School of Music and a tutorial in composition with Nadia Boulanger, his work attempts to shed prejudices that all valid culture is European by integrating structural concepts inherent to Eastern and West African musics.

This music is distinguished by a repetitive - structure, modular - form style of composition designs for the specific resources of his ensemble. He will be performing "Einstein on the Beach," a collaboratory opera with Robert Wilson, and excerpts from "North Star."

Cecil Taylor

Back in 1956, Cecil Taylor began working through, with a series of bands that practiced much more often than they worked, ideas that by the mid - 60's were revitalizing the role of the piano and expanding the possibilities of improvisation in medium and large ensembles.

Although much is made of his classical training and involvement with dissonance, he is better understood in terms of an Ellingtonian - like conception: Tatum plus technique, drummer - like percussiveness, and saxophone - like intensity. His work on records but even more so in concert, is one of the great challenges for any listener in contemporary music.

He has a conception so individual that his career of necessity has centered on the development and performance of his own music. He has become, to paraphrase one of his notions, the leader of one of the most important academies in creative music.

Alto saxophonist Jimmy Lyons, who has been with Taylor since 1960, is foremost among the many musicians who have learned from and been inspired by this master.

Taylor is also an articulate spokesman for his art. He won a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1973, and was named to the Down Beat Hall of Fame in 1975. This inflated recognition of his stature and a great deal of his music has been released in the last year, including re - issues on Blue Note, Arista, and Fantasy, as well as a new work on Innercity entitled "Dark Unto Themselves."

Continued in Tuesday's AFRO

## Top Spirtual Albums

1 Praise Lady Shirley Ceasar
2 Live In Carnegie Hall James Cleveland
3 Love Alive Walter Hawkins & The Love Center Choir
4 Front Auguste With Love Swanee Quintet
5 Freedom The Night Gospel Keynotes
6 The Comforter Edwin Hawkins Singers
7 Top 7 Standing By Institutional Radio Choir of Brooklyn, New York
8 See You In The Rapture Sensational Nightingales
9 Christ Is The Way Walter Hawkins
10 Rev. Milton Brunson & The Thompson Community Church

## Top R & B Albums

1 Barry White Sings for Someone
2 Yes
3 Hot Blooded Rose Royce
4 Action The Blackbyrds
5 Something To Love L.T.D.
6 Patti LaBelle
7 Feelin' Bitchy Millie Jackson
8 Brick
9 Star Wars And Other Galactic Funk Meco
10 Too Hot To Handle Heatwave
11 Baby It's Me Diana Ross

## Top Jazz Albums

1 Enigmatic Ocean Jean-Luc Ponty
2 Nightwings — Stanley Turrentine
3 Blow It Out Tom Scott
4 Free As The wind The Crusaders
5 Al Jarreau Live In Europe-Look To The Rainbow
6 Piccolo Ron Carter
7 Oxygene Jean Michel Jarre
8 CTI Summer Jazz Vol. 1
9 Action Blackbyrds
10 Feels so good Chuck Mangione

Lunch Pratt

Sun., Nov. 13
"The Shared Experience," film at the Central Pratt Library, 2 p.m.

Mon., Nov. 14
Canton Center: Films — "The New Car," "The Little Train," and "The Case of the Elevator Duck," 4 p.m.


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# ...all that Jazz

By Bob Matthews

'Twas nail-biting time at the Left Bank Jazz Society's concert last week, when the featured attraction was almost 45 minutes late appearing.

Scheduled to appear was the Ahmad Jamal Jazz Ensemble, and since they were just coming from D.C., the lateness was more difficult to understand.

But, finally things were set up, and the concert ready to begin — when tragedy struck.

Some one dropped a ber into the audio control console, causing the sound system to sound like a tinny windup victrola. (If you remember what they sounded like).

The acoustics in the room are not good enough to sustain a musical performance without amplification, so the first set was a disaster. Jamal mercifully cut it short.

During the intermission, the backup system was installed, and when the group came back on, it was a different story.

This time, the music was loud and clear, and Jamal lost no time in showing just why he is one of the most exciting pianists around today.

He still uses all the patented gimmicks and tricks that have become so familiar, such as several false endings before the final resolution of a chord; or the repetition of a single phrase, building all the while in intensity and volume, followed by a crashing glissando as he whirls off the piano bench.

The audience was liberally sprinkled with middle-aged jazz fans, some of whom said they came to hear Jamal because of the comments they have read in the past in this column.

And they weren't dissapointed.

After that first set, they sought me out to complain that they were as yet unimpressed with the proceedings. The main reason for the disappointment — Ahmad had played nothing familiar.

Had to point out that most of the younger people who buy his records were quite familiar with the tunes.

It is a handicap when the artists do not give the names of the tunes played — personally think they are missing a bet, for if you hear something that appeals to you, you are more apt to search it out when examining albums.

But then — it happened.

There are two tunes Jamal cannot leave out of a concert — on pain of mutiny. One is "Poinciana."

Not just any version of the song, it must be performed as closely as possible to the way it was done on the "Ahmad Jamal at the Pershing" album.

And — he did it. This was the kind of music the audience came to hear. Turned into a regular old house party — cause that ballroom rocked.

Couldn't resist sneaking a peek at the old friends who complained after the first set, but they were caught up in the music and totally satisfied.

As if taking a cue from the audience reaction — almost the entire remainder of the program was familiar, peaking with a medley using as its base the "Theme from M-A-S-H."

Then the other bombshell dropped — the other must song — "But Not For Me." The packed house literally sang along with the ensemble, knowing every phrase, every nuance of the song.

Beer in console hurts Ahmal's set

For the record

# Brand X plays Grade A

By Frederick I. Douglass

The decaying Congress Hotel on Franklin Street has become a hotbed of live jazz. In the basement, of the landmark of days gone by, is a magnificent lounge known as the Marble Bar where vocalist-guitarist Scott Cunningham performs with his own group and also promotes concerts featuring national and local attractions.

Reminiscent of the Cellar Door in Washington, D.C., the Marble Bar is presenting some of today's more progressive jazz and jazz-rock groups, such as Brand X.

Brand X kicked off the show by playing "Disco Suicide" from their runaway best selling album "Moroccan Roll." It was apparent that the group has been greatly influenced by Return to Forever, a group headed by bassist Stanley Clarke and keyboard wizard Chick Corea.

Brand X's music is highly energized and electronic. It seemed as though the stage would burst under the weight of the huge Marshall amplifiers and other equipment.

While playing "Disco Suicide," the loudness of Brand X seemed as though it would also burst a few ear drums with shrill, almost cacophonic sounds created by playing with too much volume for a room the size of the Marble Bar. But by the time Brand X got into their second number, a new and unrecorded tune entitled "Access to Dharta," they had gotten used to the acoustics of the hall and adjusted their equipment to obtain a much more pleasing sound.

A few adjustments in the volume transformed the music of Brand X from meaningless jumble to highly sophisticated and futuristic sounds that demonstrated that this is a group that will play an important role in shaping the music of tomorrow.

Next the group launched off into "Macrocosm," an up-tempo tune that gave each band member an opportunity to display their prodigious improvisational skills. The tune's haunting melody was stated by John Goodsall on guitar and Robin Lumley on his various keyboard instruments.

Kenwood Dennard then began pounding out a rhythmic tattoo on the drums contrapuntal to throbbing bass lines intricately strung by Percy Jones, while Morris Pert clanged and banged on diverse percussion instruments.

Goodsall took the first solo on his screaming guitar, creating sci-fi sounds that would make an appropriate score for a movie version of Heinlein's "Stranger in a Strange Land," and then reaching back to produce sounds similar to English guitarists like Jimmy Paige or occasionally sounding like Alvin Lee of Ten Years After fame.

At times, Brand X sounds like Soft Machine, one of the early British groups to explore the possibilities of fusing jazz and rock music.

Next Robin Lumley soloed on the synthesizer, aided and abetted by slick chord progressions laid out by Goodsall. Lumley is a very capable keyboard player who evidently has been following the stylings of Chick Corea. In fact it is the playing of Lumley on keyboards that gives the group a sound very similar to that of Return to Forever.

Brand X then moved into music from their new album "Livestock" an LP which is distinguished by a particularly eye catching surrealistic design on the sleeve as well as the dust cover inside.

The music on this album evidences that Brand X is still evolving. The album contains a number of superb tunes like "Nightmare Patrol" and the bizarrely titled "Euthanasia Waltz," but the band did its best when they played 'Ish" which featured really superb solos by drummer Kenwood Dennard and bassist Percy Jones.


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# Weekend TV watching

By Vanessa Johnson

## Friday

All-Star Anything Goes: "Good Times" vs "Happy Days," contestants include Esther Rolle and Ralph Carter. 7:30-8 p.m. Channel 13.

Evening Magazine: A profile of comedian and civil rights activist Dick Gregory, a visit to the Forrestville Skating Center and information on buying fish and meat boneless or bone-in. 7:30-8:00 p.m. Challen 13.

CPO Sharkey: Sharkey reports to the base hospital for a routine physical and doctors mistake him for a mental case. 8:00-8:30 p.m. NBC.

Donny & Marie: Bob Hope, Ruth Buzzi and Cherly Ladd are guests tonight. 8:00-9:00. ABC.

Chico and the Man: Convinced that Raul needs a mother, Ed proposes marriage to Eartha Kitt on PBS, Tues., Nov. 15

Delia (Della Reese). 8:30-9:00 p.m. NBC.

Midnight Special: Guest host is Glen Campbell with Dorothy Moore, Anne Murray, Brick, Dianne Steinberg and the Dancing Machine. 1:00-2:30 a.m. NBC.

Disco 77: Host is Jose Feliciano, Gloria Gaymor and George McCrae are the guests. 1:15-1:45 a.m. Channel 2.

## Saturday

Fat Albert: The gang learns about respect for people in authority. 12:30-1:00 p.m. CBS.

Soul Train: The highly acclaimed and award winning Lou Rawls occupies center stage with the Ritchie Family. 1:30-2:30 p.m. Channel 11.

Wide World of Sports: Amateur boxers from the U.S. and Cuba square off in a team competition at Houston. 5:00-6:30 p.m. ABC.

The Jefferson: The Jefferson's marriage is doomed or so thinks a superstitious Louise when she can't find her lucky wedding corsage. 9:00-9:30 p.m. CBS.

NBC Movie: "The Godfather," part 1. Vito Corleone, the aging don of a 1940's New York crime family and his bloody war with rival clans. 9:00-11:00 p.m. NBC.

Tony Randall: Walter's new clerk is a hostile young black (Glynn Turman) who has the judge hand slapping and jive talking to make him feel at ease. 9:30-10:00 p.m. CBS.

Saturday Night Live: Ray Charles is host with Raylettes and members of his 1950's orchestra, comedia Franklyn Ajaye. 11:30-1:00 a.m. NBC.

## Sunday

Soul of the City: Guests not known at press time. 12:30-1:30 p.m. Channel 45.

NFL Football: Baltimore Colts vs Buffalo Bills at Orchard Park, N. Y. 1:00-4:00 p.m. NBC.

NBC Movie: Godfather, part 2, finds the Corleones supremacy challenged by an aspiring drug kingpin who denied the don's protection, set him up for murder. 9:00-11:00 p.m. NBC.

ABC Movie: The Poseidon Adventure—The adventure begins when a 90 foot tidal wave overturns the luxury line Poseidon, trapping a handful of survivors in an eerie, upside-down world. 9:00-11:30 p.m. ABC.


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