Best Bets

Ellicott City B&O

August is "Railroadiana Month" at the Ellicott City B&O Railroad Station Museum. Railroad artifacts and memorabilia of various railroads will be on display. This Museum is sponsored by the Historic Ellicott City, Inc. and is located on Main and Maryland Ave. in Ellicott City, Md. For information call 461-1944.

On The Cover...

THE FOUR TOPS

The best of Motown comes to Baltimore when the popular Four Tops / Temptations tour, which has sold out venues across the country, stops at the Pier Six Concert Pavilion on Wednesday, August 29 at 8 p.m.

Reunited at the recent Emmy Award - winning Motown 25th Anniversary television special, the Four Tops are enjoying the success of their new album "Back Where I Belong." The album, which also marks the reunion of the Four Top's famous songwriting team Holland, Dozier and Holland, features such hits as "I Just Can't Walk Away," and "What Have We Got to Lose," featuring Aretha Franklin.

In years past, this renown Detroit act, which first joined Motown Records in 1963, produced some of the label's greatest hits including "I Can't Help Myself (Sugar Pie, Honey Bunch)" and "Reach Out, I'll Be There."

The Temptations were rediscovered in 1982 when they barnstormed across the country with a sell-out concert tour and a chart-topping hit "Standin On The Top." The Tempts continued to enjoy their return to the top with the 1983 "Surface Thrills" album.

Since their beginning in the early 1960s, the Temptations have received three Grammy Awards and 14 #1 records. Hits such as "My Girl," "Papa Was a Rolling Stone," and "Just My Imagination" are just a few of the songs on which the Temptations have built their legend.

Tickets for the Four Tops/Temptations are $12.50 for pavilion seating and $7.00 for cabaret and lawn seating.

Lawn and cabaret tickets can be purchased at the Pier Six Box Office on the day of the performance only.

For additional information call the Pier Six Box Office at 727-5580.

Little Peoples Program

The SAK Theatre of EPCOT Center will perform on Tuesday, August 28 at the Harry Kaufman Pavilion in the Inner Harbor at noon. For more information call 837-4636.

Convention Center Concert Series

On Tuesday, August 28, the Ashton Fletcher Jazz Sextet will perform outdoor from noon to 1:30 p.m. For more information call 752-1951.

On Stage Downtown

The Baltimore Ballet and their dance, "They Came to Maryland" will be performed on Thursday, August 30 at 8 p.m. in Hopkins Plaza. For information call 837-4636.

Songs And Stories Downtown

Marc Spiegel and Michele Valeri will end the Little Peoples Program on Thursday, August 30 with entertainment for children at the Inner Harbor's Kaufman Pavilion at 12 noon. For more information call 837-4636.

King Of France Tavern

The Charlie Byrd Trio will be appearing at the Maryland Inn until August 29 and will return again from September 5 thru September 9. For more information on other performances call 263-2641 in Baltimore and 261-2206 in Washington, D.C.

Film

BALTIMORE FILM FORUM — Pratt Cinematheque, Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m. in Wheeler Auditorium, Pratt Central Library, 400 Cathedral St. Free. Presently Hitchcock series.

BALTIMORE SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY — Wednesday night Movie Conspiracy. Wednesdays 8 p.m. at BSFS headquarters, 2233 St. Paul Street. Free. For details call 889-3290.

ENOCH PRATT FREE LIBRARY — All films are free, but titles cannot always be announced. Call 396-5494 or check area branches for details.

BIOGRAPHY — "Singing and Dancing on Film" a revival series extending through October. Friday-Monday: "Coal Miner's Daughter" and "Tender Mercies".

Art

BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF ART, Art Museum Drive, 396-6310. "Art to Wear: New Handmade Clothing", works by 25 contemporary American fiber artists. Exhibition of 90 Old Master Drawings celebrating draftsmanship from 1500 to 1800, organized by the Museum of Art, Rhode Island School of Design. Thru September 23 .

MARYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY, 201 W. Monument St., 685-3750. Farewell to Militaria Profession: The First Maryland Regiment in Paris, thru August 31. "Maryland: Its Beginnings," an exhibit honoring the state's 350th Anniversary thru September 8.

MARYLAND SCIENCE CENTER, 601 Light St. 685-2370. "Spectacular Vennacube", exhibit of traditional architecture. Through August 26.

PEALE MUSEUM, 225 N. Holliday St. 396-3523, "Aviation: Baltimore, Aloft". An exhibit focusing on Baltimore's connections to man's desire to fly. Thru September 16.

BETHUNE MUSEUM-ARCHIVES — 1318 Vermont Ave., N.W., 202-332-1233. "Lois M. Jones: Master Watercolors" and "Pioneers of Black Beauty Culture" to September 15.

NATIONAL GALLERY EAST, Fourth St. and Constitution Ave. "The Totalists: Delacroix to Matisse", to October 28. "The Folding Image: Screens by Western Artists of the 19th and 20th Centuries", to September 3.

GALLEIRE D'ART, 1531 Wisconsin Ave., N.W. 202-338-1702, Lithographs and etchings by 20th century artists.

GALLERY 409, 409 N. Charles St., 396-1300. Sidewalk sculpture and oils, watercolors, colleges and mixed media workers through August 29.

MARYLAND ART PLACE, 105 Market Place. 962-8565. "Inside Reality", works by seven artists from Maryland and the District of Columbia thru August 24.

Young Vics Perform

The Young Victorian Theatre Company returns to the Pier Six Concert Pavilion on Saturday, August 25 at 8 p.m. with a performance of one of Gilbert and Sullivan's best-loved operettas, "The Mikado."

This famous Savoy opera was first performed in London in 1885. Theatre lore maintains that the story of Nanki-Poo, who flees his father's court to avoid a marriage to the elderly Katisha, is performed somewhere in the world every day.

The operetta stars Young Vic veteran Patrick Toomey as Naki-Poo; soprano Phyllis Burg plays Naki-Poo's love Yum-Yum; Neil Smith reprises his role as Ko Ko, the celebrated maker of lists; Mark Rose is the Mikado and Shirley Thompson stars as Katisha.

The Young Victorian Theatre Company is Baltimore's resident Gilbert and Sullivan company. Now in its 14th season, the Young Victorian Theatre Company consists of more than 100 singers, actors, dancers and technicians. The Company performs a regular schedule of Gilbert and Sullivan classics at the Gilman School throughout the summer.

Tickets for "The Mikado" are $8.50 for pavilion seating and $5.50 for cabaret and lawn seating.

For additional information call the Pier Six Box Office at 727-5580.

Upcoming Pier Six Performances:

Fri., August 31, Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers, Stanley Turrentine and his Quarter

Sat., September 1, Joe Williams, Rosemary Clooney accompanied by Mercer Ellington and the Duke Ellington Orchestra

Sun., September 2, Ray Charles, Winner of the Baltimore Second Annual Jazz Quest.

Herbie Hancock and The Rocket Band along with Steel Pulse are appearing at Merriweather Post Pavilion on Wednesday, August 29 at 7:30 P.M. For more information call 982-1800 in Washington and 730-2424 in Baltimore.

Summertime In The Park In Washington, D.C.

CARTER BARRON AMPITHEATRE

August 25 — Dizzy Gillespie and Eddie Hayler Trio
August 26 — The Manhattans and Rae Harris
The Carter Barron is located at 4520 Colorado Ave., N.W. All shows are at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are $3.50. For more information call 202-829-3200.

FORT DUPONT SUMMER THEATRE

August 24 & 25 — Tom Browne and Coz
Fort Dupont is located at Minnesota Ave. and Randle Circle, S.E. For further information, call 202-426-7723. The concerts start at 8:30 p.m. and admission is FREE.

Friday Plus

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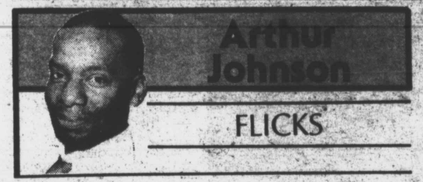

"Dreamscape"

It must have sounded great on paper: a film about psychically gifted people who can be trained to enter the nightmares of troubled dreamers. Once there, these "dream travelers" can participate in the dreams and create happy endings which will resolve the waking life conflicts the dreams represent.

Such a film would combine the offbeat Stephen King-like premise, plenty of opportunities for state-of-the-art visual effects as well as horror, gore, suspense, violence and sex, all big box office attractions these days.

Unfortunately, "Dreamscape" is not even one-tenth the film it could have been. Dennis-("I can't act") Quaid stars as a young man with telepathic powers who is recruited by scientists to enter the dreams of the President of the U.S. (Eddie Albert). It seems the President has been having nightmares which he has interpreted as an omen that he should negotiate a disarmament agreement with the Russians. Unless the president's dreams can be altered, top government officials fear he will lead the U.S. to disaster.

Quaid agrees to participate in the experiments and helps a little boy overcome recurrent nightmares about a horrible snake monster for starters. But not all the dream travelers are as benevolent as Quaid. Like most scientific breakthroughs meant to benefit mankind, when placed in the wrong hands for the wrong purposes, they can prove disastrous to mankind. Eventually Quaid finds himself battling for the president's life and the country's future in the presidents dream.

Naturally in a movie of this nature the visual rendering of the dreams should be the film's highlight. Too bad the dreams here are realized in such a pedestrian manner. For example, if you were in another person's dream, would you see yourself or would the dream be seen through your eyes, as if you were a movie camera? If the dream were seen through the dreamer's eyes, he wouldn't see himself either. "Dreamscape" fails to tackle this problem of perspective and is not only stylistically sloppy, but also stupid because of it.

"Dreamscape" also expects us to accept the idea that when so-called psychological conflicts of our dreams are remedied (such as the killing of the dreaded monster or saving the baby from falling off the cliff), the conflicts in our waking lives are also eliminated. If you can accept that bit of psychological theory, perhaps "Dreamscape" will work for you despite classically bad performances by Quaid and Kate ("Temple of Doom") Capshaw, whose portrayal of a female scientist is so unbelievable that she can't even say "hello" convincingly. Christopher Plummer as a minister J. Edgar Hoover figure and Max von Sydow as a benevolent dream therapy pioneer add some class and real acting to "Dreamscape", but they are not enough to save this nightmare of a movie.

'The Philadelphia Experiment'

It's World War II and American scientists are trying to develop a way to make American warships invisible to German radar. A wonderful invention? It sure is, until the process works so well that an American ship is made invisible to the human eye as well and injures and kills several sailors.

According to the new film "The Philadelphia Experiment" starring Michael Pare (of "Streets of Fire") and Nancy Allen (of "Dressed to Kill"), such an incident actually did occur in 1943. Pare plays one of several sailors involved in the experiment who, with his buddy (Bobby DiCicco) falls into an atmospheric hole during the experiment, landing in crazy 1984 which is full of punked-out people and juiced up cars.

If it is not bad enough that the two sailors have been transported forward in time; the two have also been radioactively contaminated causing them to react to lightning generated by the hole which is gradually sucking in the universe.

Fortunately, the two men happen upon Nancy Allen (well, actually they kidnap her) who is weird enough to believe their bizarre tale of time travel and helps them escape the customary evil government scientists and agents who are pursuing them.

"The Philadelphia Experiment" has an interesting premise (supposedly based on fact), but unfortunately it never takes hold as either science fiction, suspense drama or love story. None of these elements is sufficiently or believably exploited.

As usual, the villains can't shoot straight, the heroine is a bit spaced out (would you believe some guy who takes your car and you at gunpoint, claiming to have been transported from 1943 to the present?) and, the many possibilities for Pare's Rip Van Winkle type confrontations with 1984 America are barely exploited.

Pare, however, almost salvages the film with his charisma and a pair of the most heavily lidded eyes since Robert Mitchum first stepped in front of a movie camera. This young actor manages to inject some badly needed humanity into the film's stock characters and situations, particularly when he learns of his father's life and death after his 41 year disappearance.

Miss Allen continues her string of dumb redhead roles which she perfected in her ex-husband Director Brian DePalma's films "Blowout" and "Dressed To Kill". She does the role well, as usual, but helpless, whining women seem a bit anachronistic in 1984.

The special effects are rather subdued but are effective, even if they do appear to be more suited for television where this film will undoubtedly soon appear.

Alex Gardner (DENNIS QUAID) enters the nightmare of a construction worker who dreams he is falling from a great height.

Morris Mechanic Announces 84-85 Season

The line-up for the Morris A. Mechanic Theatre's 1984-85 Subscription Series of eight attractions is now complete. Two new productions for Broadway have been added to the season: a new stage adaptation of Lerner & Loewe's movie musical classic, **"Gigi,"** starring Louis Jourdan in the Maurice Chevalier role, and the pre-Broadway premiere of P. J. Barry's new play, **"The Octette Bridge Club,"** which was presented last Spring to great acclaim at the annual New Play Festival in Louisville. Neil Simon's newest comedy, **"Brighton Beach Memoirs,"** is set to launch the new season, scheduled to open Tuesday, September 25.

Although **"Gigi"** has delighted audiences as a non-musical play, it is the Oscar winning film that is most familiar today. A romantic musical love story, **"Gigi"** began as a novel by the French actor, Colette; Lerner and Loewe's score for **"Gigi"** introduced "Thank Heaven for Little Girls," "The Night They Invented Champagne," and "I Remember It Well," songs that are now recognized as popular American standards. Louis Jourdan starred in the MGM movie of the musical, playing the restless playboy, Gaston. For this stage version he will portray Honore, the role originated by Maurice Chevalier. Betsy Palmer, Talna Elg, and Lisa Howard will co-star. **"Gigi"** will launch an extensive national tour with the possibility of playing Broadway next Spring.

"The Octette Bridge Club" was given its first reading at Baltimore's Center Stage and was presented last May at the annual Festival of New American Plays in Louisville where it was considered the strongest contender for future Broadway production. The Baltimore producing team of Kenneth Waissman and Lou Kramer (producers of "Agnes of God," also a Louisville success) will present **"Octette"** on Broadway after its premiere at the Mechanic in March. P. J. Barry's comedy - drama concerns the eight middle - aged Donavan sisters who meet every other Friday night from 1931 to 1944 to play bridge. They giggle and bicker, argue with one another and even go back to playing childhood games. An all-star cast is being sought for the eight-women acting ensemble.

The season's other productions include Neil Simon's **"Brighton Beach Memories;"** Anthony Quinn in the role he first made famous on film in the musical **"Zorba;"** Tom Stoppard's triumphant new play and this year's Tony Award winner, **"The Real Thing;"** Harvey Fierstein's 1983 Tony Award winning **"Best Play,"** **"Torch Song Trilogy;"** Rita Moreno and Sally Struthers in the pre-Broadway tryout of Neil Simon's new distaff version of **"The Odd Couple;"** and the pre-Broadway premiere of Jason Robards in a new Jule Styne musical based on **"Treasure Island."** In addition, a return engagement of the smash hit burlesque musical, **"Super Babies,"** this time starring Mickey Rooney and Ann Miller in their original Broadway starring roles, will be presented off-subscription. **"My One and Only,"** which was announced early last Spring for presentation on subscription, has cancelled its plan to tour.

For additional information and a copy of the season brochure call (301) 727-2924.

Studio Theatre Announces New Season

The selection of plays for The Studio Theatre's 1984-85 season has been announced by Joy Zinoman, Artistic Director. The five plays to be produced include contemporary drama, a stylish, seldom - performed classic and an up - to - the - minute musical, three of the plays will be premieres for the Washington area.

The season will open with an electrifying mystery, **My Sister In This House,** August 29 through September 30. Joy Zinoman will direct a powerful cast . . . four of Washington's most outstanding actresses. Mikel Lambert, a noted actress with the Folger Theatre Company, has performed with London's Royal Shakespeare Company and appeared in the title role of The Studio's 1980 production of **Medea.** Sarah Marshall, of the Round House Theatre Company, gave a tour-de-force performance in **Miss Margerida's Way** at The Studio last season and starred as Jo in **A Taste of Honey** the year before. Erica Bogren played a remarkable Frankie in **The Member of the**

Continued on page 5