Best Bets

Marcel Marceau At Mechanic Theatre

Marcel Marceau, universally acclaimed as the world's greatest living pantomimist, will perform on Monday, March 11 at 8 p.m. at the Morris Mechanic. For more information call 625-1400.

Film at Enoch Pratt

"King: Montgomery to Memphis" will be the feature attraction at the Enoch Pratt Library, 400 Cathedral St. on Saturday, February 23 at 2 p.m. Admission is free to the public. For more information call 396-5494.

Dance Theatre Of Harlem

The Dance Theatre of Harlem will perform at the John F. Kennedy Center For The Performing Arts' Opera House until Sunday, March 3. For information on times and prices call 202-393-3600.

Leontyne Price Coming For Benefit

The Baltimore Opera Company is presenting a benefit recital by Leontyne Price and the Morgan State University Choir on April 23 at the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall. This concert is the major fundraiser for the Opera Company. For information on tickets call 727-0592.

Play Disc Jockey at Capital Children's Museum

Learn about a radio station and make your own special tape at the Capital Children's Museum on Saturday, March 2 and Sunday, March 3. The museum is located at 800 Third St., N.E. For information on times call 202-543-8600.

CCC Holds Auditions

The third annual Young Soloists' Auditions will be held on March 30 and 31, 1985 at Catonsville Community College. Student aged 11-15 studying piano, strings, woodwinds, and brass, and voice students aged 14-17 are eligible. Cash awards will be given to the top three finalists. For more details call 455-4109.

Virginia Union Concert

The Miles W. Conner Chapter of the Virginia Union University Alumni Association is presenting, "An Evening of Concert Music with the VA. Union Choir" on Sunday, March 10 at 5 p.m. in the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall. For more information call 466-1969.

Annapolis Festival seeks performers

Performers, craftsmen and artists are invited to participate in the 23rd annual Annapolis Arts Festival to be held June 14, 15, and 16. Applications forms may be obtained calling 267-7922. Deadline is March 3.

Citizens Celebrating Baltimore

Citizens Celebrating Baltimore under the direction of Hugh Carey, will kick off its third year of performances on March 1 at the Community College of Baltimore, Liberty Campus at 8:30 p.m. Other performances will be held on March 2 at 7:30 p.m. and March 3 at 6 p.m. Tickets are $5. For more information call 396-1546 or 396-1553.

Abdu-Raschid Yahya in Concert

The Urban Services Cultural Arts Program is presenting pianist Abdu-Raschid Yahya on Sunday, February 24 at 3 p.m. at the Eubie Blake Cultural Center, 409 N. Charles St. For more information call 396-1300.

Friday Plus

The weekly entertainment leisure guide for the greater Baltimore and Washington areas. Published by the AFRO AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS group.

John H. Murphy, III, President
Kenneth O. Wilson, V.P., Advertising
Robert Matthews, Managing Editor
Bonnie Matthews Butler, Editor
Contributing Writers
Frederick I. Douglass
R. B. Jones
Carl Matthews
C. T. Goodman
Miss Denise Dorsey - Production Coordinator - Baltimore
Ms. Harriett Diles, Adv. Manager The Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS 628 N. Eutaw Street Baltimore, Maryland 21203 (301) 728-6000
Guy T. Watson, Advertising Manager The Washington AFRO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS 2002 11th Street, NW Washington, DC 20001 (202) 332-0080

Lines and Colors, a dance of the soul of Langston Hughes, a play by one poet of the soul of Langston Hughes, will be presented February 23 Saturday 8, Adelphi Theatre, Baltimore at 7 p.m. on WMAR. This play won the Third Annual Drama Critics' Circle Award. Pictured are Black Visions performed by members of the Arena Players.

"The 27th Annual Grammy Awards" air Tuesday, February 26 on CBS

Cyndi Lauper, Prince And The Revolution, and Tina Turner received five nominations each and whether they win or not will be announced at the "27th Annual Grammy Awards" which airs Tuesday, February 26 at 8 p.m. on CBS.

All three were nominated in the coveted Album of the Year category. Trumpeter Wynton Marsalis, who received a total of four nominations, repeated his feat of last year by receiving nominations in both jazz and classical categories.

This year, more than 97 different record labels were represented among the 341 nominations in 67 categories that covered the entire spectrum of recorded music and technical achievement.

Nominations were made through the secret balloting of the members of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, all of whom are actively involved in the recording field.

The nominees in selected categories are as follows:

RECORD OF THE YEAR:

DANCING IN THE DARK — Bruce Springsteen — Bruce Springsteen, Jon Landau, Chuck Plotkin, Steve Van Zandt, Producers
GIRLS JUST WANT TO HAVE FUN — Cyndi Lauper — Rick Chertoff, Producer
HARD HABIT TO BREAK —, Chicago — David Foster, Producer
THE HEART OF ROCK & ROLL — Huey Lewis and the News — Huey Lewis and the News, Producers
WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT — Tina Turner — Terry Britten, Producer

ALBUM OF THE YEAR:

BORN IN THE USA — Bruce Springsteen — Bruce Springsteen, Jon Landau, Chuck Plotkin, Steve Van Zandt, Album Producers
CAN'T SLOW DOWN — Lionel Richie — Lionel Richie, James Anthony Carmichael, Album Producers
PRIVATE DANCER — Tina Turner — Rupert Hine, Terry Britten, Martyn Ware, Greg Walsh & Carter, Track Producers
PURPLE RAIN — MUSIC FROM THE MOTION PICTURE — Prince and the Revolution, Album Producers
SHE'S SO UNUSUAL — Cyndi Lauper — Rick Chertoff, Album Producer

SONG OF THE YEAR:

AGAINST ALL ODDS (TAKE A LOOK AT ME NOW) — Phil Collins, Songwriter
HELLO — Lionel Richie, Songwriter
I JUST CALLED TO SAY I LOVE YOU — Stevie Wonder, Songwriter
TIME AFTER TIME — Cyndi Lauper & Rob Hyman, Songwriters
WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT—Graham Lyle, Terry Britten, Songwriters

BEST NEW ARTIST:

Sheila E.
Frankie Goes To Hollywood
Corey Hart
The Judds
Cyndi Lauper

BEST POP VOCAL PERFORMANCE, FEMALE:

GIRLS JUST WANT TO HAVE FUN — Cyndi Lauper
THE GLAMOROUS LIFE—Sheila E.
LET'S HEAR IT FOR THE BOY — Deniece Williams
STRUT — Sheena Easton
WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT — Tina Turner

BEST POP VOCAL PERFORMANCE, MALE:

AGAINST ALL ODDS (TAKE A LOOK AT ME NOW) — Phil Collins
FOOTLOOSE — Kenny Logins
HELLO — Lionel Richie
I JUST CALLED TO SAY I LOVE YOU — Stevie Wonder
MISSING YOU — John Waite

BEST POP PERFORMANCE BY A DUO OR GROUP WITH VOCAL:

DRIVE — The Cars
HARD HABIT TO BREAK — Chicago
JUMP (FOR MY LOVE) — Pointer Sisters
OWNER OF A LONELY HEART — Yes
WAKE ME UP BEFORE YOU GO-GO — Wham!

Additionally, nominations were made in a number of categories for rock, jazz, classical, gospel, soundtracks, Latin, blues and traditional folk, as well as for children's recordings, spoken word recordings, and music videos. Composers' awards will be presented in several fields, as well as awards for various crafts, including a Grammy for Producer of the Year.

Bonnie Matthews Butler

Meanderings and Meditation

Teachings of the wise espoused the theory that there is strength in unity. One on one boxing and wrestling matches are, of course, the exceptions. But think about any one man wars that have been victorious — or better yet, even fought.

Now here's the point.

It was exciting when word reached me that a local group of promoters, headed by Nick Mosby, had agreed to pool their collective talents and resources. Hey, I thought, Baltimore is going to finally become a part of the big time entertainment scene.

I even offered my editorial and marketing skills to this group, for I really believed they had something good going and I wanted to help.

The group put on a big bash a few weeks back with cocktails and other goodies to celebrate this momentous undertaking. There was lots of backslapping, hand shaking, toast making and the lip service flowed like wine.

At last, the crabs were coming out of the barrel ... or so I thought.

Let me tell you that the revelers hadn't finished burping before unity became disunity.

I'll be brief because one fruit I hate is "sour grapes."

Any promoter worth his salt will tell you that among the needed ingredients to insure success are the right stars, the right location, good weather and PUBLICITY!!

The latter is the dissemination of information to potential customers concerning when, where, who and what.

Two concerts were brought to my attention and I was determined to do my part for the sake of unity. I found out about the stars and location ... The Whispers and Roy Ayers, et al at the Meyerhoff. Even the weather bureau cooperated. But it beats me how I'm expected to report on a show I don't see or am invited to.

With this in mind, I reached out for tickets for a photographer and a reporter from Nick Mosby and PAC Agency Productions (the promoters). Let the record show that I now know the meaning of "invisible reporters."

Sorry I can't inform you on whether you missed two good shows, if you should see these acts the next time around, or even if the shows were held or the artists appeared.

I do know that some of the most highly acclaimed artists in the world have been and will continue to be spotlighted and reviewed in this magazine. Hopefully, the unity performers will get back on track and use the proven recipe with the ingredients that have stood the test of time.

Anyone have any tickets for the return of Muhammad Ali to the ring? I would love to write about it.

Get the point?

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THE COMMODORES "Nightshift" (Motown)

One of my favorite pieces of music trivia is the story about how The Commodores got their name.

Each individual member of the group brought in their own suggestion for a name. After five minutes of considering names like "The Warriors" and "The Soulful Seven," they decided to get a dictionary, and one member would stick a finger into the book in a random spot. Whatever word the finger pointed to would be the name. The word that came up was "commodore." They almost became "The Commodes" (at least that's what they've said in interviews; I think they were just joking).

"Nightshift" is their fourteenth album. They've had 22 gold records.

Let's review the current personnel to bring us up to date: Walter "Clyde" Orange, lead vocals and drummer; Milan Williams, keyboards; Ronald LaPread, bass; William King, trumpet; new member J. D. Nicholas (formerly of Heatwave), lead vocals.

Now, the new "Nightshift" album could be their biggest record in quite a few years. Notice the Marvin Gaye influence in the title cut. J. D. and Clyde join together for the vocals on this tune written by Walter Orange, Dennis Lambert and Franne Gold.

J. D. also sings lead vocals on "Lay Back," a mellower number that falls somewhere between Jermaine Jackson's "Do What You Do" and The Commodores' old hit "Easy."

And check out "Lightin' Up The Night," with Walter on lead vocals. Catchy opening bass riff and synthesizer action... played with all the carefree joy of an old Cat Stevens number... produced with all the professionalism of a Quincy Jones/Brothers Johnson track.

The Commodores are already in the top ten on the national R&B charts, and heading towards the top 40 on the pop charts with their "Nightshift" single. The pride of Tuskegee is back.

Carl Matthews

SOUNDS

The Commodores

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