SHOWTIME

Johnny Warrior in 'Baltimore Ballet'

Baltimore Ballet will perform "Charleston" as one of four ballets at Goucher College, March 27-28. Dancers from (L) Jacob Nielsen, Johnny Warrior, James Cameron. Front, Clair McHugh, Elisa Heinshon, Barbara Strizak.

DaSilva (Sylvester Stallone) and Fox (Billy Dee) corner an international killer in the subway.

Billy Dee is street cop in 'Nighthawks'

A first rate stage actor, excellent oil painter and authentic screen idol, Billy Dee Williams has reached the stage of his life when he accepts "there is no other way to live except through art".

This is not meant to be a heavy handed philosophical statement; rather it is his realization that as he stands on the edge of Hollywood superstardom, art is his work and is as important as is his family. He is currently starring with Sylvester Stallone in "Nighthawks", a contemporary story of suspense and intrigue. He plays Fox, Stallone's partner in a special police unit to combat terrorism.

Having paid his acting dues on Broadway in such critical hits as "A Taste of Honey", and received critical and popular acclaim on television in "Brian's Song" and on screen in "Lady Sings The Blues" and "The Empire Strikes Back", Williams has finally accepted that he is now at a point in his career when he has become bankable.

"Sometimes I feel as if I am walking through a dream. You see all the things that surround being a movie star, and yet you realize you're another person who is born, lives and dies. This does give life a sense of absurdity. But to survive you have to have a sense of humor".

He tried to explain this to a television emcee on a popular talk show, not usually the topic for late night television discussion. "I told him I saw myself as a walking absurdity." The emcee was left blank-faced and unresponsive.

Billy is also very much conscious that few black actors have made the so-called "cross-over" to acceptance by a white audience. Sidney Poitier has done it, and after "Brian's Song" and "Lady Sings The Blues" this is now true of Williams.

The close up he was given when introduced on the screen in "Lady Sings The Blues" was the kind usually reserved for Clark Gable in the glory days of Hollywood. It turned on women of all races.

"I was in a night club listening to Diana Ross perform as Billie Holiday", Williams remembers. "I hold out money to her and when she ignores me I say, 'You want my arm to fall off'. The scene had to be redone many times because I could not stop laughing. I never believed I'd be getting the star treatment with such great lighting".

In the same year he made "Brian's Song" about the close friendship of two players on a professional football team, one black, one white. It was one of the most popular films ever made for television, and the locker room scene in which Willams tells his teammates that his friend, played by James Caan, is dying of cancer left most viewers weeping.

"I realized how well that scene was working when the real football players used in it started to cry on each take.

"That scene endeared me to a lot of people", he continues, "even in red neck country. Men often find it difficult to cry, but I do all the time and I'm not ashamed to admit it. If people could only reach out to others with their hearts, and not their anger and hatred. A man came up to me after the first showing of 'Brian's Song' and said he had taped it because whenever he wants to release his own emotions he shows it to himself".

Williams considers "Brian's Song" to be a kind of love story which happened to involve people of different races.

"People are always making you think about the black-white relationship in the story. But most black people wouldn't think about race if it were not brought up to them all the time that they are black.

"But you have to avoid bitterness, and I try to do this by consciously not seeing things in terms of black and white. You have to maintain a historical perspective about race. I think of myself as a person of the world rather than a black man. I don't want to be regarded just a black actor".

During the shooting of "Nighthawks" on the streets of New York, Williams received instant recognition from both black and white youths, particularly females. "The biggest chance of crossing over is to have a romantic acting style", he says with a knowing smile.

Now more in demand than ever for screenwork, Williams is finding it difficult to paint as musch as he would like. Though he has worked longer in oils, he has more recently been exploring pastels and is planning a Los Angeles exhibit of his work. His style tends to bright colors, yet is rather introspective using solitary figures as subjects.

"When I do get locked into a picture I can work at it for hours, even through the night without realizing the time".

What's Happening

By Ida Peters

A new face in town since last October is Johnny Warrior, 22 a member of the professional ballet company, Baltimore Ballet which presents its spring repertory performances at Goucher College's Kraushaar Auditorium, Friday and Saturday.

He will be dancing with the company in two world premieres; "Namouna" choreographed by Jean-Pierre Bonnefous to music by Edouard Lalo and "Adagio" choreographed by Alonso Cata to the first movement of Mahler's Tenth Symphony.

Also being performed is "Triptico" a ballet suite to Latin-American rhythms in a Baltimore premiere and John Clifford's speak-easy ballet, "Charleston". He has the role of the Wolf in "Peter and the Wolf" children's matinee at 10 a.m. Friday and Saturday.

Warrior is actually John Warrior III, his father being John Warrior Jr. and his mother Mrs. Melbahu Dortch.

The Atlanta native graduated from Northside High School where he was a member of the Georgia All-State Band, All State Chorus, superior ratings for Flute and Piccolo; Latin Laureate Club, National Honor Society.

He was in the top 5 per cent of his class and in Who's Who in American High School Students.

He danced with the Ruth Mitchell Dance Company in Atlanta 1976-77 and won a full scholarship with the Dance Theatre of Harlem, N.Y. in 1977. In 1978-80 he served an apprenticeship with Dance Theatre of Harlem and attended New York University for two years.

He came to Baltimore in October when he was offered a job with a totally new company he explains, "I needed to dance more and I find with this company I have improved faster".

He has been able to adjust well to Baltimore because he has family here. Ms Ann Moreland is his cousin in Catonsville and Phillip Morgan, Research Professor at Johns Hopkins University is another cousin.

Arena Players 'Double Bill'

The Arena Players presents "Happy Ending", Douglas Turner Ward's domestic comedy and "Wine in the Wilderness", Alice Childress' poignant drama about Harlem in the 1960's, together on a "Double Bill" at the Arena Playhouse, opening tonight (Friday), the two one-acts will run weekends.

Sam Wilson, "Double Bill" director.

Included in the casts are newcomers Tony Cozart, Jeannie Jackson, Rene Johnson, and veteran Arena Players Joan Coursey, Vacountess Payne, Bessie McGowan, Cornell Jones, Randall Edwards, Wayne Brooks, and Russell Owens. Nura Saleem-Bey and John Hargrove, Jr., will repeat the roles they created during the 1980 Summer Series production of "Wine in the Wilderness".

"Double Bill" is directed by Sam Wilson.

'Sally's Gone' at Center Stage

The world premiere of "Sally's Gone, She Left Her Name", a witty and touching investigation of what happens when the American Dream comes true, was held at Center Stage Tuesday night.

This contemporary comedy by Russell Davis was discovered in Center Stage's First Stage series and is directed by Stan Wojewodski, Jr.

With warmth and wit, playwright Davis spins the ultimate modern kitchen on its axis to show us the various members of the Decker Family as they confront the American dream. Mr. Wojewodski commented, "There is a special satisfaction in bringing a play out of the First Stage series into full production. An intriguing and challenging new voice, Russell Davis has taken the familiar threads of familiar and sexual betrayal and woven a tapestry original in form and rich in humor and pathos".

Night Scene Seen

By Bob Matthews

Dropped in at the new Red Rooster this week, and that's just what it is—the new Rooster. The change is delightful.

Gone are the partitions which divided the eating area from the bar area. Installed are colorful offred draperies with accents, which seem to give the place a rosy glow.

Chatted with the owner of the club, Vivian Turner, who was in the grocery business on Franklintown Rd. prior to venturing into the bar business again.

She hastened to assure me that her neice, Dolores Johnson, who currently serves as manager of the club, will become a partner and part owner ere long.

Asked what were some of the biggies at the club, she was told without equivocation that Friday nights is the biggest night, and fish dinners, hog maws and chitterlings were the biggest sellers.

Plus this, everything is fresh and cooked from scratch — including the pastries. Alas, they had no sweet potato pie the day we visited, but we shall return.

If you remember the days of the round robins, wherein a bar was singled out and patrons and bar owners all patronized that particular club for a night—it has returned in an abbreviated form.

We were there on a Wednesday, and scheduled for later that evening was a takeover for the night by the barmaids who usually do their chores at Pat's Lounge over on Saratoga St.

Warren Williams, owner of Pat's was on hand, along with Reggie K who would be disc jockeying the music for the evening session.

According to all concerned—these nights have really caught on, and an enthusiastic crowd on hand indicates this.

Happy hour at the Rooster, is from 3 to 6 p.m., when most drinks are 99 cents. They do carry our favorite dark beer, which goes for $1.30, and regular beers are $1.05.

In the food line, Fish sandwiches or crab cakes are in the $2.25 range, with full dinners, including fresh vegetables and salad, are under $5.

Orpha Lampkin Red Rooster

Barmaid on duty when we called was Orpha Lamkin, and we must confess that we completely neglected to get the names of those women doing such yeoman work in the kitchen.

All of which goes to prove that women can manage businesses just as well as men, so score another one for women's rights.

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LIVE MUSIC THIS WEEKEND: The Left Bank Jazz Society presents Lou Bennett, organist, and his group making their first appearance in the United States since 1959.

It was then that Lou left Baltimore, which had become his home to live in Paris. Although he made some visits last year, this will be his first working appearance.

Really can't comment too much on his style of organ play, since we haven't heard him since he was a fixture in the back room at Phil's over on Mount and Mosher Sts.

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Another Baltimorean, Albert Dailey, will take over the podium at The Bandstand tonight and tomorrow. Albert does get to town at least once a year, and each time it has been a distinct treat.

Called a master musician, and one of the greatest jazz pianists of all time, Dailey never ceases to amaze with his inventiveness and facility at the keyboards.

He'll be backed up by Marshall Hawkins, bass, and Hugh Walker, drums, so it will be a set to remember.

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The Sportsmen's Lounge presents tenor saxist Charlie Rouse for its weekend sets, and that should be enough said. If you haven't heard Charlie lately, you have really missed a treat—and you shouldn't.

The Saturday afternoon jazz jam will teature El Prince and the All Stars, all of which helps to keep The Sportsmen's Lounge in the forefront of jazz showcases in the city.

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At the Ritz, the Widespread Depression Orchestra plays the Penthouse this weekend. Dave and Marlene Ross remain in place in the living room...At the Gatsby's, in the Billie Holliday room, Carlos Johnson et al are on tap for tonight, with The Woods Family scheduled for Saturday night. ...Over at Bruce's Hilltop, a group from D.C. called the Continental Express will be featured through Sunday night...At the Murphy Auditorium of Morgan State Univ. Saturday night, the Ed Heath Showcase is the feature presentation. It is described as a religious, hilarious, soulful and joyous experience. Featured are the Ed Heath Singers and music by Crystal....The Closet is showcasing the Fuzzy Kane trio Fri. and Sat., with the Billy Resnick Trio on Sunday.

Works by Shaws at Essex College

Paintings by Dr. Luke A. Shaw and sculpture by Luke A. Shaw, Jr. are on view through March 31 in the Gallery in the humanities and arts building at Essex Community College. The artists, who are father and son were honored at a reception in the gallery last Sunday.

Dr. Shaw is assistant professor of art and chairman of the art department at Coppin State College. His works have been shown in exhibits locally and throughout the northeast as well as in the states of Colorado and Washington, and he was commissioned to design and produce a mural in glass mosaic for the Percy Julian Science Building at Coppin State College that depicts the fine arts and sciences. A member of the City of Baltimore's Fine Arts Commission, Dr. Shaw is a graduate of Morgan State University, of the Catholic University of America, and has a Master of Fine Arts degree from the Maryland Institute, College of Art. He received his doctoral degree from Illinois State University. Dr. Shaw has been active as a consultant in art education in Baltimore, the state of Maryland and in Washington, D.C., area and has served as a judge for numerous juried art exhibits.

Luke A. Shaw, Jr., is an urban planning graduate of Morgan State University and is currently studying for a master's degree at the Maryland Institute, College of Art. He began working in wood and sculpture when he was offered the contents of the studio of a deceased artist, and is now committed to it as his life's work.

Top Hits

Top R & B Albums

1. Gap Band III
   The Gap Band
2. The Two Of Us
   Yarbrough & Peoples
3. Imagination
   The Whispers
4. Holler Than July
   Stevie Wonder
5. Whatnight
   Grover Washington Jr.

"Simply Heavenly," the successful musical comedy by Langston Hughes, will be presented April 2-3-4 at the Dunbar Performing Arts Theatre directed by William T. Brown with music by David Martin.

...more Happenings

Pleasant person met this week Mrs. Betty Cuffey, 26, a para-professional at George McMechen Junior High School.

She started out in 1975 as a member of Fabulous Friends (Plus One) and is now using her singing talent to entertain at various nursing homes. She combines her talents with her job to help her students smile and be happy.

She recently entertained at the Joseph Briscoe School with the Jerry Toronto Troupe and will be in his Kidney Foundation benefit April 11 at Woodlawn at 8 p.m.

James Carter, drummer with Teddy Pendergrass is in his home-town of B-More this week and reports he will be off to Europe with Teddy soon. He has been in the studio with the Philly International Producers Kenny Gamble, Leon Huff and Dexter Wansel cutting a new Teddy album.

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That's Frankie Smith's tune "Double Dutch Bus". Tune was penned 8 or 9 years ago and just now getting in this area. Smith was formerly with Philly International and used to play with the Harlem Globe Trotters.

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Dave Richeson of the Ritz held a reception Tuesday night to unveil their 1¼ million dollar renovation to their three-tier entertainment complex. New colors are soft blends of golds, rust and earth tones.

Dorothy Lofton Jones, contralto, is being presented in concert by the Cultural Arts Program at Gallery 409, Sunday, March 29 at 5 p.m.

This black owned facility announced their new membership club plan and their VIP Executive Card. Hosts for the cosmopolitan wall to wall crowd on all levels.

Free drinks and hors d'oeuvres were served with music and entertainment by Warehouse Comedy Squad and vocalist Joy Delight. Hosts for the evening included Curtis Anderson, Odell Brock, Herb Brown, Robert Clay, Robert Dashiell, Kweisi Mfume, Arthur Murphy, A. Dwight Pettit, Charles Taylor, Ted Turner, Kenneth O. Wilson and Biddy Wood.

They have taken on a new chef, John Martin Hairston, formerly of the Tug Boat Restaurant for a wide selection of wedding receptions and showers birthday parties, business meetings and luncheons, fund raising affairs, fashion shows, office parties, promotions and retirement.

Cultural Arts Program presents the musical folk comedy by Langston Hughes
SIMPLY HEAVENLY
Thurs.-Sat., Apr. 2-4, 8 p.m.
Dunbar Theatre, 1400 Orleans St.
Donation: $3/Tel. 276-4646

Bobbi Humphrey, flautist in town Sunday at Painters Mill with "The Super Stars of Jazz Fusion Show". Also part of the 21-city tour are Roy Ayers, Jean Carn, Lonnie Liston Smith and Stanley Turrentine.

Renowned animal trainer Gunther Gebel-Williams commands a cage full of Bengal tigers in the 111th Edition of Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus now at Civic Center.

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Stars of the Future — Johnny Joyner is a gospel soloist with a very fine voice which he is using to entertain at local weddings, banquets. He has appeared in various benefit program at City Jail, nursing homes and senior citizen centers.

An employee of Rosewood State Hospital he is a member of the Church of God In Christ on Denmore Avenue. He comes from a musically inclined family and has studied under James Valliant at Peabody.

Another rising star in the theatre is Karen Denise Holland a graduate of Frostburg State College with a degree in Speech, Drama and Sociogy. She has been invited by the Nuttle Creek Players of Hagerstown, Ind. to direct "Member of the Wedding" there in June.

Karen is a directress, singer, actress, dancer and back stage asssistant. She is currently assisting Sam Wilson of the Arena Players. She is a member of Alpha Psi Omega, honorary theatre fraternity, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Sharp Street Players, Somerset Pa. Players, Nettle Creek Ind. Players and Blue Ink Theatre, Inc.

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"A Spring Affair" fashions at Forest Park High School is being sponsored by the Foresters Travel Club, Friday, March 27, 3-6 p.m. in the Forest Park High School Auditorium. Fashions will be by Travis Winkey.

The Baltimore Chapel Choir, Morris C. Queen, Director presents the Easter score of Handel's "Messiah" at Sharp Street Memorial United Methodist Church, Sunday, April 5 at 3 p.m.

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An exciting addition to Baltimore nite life will open on Friday, March 27 at upper where producers Ron Isreal, Scott Black and Lewis Chitty premiere their hot new musical revue "Heavy Breathing" at the Baltimore General Dispensary in the city's newly renovated loft district.

Located at the corner of Paca and Favette Streets, the second floor cabaret theatre will be operated in conjunction with restaurant owners George and John Drakos with performances each Friday and Saturday night at 8 and 10 p.m.

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The Catonsville Community College chorus, Opus X, will present a concert of Americana songs written about America and by American composers, on Sunday, March 29, at 3 p.m. in the Humanities Theatre on the CCC campus, 800 S. Rolling Road. Admission is free.

Virginia Blair, assistant professor of music at CCC, will conduct the 25 voice chorus.

Pearl Williams-Jones, noted singer and pianist, presents a program of African - American music at Coppin State College today (Friday) at noon.

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'Curtis Anderson' 'Lee Cross'
'Alphie Williams' 'Billy Taylor'
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Moses Gunn in 'Father Murphy' in Arizona

Merlin Gisen, Moses Gunn and Katherine Cannon will star in "Father Murphy," a two-hour NBC World Premiere movie about the adventures of an 1870s gold miner who occasionally pretends to be a Catholic priest in order to keep officials from closing an orphanage.

The movie, which will introduce the character for a potential new fall series on NBC-TV, starts production this week in Arizona.

"Father Murphy" stars Olsen, one of NBC's top sportscasters and a regular on "Little House on The Prairie," as John Murphy, a gold miner who accidentally winds up operating a ranch which serves as a home for orphaned and troubled children between the ages of 2 and 12.

Gunn, who also has a recurring role in "Little House," portrays Murphy's friend and partner. Cannon takes the role of the teacher at