Showtime

Ida M. Peters

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Ramsey Lewis (rear) visits Morgan State University's radio station WEAA-FM to promote his new album with Nancy Wilson. Joining him are Fred Richardson, CBS Records; Renita Woods, hostess, WEAA and Doug Wilkes, CBS.

Celebrities....

The Jackson Watch!

As of August 4, less than a full month into the Victory Tour, the tour had already sold close to three-quarters of a million tickets. Specifically, the Victory Tour had sold 700,000 tickets: 135,000 in Kansas City, 127,000 in Dallas, 135,000 in Jacksonville, 170,000 in New York (this figure includes both Giants Stadium and Madison Square Garden), and roughly 133,000 tickets in Knoxville, Tennessee. Incidentally, this means the Jacksons have sold in five cities what a major headline act would normally sell in 35!

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"Torture," the second single from the Jacksons Victory album, debuted on the Billboard charts Monday, August 13 at 48 with a bullet. The single — written and produced by Jackie Jackson and sung by Michael and Jermaine — was the highest entering single of the week.

Meanwhile, the Victory album has sold over 3.5 million copies worldwide to date.

The Jacksons were scheduled to begin shooting the video for "Torture" with director Jeff Stein on Monday, August 13, in New York. Eight sets had been built for the project, including a 130' long runway and an ice fortress.

The Jacksons were due to fly in from their concerts in Knoxville, Tenn., and continue working on the video until their departure for their concerts at Detroit's Silverdome August 17, 18 and 19.

Jackie Jackson — who had been sidelined by knee surgery in June — has worked on the "Torture" video with director Stein since mid-July. Jackie wrote and produced the song "Torture."

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Despite torrential rains and a nearby tornado, a crowd of over 3,000 gathered in the parking lots outside of Detroit's Silverdome at four in the morning when word leaked out that tickets for the Jacksons' Victory Tour concerts would go on sale Thursday, August 9 at 10 a.m. By mid-day, the crowd had swollen to 10,000. Even though tickets were available for the first two days of sale at only one location, the prized ducats were snapped up at the rate of over 30,000 per day! Capacity at the Silverdome is 48,000 per night.

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Celebrities who reportedly attended the Jackson Victory Tour Concerts at Giants Stadium and Madison Square Garden included: Richard Pryor, Bill Cosby, Steven Spielberg, David Lee Roth, Bill Murray, Eddie Murphy, Bette Midler, Donna Summer, Roberta Flack, Kool & The Gang, Dan Akroyd, Madonna, Clavin Klein; Timothy Hutton, Graham Parker, Neil Sedaka, John Denver, Pia Zadora, Robert Altman, Roy Hay (of Culture Club), Phil Ramone, Quincy Jones, Leslie Ann Warren, David Geffen, Isaiah Thomas, David Bowie, Peter Frampton, Michael Shrieve, Yoko Ono, The O'Jays, Eric Estrada, David Copperfield, Peter, Paul & Mary, Magic Johnson and Jody Collins, Donny Osmond, Mayor Edward Koch;

Dorothy Hammill, Dino Martin, The Thompson Twins, Brooke Shields, Barbara Walters, Nile Rogers, John Landis, Yankees Ron Guidry, Willie Randolph and Dave Winfield, Boxer Larry Holmes, Cindy Lauper, and Jim Henson (who brought Kermit).

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Jackie Jackson, the oldest of the Jacksons, has finally seen the Victory Tour show he spent eight months helping put it together. Jackie flew in from California to New York and stood in the wings on crutches during the opening night of the Jacksons' Giant Stadium New Jersey engagement.

Finally, he says, "I couldn't resist it. I asked them to give me a mike and started singing from the wings. Then Michael turned around during "I'll Be There" and gave me a look." Jackie hobbled onstage and joined in.

Then, he says, "came a fast number and I didn't know what I'd do on crutches so I eased out as fast as I could."

Jackie was sidelined in mid-June by knee surgery for a chipped bone. His role in putting together the business team for the Victory Tour and in designing and executing the show's choreography had been so central that at first Michael, Marlon, Tito Randy and Jermaine considered postponing the tour's opening dates until Jackie could recover. But doctors advised that Jackie's return to dancing form could take as long as six months.

How did Jackie like the show once he finally saw it?

"It's unbelievable."

Originally," the Jacksons' technical crew had intended to make Madison Square Garden the one stop on the Victory Tour to which the Jackson's two railroad refrigerator-car sized generators would not be brought. Peyton Wilson, the tour's technical coordinator, explained that the Jacksons could always supply the enormous power requirements of their show by tapping into the railroad power supply in Penn Station (conveniently located under the Garden). In the end, the Jacksons did bring one of their generators. The reason: the power surges created when the Jacksons' 3,200 lights go from total darkness to full intensity could literally black out the city of New York.

Auditions for 'Word Soldiers'

The African Writing and Publishing School is producing Mamadi M. Chinyelu's one-act play, "Word Soldiers" and are currently inviting writers, actors, actresses and theatre personnel to participate.

A reading of the play will be held as a fundraiser on Monday, Sept. 10 at 7 p.m. at Olu's Professional and Learning Arts Center, 432 E. 32nd St. A reception will follow.

As an added feature, SALLAH, a Baltimore-based performer, will give a dramatic presentation in song and dance.

Auditions will be held Sept. 11 and 13 with rehearsals on Tuesday and Thursday, for the January, 1985 presentation. For information, 243-8545.

SALLAH will perform at the African Writing and Publishing School's fundraiser Sept. 10 at 7 p.m.

A new look for 'City Line'

By C.T. Goodman

The highly rated talk show "City Line" moves into its third year on WJZ-TV and a few of the familiar faces will also be moving.

Co-host Dan Henson and Entertainment Editor Tim Watts have left the show to pursue other business interests. Replacing them this season will be local communications specialist Blaine T. (B.T.) Bentley and actor Harold Anthony, respectively.

Bentley, a former reporter for a daily newspaper and former news producer-anchor at WEAA-FM radio, has worked behind the scenes in communications for several years. With the bulk of his experience in print and radio, Bentley has always had the desire to become involved in other mediums as well.

"I have always enjoyed the art of communicating," says the native Baltimorean who is currently an instructor in Communications at Morgan State University. "Television is a new area for me and I'm really looking forward to it. I had the opportunity to co-host the show on one occasion last year and strangely enough, I was very comfortable with it."

Chosen several months ago as Dan Henson's "understudy", Bentley had auditioned with other local personalities during a search for an on-air temporary replacement. During the final weeks of last season's live telecasts, Bentley was called in to substitute. When a permanent replacement was needed, he was the natural choice.

"I felt much more relaxed on television than I thought I would, than I have in the past on radio," admits Bentley. "I think the solitude of radio is somewhat frightening. In television, there is an entire production crew making sure everything goes as planned. Also, I have the help of Jaki Hall. I've known her for some time and she has helped me quite a bit to feel comfortable with initiating and regulating the on-air conversation."

"I felt as though my audition had gone well, but as an actor, I've felt that way before and wound up never hearing from the producer again," laughs Anthony, an active member of the popular Arena Players theatrical organization. "This time I was confident, but not arrogant; I tried to just keep a positive attitude."

Usually a pre-taped segment of the otherwise live show, the "Entertainment Page" will sport an entire new look and format to compliment its new star. Unlike his fellow-"City Line" novice, Bentley; Anthony is responsible for writing his own material and keeping his information timely and interesting. Feeling "safe" because of the taped format, Anthony will on occasion, have to interview various entertainers and perform other "live" spots, but admits that this aspect does frighten him a bit, despite his theatrical background.

"So far, I have had to interview a few people, Evelyn "Champagne" King and Jimmy Castor, most recently," says Anthony. "Both were very easy to talk to and that helped me feel less uncomfortable. They (Reggie and Ernest) said I did okay...just numbled uh huh, uh huh' a little too often."

Yet despite the differences in their upcoming roles and responsibilities, both Bentley and Anthony are looking forward to starting the new season. They both foresee very clearly, "...a lot of fun" for the year ahead.

Art Blakey here

Art Blakey

Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers will perform in concert on Friday, August 31 at 8 p.m. along with Stanley Turrentine and his Quartet as part of The KOOL JAZZ Festival at the Pier Six Concert Pavilion. The Festival-Dedicated To Eubie Blake will be staged in Baltimore from August 31 through September 2.

The KOOL JAZZ Festival is part of the Harborlights Music Festival, sponsored by WJZ-TV and the City of Baltimore.

For additional information on the KOOL JAZZ Festival programs call (301) 727-5580 or 752-INFO.

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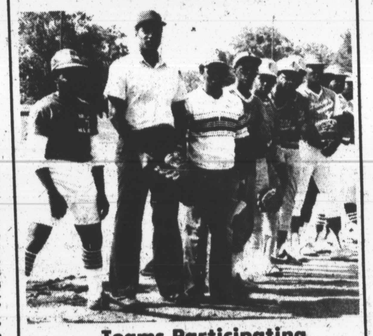

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Emanons—Ladies Team
Bulldogs—Omega Psi Phi
AFRO (Mixed Team)
M.S. All Stars
Sabers
Matador's Rebels
Cedar Hill Ladies Team
Rosewood (Mixed Team)
The Generals (Mixed & Male Teams)
WWIN
Dr. J's (Mixed, Ladies & Male)
The Hawks
The Aces (Ladies)
McDonald Raiders
Salts
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Redwood Smokers
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