Betty Dorsey: sexy German TV and film star, home on visit

By Ida Peters

Betty Dorsey today, with her repertoire of songs from classical music, jazz, gospel and spirituals to the latest pop hits, is one of the most popular film and TV stars in Germany and Eastern Europe.

And, like Bill Kenny, Betty Dorsey is the living example of how artists have to leave their hometown, Baltimore, to become famous and the toast of Europe.

On her visit to the AFRO, she wore a tan cashmere suit, high black boots, a sleeveless lynx fur coat carrying one red long - stemmed rose.

She also brought along two new singles, now popular in Germany, "I Need Your Sweet, Sweet Loving" and "Stay."

Her pictures don't do her justice. Her complexion is peach; her eyes brown and she has small white teeth. Her album cover shows her with a stacked body, and that's the only way she can be described Sexy! Our AFRO guard almost fell off his seat when she came into the office.

Most civic and social groups who have visited the AFRO Public Relations office to give to the Mrs. Santa Program or the AFRO Clean Block have noticed the Betty Dorsey poster in our office.

This poster was printed in Germany.

Betty Dorsey is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roger (Catherine) Dorsey, 5129 Nelson Ave. She is the youngest of ten children.

She graduated Salutatorian from the 1963 class of Eastern High School and also graduated second in her class from Morgan State University in 1967.

In AFRO office

She won a Fulbright scholarship to Germany to be followed by a fellowship to UCLA.

She never returned from Germany. She fell in love with her husband, Juergen Moebius, art professor at Mainz University, Mainz, Germany. He is well known all over Europe as an artist, painter and sculptor.

While she's here in Baltimore on her annual visit to her family, her husband of nine years is supervising the building of their new home in Spain.

Presently they live in an apartment overlooking the Rhine River but she showed pictures of another new home being built in Mainz. This city where she now makes her home is famous for the Guttenberg Museum, carnivals, Mardi Gras and the famous Rhine beer and wines. Her mother has never visited. "She's waiting for an expressway to be built between New York and Paris."

Remembering her last years at Morgan, Betty Dorsey says she paid her way through college singing at small clubs on weekends such as Buck's Bar with Johnny Pelite, the Chesapeake Lounge and Marticks.

She started singing at the age of four and started professional singing with the Modern Vocal Quartette called "Fourmost."

At Morgan she applied for the Fulbright to Germany because she thought she had a better chance and most students were applying for the English speaking countries.

She only took German in college because the French class was full.

She remembers doing opera workshops with Joseph Eubanks and the professors who helped most with her career were Dr. Haywood Harrison, Dr. Adrair and Dr. Benjamin Quaries.

She met her husband in Germany where she just happened to attend a jazz session. She sat in and he just happened to be there.

In 1967, she was voted "Best Entertainer of the Year" in Maryland. In 1969, she appeared in the touring production of "Porgy and Bess" in Europe. In 1972 she represented the USA in the international song festival "The Golden Orpheus" and was awarded "The International Radio and TV" prize.

Welcome home, Betty Dorsey. Have a nice visit with your folks and have a happy life.

Stan Mitchell

Gospel musical Sat. at Woodlawn High

"Frankiy Speaking J.C.," a gospel musical written and directed by Stan Mitchell featuring members of the Woodlawn Senior High School Gospel Choir will be presented Sat., April 1, 8 p.m. at Woodlawn Senior High School.

The play demonstrates how music played an important part in the establishment of the black church.

Other groups participating include The De Leon Players, MPRT, the Imani Messengers, Majestic Ensemble and the Ava Fields Dance Company.

Cast members include Gina Lee, Phillip Solomon, Stephony Graham, Ernest Plater Jr., Stanley Mitchell, Robert Smith, Michael Reid, William Boston III.

Movie Quickies

By Ida Peters
Entertainment Editor

AMERICAN HOT WAX: (PG) — Slightly twisted story on rock 'n' roll DJ Alan Freed and how he introduced black music to white teenagers in 1950s. Hints of payola and how black groups got conned out of royalties through ignorance. Stars Chuck Berry and Screamin' Jay Hawkins as themselves and two new groups, The Delights and The Chesterfields.

THE BOYS IN COMPANY C: (R) — A powerful look at the Marine Corps and the Vietnam War. Stan Shaw is tremendous as a Marine Sgt. Don't miss this if you want to know what really happened in the Nam.

BLUE COLLAR: (R) — A profile of three automobile workers banging their heads against the monotony and corruption of factory life.

WHICH WAY IS UP? Starring Richard Pryor as a triple threat. Audiences find it hilarious. Pryor plays a beleaguered farm worker, a farm worker randy old father and a hypocrifitical preacher. Stars include Lonette McKee, Margaret Avery, Morgan Woodward and Marilyn Coleman.

THE FURY: (R) — 20th Century Fox - Stars Kirk Douglas as a man who is trying to rescue his teenage son possessed of psychic powers from a super secret U.S. agency which is using him. They mess up with a young psychic girl and from there on in it's blood and gore.

Brother Blue, travelling minstrel and storyteller, will perform at Goucher College on Saturday, April 8, at 8:30 p.m. in the Greenhouse in Mary Fisher Hall. In songs, words dance and mime, Brother Blue has told his stories to audiences of all ages throughout the United States and canada and on radio and television in both countires. The program is free and open to the public.

Calendar

Social

Friday, March 31 — Project SAGA "Spring and Summer Fashion Show, 1-3 p.m., Marlborough Apartments, 1701 N. Eutaw St.

Saturday April 1 — Dinner - Dance Brotherhood of St. Andrew. St. James Episcopal Church Guild Hall. Lafayette Square. 6 p.m.

Philomathians — Hostess Mrs. Marian Patterson, Speaker, Mrs. Sandra Blount, Director, Women's Detention Center. 6 p.m.

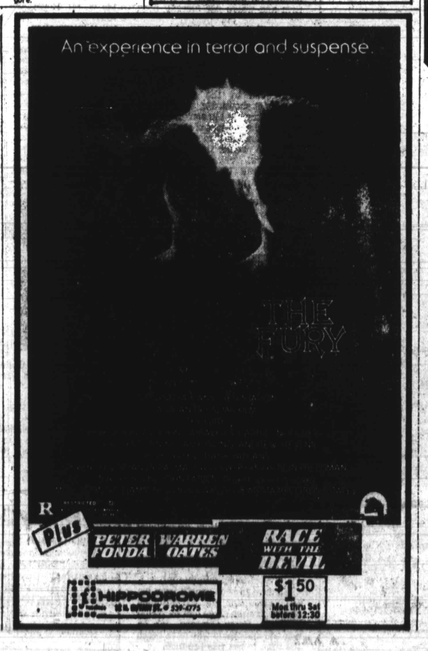
Sunday April 2 — Moles, Spring Dinner - Dance Blue Crest North - 6 p.m.

Friday, April 7 — Retirement Dinner - Dr. Flossie Dedmond, Dean of Arts and Sciences, Blue Crest North 7 p.m.

Saturday, April 8 — Baltimore Marketing Association Dinner Dance - Overlea Hall 8:30 p.m.

Friday, April 14 — Original Gardenia Bridge Club, Dinner - Dance, Blue Crest North 9 p.m.

Wednesday, April 19 — Appreciation Dinner State Senator Verda F. Welcome, Blue Crest North, 7 p.m.



New movies

Lawrence Hilton Jacobs new movie 'Youngblood'

HOLLYWOOD, Calif. — "Youngblood," starring Lawrence-Hilton Jacobs of "Cooley High" and "Welcome Back Kotter" fame, has been acquired from Aion Communications by American International Pictures for release this spring.

An unusual story of a precocious young man's struggle to break out of a big city ghetto as well as to be accepted by his peers, the film introduces Bryan O'dell, of the "What's Happening" television series, in the title role.

As Rommel, an embittered young street gang leader in "Young blood," Jacobs stars as yet another of the street characters through which he has gained fame both in motion pictures and television.

As adept as the talented Jacobs is at portraying young street people, he sometimes feels that this particular facet of his talent may be a detriment. After his successful role as a young militant in the hit film, "Claudine," he came West to screen test for "Sparkle" and learned an ironic lesson about casting.

"They told me I was too militant for the role, since they had only seen my work in 'Claudine,' I discovered that my acting ability was interfering with my career. I was too good in one part to be cast as someone entirely different, they thought," Jacobs ruefully concluded.

An original musical score has been composed and performed by the rock group, WAR.

Co-starring is Ren Woods, fresh from her triumphs in the Tony Award winning stage musical, "The Wiz," and the Emmy Award winning mini-series, "Roots."

Morgan's Players

Jean Claude van Itallie's one act play, "Interview" and a one act play by Douglas Turner Ward entitled "Day of Absence" will be presented by the University Theatre directed by Diane Jemison of Morgan State, April 1, 2 at 8 p.m. and April 3 at 3:30 p.m. in the Lillie Theatre of the Carl Murphy Fine Arts Center.

"Interview" is an absurdity which uses physical [illegible] to examine the mechanization of life in modern urban America. The plot centers around four nervous job applicants from various walks of life who are questioned by four masked interviewers. In the process of the interview the applicants are reduced to a chorus which seeks refuge in the streets.

The play suggest that it is possible for men and women to share a common humanity, even if what they are sharing is detestable.

"Day of Absence," which is set in a small southern town, sets out to show the necessity of Blacks in American society through a black cast dressed in white make - up, representing a minstrel show in reverse. In this humorous play, the townspeople sensing something strange about the lack of black faces take their complaint to the mayor.

Starring in "Interview" will be Kim Williams, Jeffrey Richardson, Mary Morgan, Phillip Taylor, Lawrence Green, Loryn Bland, Richard Miles, and Dawn Peterson.

Actors in "Day of Absence" are Ronald Williams, Jeffrey Richardson, Mary Morgan, Lawrence Green, Phyllis Morton, Gayle Beverly, Dawn Peterson, Richard Miles, Brenda Rann, Nancy Dowe, Phillip Taylor, Gregory Tull, Omar Cook

A three-month stay in England made Bill Kenny a lord in 1949. On his return, he was greeted by his manager, Moe Gale, while guitarist Charley Fuqua looks on. Monocle, cane and Homburg were gifts from British fans.

Bill Kenny buried in Canada

Bill Kenny, who made the original Ink Spots a showbusiness sensation between 1938 and 1952 was buried in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada this past Wednesday (3-29 from the Unitarian Church.

Kenny was born in Mercy Hospital in Philadelphia, June 12, 1914. His father died in the flu epidemic of 1919.

His widowed mother moved the family to Baltimore where Kenny and his brother Herb attended Booker T. Washington Junior High and graduated from Douglass High School.

Bill Kenny went on to New York where he won an amateur singing contest at the old Harlem Savoy Ballroom owned by Charlie Buchanan.

He auditioned with the Ink Spots to fill the shoes of ailing member Jerry Daniels. The group had minor fame and along came Jack Lawrence, an unknown songwriter with the tune "If I Didn't Care."

Bill Kenny with his tenor taking the lead and Orville Hoppy Jones doing the first talking bass skyrocketed to international popularity

They played the Paramount Theatre on Broadway with Glenn Miller and Red Skelton.

The Ink Spots were magnetic in their white tails. Crowds rioted when they sang "If I Didn't Care." Their recordings were played all over the world.

Stories have it they were paid one hundred thousand dollars to appear in the film, "The Great American Broadcast of 1941." Those were the golden days for the Ink Spots . . . Bill Kenny, Deek Watson, Orville Jones and Charlie Fuquoa.

When Orville Hoppy Jones died of an Epileptic seizure in Bill's arms on the stage of the Paramount Theatre in 1944, Bill bought out Deek Watson for $10,000 and replaced Deek with Billy Bowen and his brother Herb to replace Hoppy.

Today, there are more than 40 groups claiming the name Ink Spots, Famous Ink Spots, Original Ink Spots et al.

In recent years, Bill Kenny was very bitter about the many Ink Spots groups around the country. He had been doing club work in Japan and Australia and had not been East to appear since his mother Jennie Kenny Goldring was buried from St. Peter Claver's Catholic Church, March 8, 1958.

Brother Herk Kenny left the Ink Spots in 1952. Now living in Columbia, Md. he had a radio show on WJMD-FM in D.C. for seven years and a TV show on WMAL-TV. He is currently appearing on weekends at the Belvedere Hotel in Baltimore.

Kenny is survived by his third wife and manager Audrey McBurney Kenny, a Canadian.

ON JACK BENNY SHOW—Eddie Rochester Anderson joins the Ink Spots on the national CBS Radio Show, "The Jack Benny Lucky Strike Show." Above, Rochester, Bill Kenny, Billy Bowen, Herb Kenny and Charlie Fuqua.

December 1946—In this AFRO file photo Bill Kenny clowns with from left, Peg Leg Bates, Dinah Washington and Eddie Clean Head Vinson.

Donna Summer coming to make love to you

By Frederick I. Douglass

Unleash your sexual fantasies gentlemen. On March 31 the moon will be in its last quarter and Donna Summer, the acknowledged Black Goddess of Disco music, will be in town through April Fool's Day to bedazzle you with her spellbinding and tantilizing eroticism.

Now I don't know what effect the moon has on you, but I'm willing to bet that if you are a brother with even the smallest amount of African blood coursing through your veins, Donna Summer gets to your central nervous system and makes every nerve in your body ready for action.

To begin with, Donna is a beautiful black woman who radiates beaucoup beauty, charm and grace, not to mention her aura of turrid sensuality.

Donna Summer at Painters Friday

Roy Ayers and Dexter Wansel at Painters, Sun.

Plus she is a talented lady that composes the lyrics to her songs, choregraphs the fluid movements and undulations that she puts her torso through during a performance, and will soon be unveiling her talents as an actress in a movie entitled "Thank God It's Friday" in which she co-stars with the Commodores.

Some insight into Donna's personality can be gained by listening to the lyrics on her latest double album "Once Upon a Time" which chronicles her for the right man, the man who could set her soul on fire.

It also tells of her outgrowing her childhood daydreams as she moves closer and closer to maturity.

The disco opera is done in four acts, each segment taking up the side of an album. The story evolves from her feelings of isolation and loneliness as a child through her blossoming womanhood when she meets her match in Act IV of "Once Upon a Time" when she sings "Rumor Has It" in which she tells that she has heard a rumor that a man is in town "looking for a girl like me."

"Once Upon a Time" has a happy ending to a Disco beat. The story line is of the "Cinderella" genre and the music is really hip, especially the sounds in Act I. Donna finds her man and all is well. The "Love to Love You Baby" lady hits the target.

But what is the lady who made "Love to Love You Baby" really like. Turn the lights down low, pour yourself a glass of wine and let your imagination run free.

"My life outside is a lot different than most people might think. A lot of people seem to think that my life is one wild party after another. I have my fun, sure I believe in getting some joy out of life. But I have my own way of doing it. Most of my time is devoted to my family. The rest of my time is spent writing new songs, rehearsing my act and getting things together musically.

... and all that jazz

By Bob Matthews

Every now and again, a reminder is needed that guitars can make a beautiful, swinging sound without being loud, electronic or into the heavy-metal bag.

And thus, the two old masters, Barney Kessel and Herb Ellis came to the Left Bank Jazz Society concert to show that they are still in the jazz mainstream.

Perhaps, the younger musicians would fare better if they attempted to play some classic, familiar music.

For, the realization dawned that most of the tunes Ellis and Kessel attempted were familiar ones with which the audience could sing along.

Such things as "Getting Sentimental Over You," "Green Dolphin Street," "Satin Doll," "Broadway" or even "Poor Butterfly."

Then there were the sensitive solos of Kessel on "Yesterdays" or the swinging solo of Ellis on "Easter Parade."

But despite the sharp musicianship of the two leaders, it was the backup group that really shone.

Keeter Best on bass and Bertell Knox on drums propelled that quartet to the ultimate heights.

Both play out of Washington and have been backing up renown artists as they come to the area. They have played with Ellis and Kessel many times, and it showed.

Keeter ranks with the best — right up there with Ron Carter, Ray Brown or even Nils Pederson.

Bertell's work can be summed up in a single word — "tasty."

Can't say that the concert was one of those "set the world on fire" affairs, for they really never got wholly into a fiery, climactic set.

Best description we can muster would be to call them, pleasant, delightful — and swinging.

Have to keep up to date on the activities of the LBJS, for in truth, they do many things for jazz and the community besides put on the Sunday afternoon concerts.

For example, on Saturday, March 25, LBJS more or less sponsored a 22-piece band of the Peabody Conservatory of Music's Jazz Ensemble.

They played for the inmates at the Maryland Penitentiary. Jerry Villanueva conducted the group.

Next week, a living legend heaves into view. Milt Jackson will bring a quartet in, marking one of his few performances in Baltimore since the demise of the Modern Jazz Quartet.

Bags (as Milt is known) marks the first radical departure of xylophone or vibraharp playing from the stylised work of Lionel Hampton.

All during the 1930s and early 40s, Hamp rose to fame, mainly with the Benny Goodman Quartet.

Remember seeing Milt as a skinny little kid who seemed to literally pounce on the vibes with his mallets.

Hamp pioneered jazz on the instrument, using single mallets.

Bags brought four-mallet play into being in jazz and made use of the sustaining pedal in a way not thought possible.

And — it all worked, for Bags was a superb musician, and it all came to fruition when he became one of the original members of the MJQ.

Since the split — he seems to have gained greater stature. His last concert in this area was ever in D.C., and it got nothing but raves.

'Twill be a goodie.

TV Watching

By Vanessa Johnson

FRIDAY

Mike Douglass: Co - host Joyce DeWitt is joined by George Hamilton, Jack Eagle, John Cameron, Harlem Globetrotter, Hallie Bryant. 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. - Channel 13.

CPO Sharkey: Everyone seems to have a down home remedy for Sharkey after he comes down with the Russian flu. 8:30 - 9:00 p.m. - CBS.

Quincy: Quincy suspects foul play in the death of a young boxer whose grieving widow insists that her husband was drugged before the fatal match. Joe Louis make a cameo appearance, with Moses Gunn. 10:00 - 11:00 p.m. - NBC.

Midnight Special: Guest hostess is Olivia Newton - John with Waylon Jennings, Leo Sayer, Ike and Tina Turner and Kenny Rankin are the guests. 1:00 - 2:30 a.m. - CBS.

SATURDAY

Fat Albert: Lucius impresses the gang with his cleverness until they learn he has a drinking problem. 12:00 - 12:30 p.m. - CBS.

Blackpoint: Topic, transracial adoption. The guests are Drs. Howard Altstein and John McAdoo of the University of Maryland at Baltimore. 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. - Channel 13.

Mats: Today's discussions focus on the up coming 1978 Bethel Convocation and advances in integration in Baltimore in recent years. 1:00 - 1:30 p.m. - Channel 13.

Soul Train: Harold Melvin and the Blue Notes sing "Let's Talk It Over"; Roy Ayers Ubiquity does "Running Away." 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. - Channel 5.

Fight Against Slavery: Journals kept by slave Olaudah Equiano and slave ship captain John Newton provide the basis for this depiction of a 1750 voyage over the "Middle Passage" slave route linking England, the African coast and the West Indies. Granville Sharp, whose legal action on behalf of a mistreated slave led to a 1772 ruling that declared free any colonial slave entering Britian. 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. - Channel 13.

Impact: Tonight's debate question: "Can integration work in Baltimore?" with attorney Billy Murphy Jr., and Baltimore city councilman Dr. Emerson Julian. 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. - Channel 13.

CBS On The Air: CBS wraps up its 50th anniversary celebration with a look at Saturday night TV in prime time past. 8:30 - 11:00 p.m. - CBS.

Love Boat: Identical twins as temperamentally different as night and day have smitten Doc totally bewildered. The crew attributes a series of freak accidents to a supposedly jinxed couple. 9:00 - 10:00 p.m. - ABC.

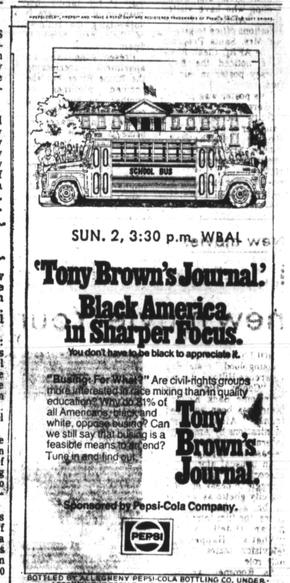
SUNDAY

Baseball: The New York Yankees play the Orioles in a pre - season game at Fort Lauderdale. 3:00 - 5:30 p.m. - Channel 13.

Tony Brown's Journal: Actor - Writer Ossie Davis and several social scientists discuss the impact of "Roots," the book and the TV series on race relations in America. 3:30 - 4:00 p.m. - Channel 11.

All In the Family: The bartender walks out on the grand opening of Archie's saloon, leaving an inexperienced Mike to fill in. 9:00 - 9:30 p.m. - CBS.

NBC Movie: "Love's Dark Ride," stars Cliff Potts as a man in a helpless and hopeless rage against his sudden blindness. 9:00 - 11:00 p.m. - NBC.



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