SHOWTIME

★Theatre
★Arts
★Music

'Life of Banneker' on TV Saturday

Oella, Md. today, Benjamin Banneker's birthplace. Overflow from the Patapsco River has wiped out much of industry of ancient Mill Town.

The television debut of "The Man Who Loved the Stars," the story of Benjamin Banneker, the first black American to earn prominence as a scientist, astrologer, mathematician, and inventor will be telecast Saturday, June 2, 8 p.m. on WJZ-TV.

(Continued on Page 24)

Meet Carolyn Day... Slave girl

By Ida Peters

She won't say anything and you'll only see her twice . . . fleetingly and "once for a minute close up" in the television debut of the movie, "The Man Who Loved the Stars," the story of Benjamin Banneker, on WJZ - TV Sunday.

But Carolyn Maxine Day, native Baltimorean, homemaker, part - time actress, model and mother of five children in just as excited as if she had a lead part.

As it is, she plays a slave girl taking care of a sick slave in the auction scene.

How did she get a part? One day in 1977, she started out looking for a modeling job and by mistake wandered into the Reed Street office of Jochen Breitenstein, head of Cine - Man Productions already engaged in shooting the Banneker story with Ossie Davis in the title role.

The producer became interested, asked her to walk, talk about her family and fill out an application. Carolyn Day says she left his office walking on air with the promise she would hear something soon.

She didn't hear anything for a couple of months but every night she dreamed about being a movie star. Finally she got the call to be a slave girl and was sent to the Howard Street costumers to be fitted.

In March, 1977, she went with other local actors to Lancaster, Pa. in a van to shoot scenes with Ossie Davis. She was also in the crowd scenes shot in Baltimore on Sterling Street, and Old Town Mall.

Carolyn Day is a Dunbar High School graduate and the daughter of Marvin and Lottie Williams.

She attended the recent showing of the Banneker story at the [illegible] and reports that Ossie Davis had a "tremendous personality; was calm and polite to everybody and took time to sign everybody's autograph."

Now that this experience is behind her, she continues her modeling and recently appeared in a show at the Famous Ballroom.

She missed out on getting an extra part in Al Pacino's Columbia flick "And Justice for All" when it screened here. She was working at City Jail at the time. However, she did put her application in and has high hopes for the next flick filmed here.

Ossie Davis stars

Carolyn Day, movie star by luck

Mellasenah Morris at Carnegie Hall

Buses will leave Saturday from Reistertown Road Plaza carrying members of LaDells and Douglas Memorial Community Church to New York to attend the Carnegie Hall debut recital of Mellasenah Morris, pianist.

Her historic program will include "Sonata in D Major," "Sonata in D Minor" by Soler; "Sonata Op. 5 in F. Minor" by Brahms; "Three Etudes" by Chopin and "In the Bottoms Suite" by R. Nathaniel Dett.

Mrs. Morris has appeared frequently as soloist and accompanist in the Baltimore area.

She has been on the faculties of the Community College of Baltimore, the [illegible] Conservatory, the [illegible] Preparatory Department and Villa Julie College. She is an active member of Le Dells, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and the friends of Douglas Memorial Community Church.

Mellasenah Morris began studying the piano at the age of six with Mrs. Sara Hathaway and the Hobart Langrall in Norfolk, Va. Early honors included winning first prize in competitions sponsored by the Lions' Club of Virginia and the Hermitage Foundation of Norfolk.

At the age of 17, she entered the Peabody Conservatory on a full scholarship and while there won the Alexander Sklarevsky and the Pauline Favine awards for outstanding musicianship.

She received the Bachelor of Music degree in 1968 and the Master of Music degree in 1971. Currently she is a Docotral candidate at Peabody, working with Julio Esteban, who has been her mentor for 15 years.

Kevin Clash off to join Big Bird on 'Sesame Street'

Kevin Clash, 18, the young genius puppeteer seem for the past year and a half with Stu Kerr on WMAR -TV's "Caboose," graduates from Dundalk High School, today, June 1, 8 p.m. at Essex Community College.

Then on June 7, he's off to New York where he has been hired by Kermit Love, creator of Big Bird to work with puppets on "Sesame Street."

He'll then be talking with Maryland - born Jim Hanson about working on "The Muppets Show" in London, England.

Young Clash was quite excited during our AFRO interview because he had just completed his final show on "Caboose" for Channel 2 and was on his way to take his driver's test. He's been so busy with graduation and planning to go to live in New York, alone, he didn't have time to sit still for an AFRO photo.

Kevin Clash is the son of George and Gladys Clash of Turners Station where his father works for Raymond Metals and his mother is a Day Care Mother. He has two sisters and an older brother.

He started working with puppets and creating them when he was about 10. He started with small puppets and worked up to mosters like "Skylow" and Brtee.

At home, the rooms on New Pittsburgh Avenue are full of puppets and worked up to monsters like "Skylow" and Bartee.

In creating his puppets, he says that most of his characters come from schoolmates. He studies their personalities and then goes home and works on the characterizations.

Kevin says "I'm excited at the change coming and living by myself. It's kind of scary and a whole new ice."

On Black Classical Music

Baltimore Dance Theatre in formal debut

By Dominique - Rene de Lerma

Eva Anderson's dance group appeared at the Dunbar Performing Arts Center recently in the first of three concerts, designed as their professional debut.

We saw them there a year ago in what was an exceptional success, and it certainly is a dramatic move for them now, under the continued aegis of Norman Ross's Urban Services Cultural Arts, to go professional.

This year's program began with "Bach to Bach," an abstract and lyrical dance choreographed by Carl Pitts to Bach's fourth Brandenburg concerto in a fresh and comfortable manner.

Ms Anderson once told me she found Bach very akin to jazz, and that his music was an inspiration for dance. This was further exemplified by "Passacaglia," which she choreographed to Hubert Law's rendition of the Bach organ passacaglia in C minor.

The most poetic item of the evening was "Come Sunday," a dance consisting of four sections with music by Laws for Jocelyn Edwards' absolutely charming and child - like solo. Ms. Edwards' costume danced flowingly with her. The second dance was by Sandra Smith, accompanied by John Lee Hooker, and she danced the blues with soulful intensity.

The third section pitted music by Morton Feldman with "creation" by James Weldon Johnson, preached by Gloria Still, and athletically danced most beautifully by Melvin Cooper.

Finally, a sextet took up Ben Branch's "yield Not to Temptation" and the audience, which was remarkably reserved, started to let go.

All that had come before merited the spotlight but, when you have outside guests and premieres, it is possible to play down the local talent.

I wouldn't want to do that, however just before the intermission came "This is it — there is no hidden meaning; a parable" set to new music by Talib Hakim. The ensemble which provided the music included two performers with doctorates: Kenneth A. Keeling (clarinet) and Walter Lee conductor).

The unexpected absence of one performer obligated the use of a tape performance of Hakim's music, which Ms. Anderson choreographed after Sheldon Kopp's "If you meet the Buddha on the road, kill him."

This was a very disturbing work which was the only piece of the evening to carry so clear a message. It was a strong statement which would be embraced by those opposed to nuclear energy, war and other kinds of violence, abortion, and the like.

It began in a most amorous manner but the seduction was by evil forces. One by one, the dancers were won over. The resolution, although strongly stated, could not overcome my distress, and that lingered with me through the intermission.

I had rather gone out with a more optimistic mood, but our choreographer and consumer had impressed on all of us that dance can carry other messages than joy.

After the break was "Rhythms," set with music by Grover Washington. As if in apology for having intruded on our consciences, the dancers got into idealised disco (as close to the real thing as I can manage), and things were cool again. And the audience was starting to respond verbally, although not to the same extent as last year (maybe opening night didn't attract as many down - homers).

Following the Bach - Laws "Passacaglia," we had the second premiere — a strong and intense work sculptured by Eleo called "Impasse," with a sermon tantilizingly permutated by Steve Reich. This was another disturbing work.

Dr. de Lerma is professor of music at Morgan State University. He also hosts "Melodies, Lyrics and Notes" on WEAA - FM, Sundays 11 a.m.

Night Scene Seen

By Bob Matthews

Rasaan's Bar

Out on Hilton Rd. to Rasaan's Bar where the daily "happy hour" finds an assortment of the older group, who are usually around until the lottery is decided for the day.

Not that this is any big difference, since most bars thrive during the happy hours, but the group at Rasaan's is just a wee bit different, in that it is the only place we have been where a heated discussion about recipes and menus might be taking place.

Festivities are presided over by barmaid Stephanie, who quietly has learned the names of all the regulars — and what they drink. Mirzi Ricks, takes over on the days Stephanie is off, usually Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Club Or

Zipped over on Franklintown Rd. to the Club Or, just to see if things were continuing in the same manner — they are.

Ethel Goines
Club Climax

Mirzi Ricks
Rasaan's Bar

It is still primarily a neighborhood gathering place, complete with pinball machines and loud jukebox. As a matter of fact, even the pinball machine makes weird noises — which doesn't deter the customers one whit.

Gwendolyn Carter was handling the barmaid chores on the afternoon we visited, and has developed into a model of efficiency since our last visit. The gathering crowd, exuding friendliness, just sitting around sipping potables.

Guess the decorations are what takes a bit of getting used to. After all you don't usually find snakes as a part of the decor, with artificial palm trees and a pseudo - African jungle.

It is complete with rattan artifacts, plus burnished wood sculpture and all the rest. Overall, the liberation flag is on display prominently, as are posters of such figures as Malcolm X and Dick Gregory.

You'd think that the talk in such surroundings would be of a militant nature — but nothing could be further from the truth. The talk at the bar was just that — bar talk.

Club Astoria

To Edmondson Ave. for a visit to the Club Astoria, which continues to present a bit of a mystery to us. Dropped by during the daylight hours this time, and found a quiet here is a little on the young side, but interspersed here and there are some of the older denizens of night scene.

Mostly for music

The cancellation of the 1st Baltimore Jazz Festival left a gaping hole in live music presentations for the weekend. We'll have a complete story about the ill - fated attempt in Tuesday's " . . . And All That Jazz."

Also, the top - ranked jazz organization in Baltimore, The Left Bank Jazz Society is at a crossroads, with internal dissension threatening to change the direction of the group. We'll detail this schism Tuesday also.

In the interim, however, the LBJS is presenting Jaki Byard and the Apollo Stompers at the regular Sunday afternoon concert. Jaki, was pianist with Charles Mingus for about 5 years, and prior to that, was pianist with the Maynard Ferguson orchestra.

His greatest moments, however, have to include his stints with Eric Dolphy, Don Ellis and Rahsaan Roland Kirk. The Apollo Stompers are a 17 - piece band, and they'll all be in town.

At The Bandstand, it will be Slide Hampton, trombonist, and arranger, along with Reuben Brown, piano; Reggie Johnson, bass, and Chief Kilgo, drums.

All are familiar with the possible exception of Kilgo. He played with the Blackbyrds, and Joe Henderson in recent days, so his credentials are impeccable.

The Sportsman will present Harold Adams, tenor sax, at the Saturday afternoon set, along with Bob Butta, organ; Hugh Walker, drums, Jimmy Wells, vibes and Donald Bailey, bass.

Sunday night jazz session at the lounge will showcase the John Lamkin Concert Ensemble for a repeat of last week's set — which, incidently was a smashing success, and a swinger all the way.

At The Closet, Henry Baker is ecstatic over the coming home of Mickey and Shirley Fields. As he put it: "They did fantastic business, so I'm holding them over."

Teddy Plumeri is on bass, and Jimmi Johnson on drums. Guess Henry has hung up his horn for a while.

Arena Players honor Vernice D. Matthews with Hoskins Awards

By Ida Peters

Mrs. Vernice D. Matthews will receive the coveted Sheldon B. Hoskins Humanitarian Award at the Arena Players' 14th Annual Awards Banquet at Blue Crest North on June 8.

At the same time Mrs. Christine J. Moore, Dean for Admission at the Community Colige of Baltimore will be honored for her many years of service to the Arena Players and her dedication to the performing arts.

Judge Joseph C. Howard will receive the citizens award with humility, pride and inspiration for his role as lawyer, soldier, teacher, humanitarian and Judge - among Judges.

Mrs. Vernice Matthews was selected by the Humanitarian Committee as the outstanding individual whose dedicated involvement in community service closely reflects the memory of Sheldon B. Hoskins.

Sheldon B. Hoskins was an extra - ordinary person who developed her potential by using every opportunity to educate and improve herself. Born in Virginia, [illegible] thews moved to Baltimore at an early age. Upon her graduation from Douglass High School, she went to Coppin State College where she received her undergraduate degree in early childhood education and joined Alpha Kappa Alpha, a sorority for education and community development scholars. she received her master's degree from the Teachers' College of Columbia University in New York City. Mrs. Matthews taught kindergarten and first grade before she was appointed principal of Mount Winans Elementary School. She remained principal of Mount [illegible] until her retirement.

Vernice D. Matthews
. . .being honored

For several years, Mrs. Matthews has played an important role in the life of Providence Baptist Church. She currently serves the Church as Chairman of the Board of Christian Education, Chairman of the Leader Development Committee and on the Workshop Committee. She has taught Sunday School to children of all ages and helped establish the David E. Over Service Club to foster activities for their growth. Mrs. Matthews has also taught creative dance at Providence Baptist Church.

Mrs. Matthews has also involved herself in other community activities. She was a volunteer at Provident Hospital one day per week. Moreover, she taught and directed Les Jeunes Danseurs at the Madison Avenue YWCA. Each week she bowls with the Senior Citizen's League at Woodlawn.

She is married to William Edwards Matthews, a retired government employee.

Camellia Blackwell
off to Africa

DeLeon Players present 'Message'

Stanley D. Mitchell
. . . director, author

The DeLeon Players under the direction of Stanley D. Mitchell will present the musical play "Message" in Murphy Auditorium of Morgan State University June 7 - 10 for four nights.

Music will be provided by Tommy Roberts and the Roberts Singers. "Message" was written by Stanley D. Mitchell and George H. Diggs. The play is designed to wake up the minds of the black family in 1979 as it attacks the problems that face a family in East Baltimore.

Nancy Rice Offer, a Baltimore native, graduate of Douglass High School and an opera singer trained at Peabody Institute, has the lead role of Marian. She is currently employed at the Gas and Electric Co.

Cast members include: Robert Smith, Harold Taylor, Kathy Crawford, George H. Diggs, Randolph Edwards, Irene Height, Stanley Mitchell, Ronald Bailey and Percy Nicholson.

DeLeon Productions represents four years of continued community theatre. The company has performed for the benefit of many non - profit organizations, nursing homes and community churches.

The DeLeon Players were organized in 1974 by Stabley D. Mitchell while a student at University of Maryland. He is now employed by the Baltimore Urban League.

In 1979, the DeLeon Players merged its Northeastern based company with the Ebony Players, a Northwestern community based group headed by George H. Diggs.

Operation Crossroads Africa benefit

A fashion show, art show and dinner to support the Operation Crossroads Africa Program and help send Camellia Blackwell to Africa this summer of 1979 is being held Sunday, June 3 in McKeldin Center Ballroom, Morgan State University from 3 to 6 p.m. Tax deductible donations are $6.50.

Camellia Blackwell, a prospective Ph.D. candidate majoring in art education at the University of Maryland and a staff member at Morgan State University as McKeldin Art Center Manager, has been selected to join a group of Americans to live and work with rural village communities in Africa this summer.

She was selected from several hundred applicants nationwide for the Work - Travel Study program offered by Operation Crossroads Africa, Inc., a New York based non - profit organization focusing on international development and educational exchange.

Over the past 21 years Crossroads has sent more than 500 volunteers to 34 English and French speaking African countries. Their work involves, health education; agricultural development; building schools, health clinics, and communities facilities, and helping rural communities preserve local artistic, musical, and cultural traditions. In 1962, President Kennedy cited Crossroads as "progenitor of the Peace Corps."

Miss Blackwell has received much support from the community to raise her participation fee of $1,700. She has also held a bake sale and splash party.

Sunday's event at Morgan, besides dinner, will include a fashion show by her sister, Disgner Deborah Blackwell Gregory and her own art work. Guest speaker will be Dr. Sandye J. McIntyre, professor of Foreign Languages.

Other faculty members helping the Operation Crossroads Africa program are Dr. Alvin Thornton, Prof. James E. Lewis and Dr. Stefan Goodwin.

Contributors helping Miss Blackwell include her parents Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Blackwell, Robert Clay, Robert Clay Inc.; Alan Quille, Singleton, Dashiell and Robinson, P.A.; Rev. Harlie Wilson, Israel Baptist Church, Oliver T. Phillips and Alfred H. Green.

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Jesse Walker In New York

NEW YORK — The FCC has ruled that renewal of the license for WOL in Washington, once the 'top soul station in D.C., would not ' serve the public interest" and ordered a full hearing into charges that the disc jockeys demanded payola to plug certain records.

The Most Valuable Player of the NBA World Champion Series will be announced shortly after the final game ends, then honored in New York on Monday, June 11 at the Plaza Hotel. He'll receive a newly designed trophy — a full - size, silver basketball — and a new car from SPORT magazine.

The NYC Division of the American Society holds its annual benefit dinner on June 7 at the Waldorf - Astoria where the Athlete of the Decade will be named. Nominees are Kareem Abdul - Jabbar, Rod Carew, Jimmy Connors, Chris Evert, Bruce Jenner, Jack Nicklaus, Bobby Orr, Willie Shoemaker, O. J. Simpson and Mark Spitz.

Golfer Lee Elder ranks No. 38 among the PGA money leaders this year, with earnings of $46,792 so far. Top man is Tom Watson, with $236,674 through the Bryan Nelson Classic.

The Sixth Cannonball Adderley Benefit Concert was held at UCLA on May 24, with proceeds from the event going to the Adderley Scholarship Fund established in 1976 by the UCLA Center for Afro - American Studies.

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2 LIVIN' INSIDE YOUR LOVE — George Benson
3 MORNING DANCE — Spyro Gyra
4 HEARTBREAKING — Earl Klugh
5 FEETS DON'T FAIL ME NOW — Herbie Hancock

Top Disco Hits
½ RING MY BELL — Anita Ward
2 BAD GIRLS (ALL CUTS) — Donna Summer
3 BAD BAD BOY (ALL CUTS) — Nero Vernea
4 DANCE WITH YOU — Carrie Lucas
5 BOOGIE WOOGIE DANCIN' SHOES — Claudia Barry

Top R & B Hits
½ AIN'T NO STOPPIN' US NOW — McFadden & Whitehead
2 REUNITED — Peaches & Herb
3 DISCO NIGHTS (ROCK FREAK) — G.Q.
½ WE ARE FAMILY — Sister Sledge
3 I WANNA BE WITH YOU (PART 1) — The Isley Brothers

Metropolitan Baltimore Health Test
PHYSICAL FITNESS
Clip out this form and take the test with Ted Patterson and Joyce Jefferson Tuesday at 8 p.m.

1. What is the primary indicator of physical fitness?
A. Muscle tone
B. Heart and lung capacity
C. Strength
D. Body weight

2. Everyone over 35 should have a medical checkup before beginning a new fitness program.
TRUE FALSE

3. The proper way to begin a fitness program is to work out
A. Until muscles are sore
B. Until you are out of breath
C. Gradually over 6 weeks
D. An hour a day for 2 weeks

4. Muscles work more efficiently in heat than in cold
TRUE FALSE

5. How long does it take to walk off the calories in one doughnut?
A. 15 minutes
B. 20 minutes
C. 30 minutes
D. 45 minutes

6. Women are relatively equal in strength to men.
TRUE FALSE

7. Warming up is beneficial because it reduces blood flow to muscles
TRUE FALSE

8. If you suspect you have injured a joint during athletic activity you should
A. See a doctor
B. Continue activity with less intensity
C. Apply heat to joint area
D. Wrap joint with elastic bandage

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