Friday Plus

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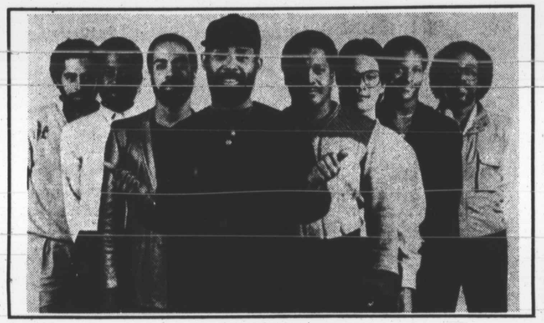
Best Bets

Maze, Frankie and Phyllis at Civic Center



Frankie. Beverly & Maze

Maze featuring Frankie Beverly will be appearing at the Baltimore Civic Center, Sunday, Sept. 11 with their new hit album "We Are One". Special guest star Phyllis Hyman will be singing her current hit "Riding the Tiger".

Ashford and Simpson, one of the most creative and exciting song writing teams will be appearing at Constitution Hall, Washington, D.C. on Friday, Sept. 16 along with former LaBelle member Nona Hendrix.

Ashford & Simpson

Dreams: A Premiere by Baltimore Dance Theatre

By Arthur J. Johnson

When Baltimore Dance Theater presents the premiere of its new dance-drama "Dreams", inspired by the award winning black drama "A Raisin In The Sun" at the Baltimore Museum of Arts this Sunday, September 11, it will mark another milestone for the eight-year-old dance company.

Under the direction of Miss Eva Anderson, the ten member dance company performs "classical modern, American modern, modern influenced by European ballet and works that are classical African-American dance forms," according to Miss Anderson, and has displayed its versatility in Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio, North Carolina, New York and all over Maryland in addition to a successful European tour in 1980.

In July of this year, the company participated in the 'African Gifts" dance presentation at Artscape '83 which caused a sensation at the three day arts festival. "I wrote the proposal for the "African Gifts" segment and choreographed the transitions between the dances done by the four companies," explains Miss Anderson. However, 'African Gifts" should be looked at as one work.

Baltimore Dance Theatre's contribution to the work, "Rythms" (choreographed by Anderson to the Grover Washington, Jr.'s "Mr. Magic") is based on classical Afro-American entertainment dance forms."

Last year Miss Anderson became the first recipient of a choreography fellowship from the state of Maryland when a grant of $5,000 was awarded her to choreograph "Winter of Our Days," a work based on Afro-American spirituals, "The company is also listed in the Dictionary of Minority Arts Organizations which also lists the Alvin Ailey Company and Dance Theater of Harlem," adds Miss Anderson.

But the new work, "Dreams," presents the newest and most exciting challenge to the company. "It is the largest work we've done as far as the magnitude of the work." Choreographed by Miss Anderson, a native of South Carolina whose art has taken her to teach at Adelphi University in New York and Goucher College in Towson, and to New York City where she studied and headed a company called Movement incorporated, "Dreams" also boasts original music composed and performed by Don Pullen, a New York based jazz musician, and Gary Richardson, all made possible by a grant from the National Endowment For The Arts.

Dance Theatre of Baltimore

"We have been an independent, non-profit organization since March 1981 and we exist on our grants from private patrons, the NEA, the Maryland State Arts Council, and donations from corporate foundations. One of the reasons why this grant (for "Dreams") is so important is because it gives musicians who are working on ideas similar to ours the chance to work with us, and for all of us to express our ideas in a major

(Continued on page 11)

Miss America Pageant

Saturday, Sept 10 on NBC From Maryland

FROM MARYLAND TO MISS AMERICA PAGEANT. **AMY ELIZABETH KEYS** of Lanham, MD, wants to have a career in the performing arts; she also wants to fulfill her academic ambition to complete dental school and receive a D.D.S. Both wishes may come true if she is crowned Miss America 1984 and receives the accompanying scholarship award at The Miss America Pageant, to be televised (its 30th live telecast) **Saturday, Sept. 17** (10 p.m. to Midnight) on NBC.

Amy, a 1979 graduate (biology) from Bowie State College, was an honor student in both high school (DuVal Senior High) and college. She acted as co-host with Ken Phillips on WBAL News for Miniature Miss Pageant. Her talent is popular singing. The 26-year-old has sung professionally. In 1982, she was one of five finalists from the Washington, D.C., area for roles in Broadway's "Dreamgirls." She has two sisters and two brothers. Amy is one of four black young women competing for The Miss America crown.

FROM NORTH CAROLINA. 19-year-old **DENEEN GRAHAM** of North Wilkesboro, NC.

Deneen, who hopes to be one of the finalists on the telecast, attends the North Carolina School of the Arts. She has studied ballet and tap dancing since she was 6. Deneen has polished her technique at master classes conducted by such top names in ballet as Melissa Hayden and others of the New York City Ballet Company and Eliot Feld, director of the Eliot Feld Ballet Company. One of four black young women vying for the Miss America crown, Deneen says her ambition is to dance professionally with a ballet company and to perform on the Broadway stage. Her father is a music educator; her mother, a high school instructor in microbiology.

FROM NEW JERSEY TO MISS AMERICA PAGENAT. **SUZETTE CHARLES,** 20, of Mays Landing, is New Jersey's candidate.

Suzette, is a student at Temple University (Dean's List). She is attending the Performing Arts High School of the Philadelphia College of Performing Arts, was a 1981 Presidential Scholar, graduate first in her high school class, and has performed at the Kennedy Center in the nation's capital before the president of the United States and members of Congress. Active in church programs throughout New Jersey and Pennsylvania, she is a member of Harmony Inspirational Singers. She has appeared in TV series, TV commmercials and was a featured vocalist in the album "Hair." Her mother is a music teacher; her father, a sales representative.

NEW YORK'S—Green-eyed **VANESSA WILLIAMS** of Millwood, NY, is the Empire State's standard bearer for the title, Miss America 1984.

Vanessa, 20, is a junior at Syracuse University (musical theater is her specialty). She sings, acts dances and plays the French horn, piano and melophone. While at Horace Greeley High School, she was Presidential Scholar finalist in drama. Both her parents are music teachers. She has one brother, Christopher, 15. Her ambition: To make it as a performer on Broadway and on other stages of this country. Vanessa is one of four black young ladies vying for the Miss America 1984 title.