Best Bets

"Congo Revolt" at Morgan

The Student Government Association of Morgan State University will be featuring the African - American Performing Arts Collective's premiere of "The Congo Revolt" on Saturday, May 4 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, May 5 at 3 p.m. in the Little Theatre, Murphy Fine Arts Building on the compus. For ticket information or to reserve vendor space call 837-5923.

"Nuts" Opens At Source Theatre

The Source Theatre Company is presenting "Nuts" by Tom Topor at the Main Stage, 1809 14th St., N.W. opening May 3 and running through May 25. For more information call 202-462-1073.

Historic Baltimore Day

The Baltimore Council of Historic Sites is sponsoring Historic Baltimore Day on Sunday, May 5 from noon -5 p.m. Over 10 historic sites and musuems will be on display. For more details call 396-3523.

"Cabaret" at U of M

University Theatre of The University of Maryland College Park will present the musical play "Cabaret" until May 4 at 8 p.m. For more information call 454-2201.

"Oldies But Goodies"

The Douglass Alumni Association is sponsoring their "Second Oldies But Goodies Dance" on Sunday, May 19 at 7 p.m. at Martin's Champagne Room. Donations are $2.00 and will benefit the Douglass High School Scholarship Fund.

Spring Concert

The Baltimore Chamber Orchestra will present its final concert of the season on Friday, May 3 at 7:30 p.m. at the Gilman School. Tickets are $6 general admission and $3 for students and senior citizens. For further information call 366-8973.

CCB Fashion Show

Original fashion designs in swim wear, men's wear, children's wear, and tailored suits and coats will be featured at the Community College of Baltimore's Annual Spring Fashion Show on Sunday, May 5 from 3-5 p.m. at the Harbor Campus. For more information call 396-1878.

Rowhouse Bus Tour

The Peale Museum has scheduled another tour of Baltimore's rowhouses on Saturday, May 4. The tour starts promptly at 10 a.m. at the Carroll Mansion, 800 E. Lombard St. and lasts approximately four hours. For more details call 396-3523.

Fashion Show

The Metropolitan United Methodist Church is sponsoring a fashion show to benefit their Summer Enrichment Program on Saturday, May 11 at the Holiday Inn—Belmont. The show is from 12 - 4 p.m. For more information call 323-7834 or 646-0197.

Exhibition Opportunities

School #33 Art Center is now accepting applications for exhibition for the 1985-86 gallery season. Applications must be received at the school by June 15, 1985. For further information call 396-4641.

"Morning's At Seven" at Vagabond Players

"Morning's At Seven" by Paul Osborn will be presented at the Vagabond Theatre, 806 S. Broadway in Fells Point thru May 12. Performances will be Thursday thru Saturday at 8:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2 and 7 p.m. For further information call 563-9135.

K. F. C. Gospel Preliminaries

The Third Annual Kentucky Fried Chicken Gospel Music Competition preliminaries are underway. The preliminaries will be held at Jones Tabernacle in Baltimore on May 8, St. Theresa of Avila Catholic Church, in Washington, D.C. on May 15 and Upper Room Baptist Church, in D.C. on May 22. All performances begin at 7:30 p.m. and admission is free. For more information call 202-842-4170.

Upcoming Events at Charlie's Georgtown

Top entertainment has been booked at Charlie's Georgetown in Washington, D.C. Nancy Wilson opens May 14-18; The Dirty Dozen Brass Band performs for one show, Monday, May 20; Billy Eckstine comes from May 28-June 2; and Lionel Hampton performs June 4-9. For further information on times and prices call 202-337-7100.

Morgan University Concert

On Sunday, May 5, the Morgan State University Choir is holding its final concert along with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra at the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall. It starts at 8 p.m. and promises to be "hot." For more details call 444-3266.

Friday Plus

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

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"Sugar Babies," opens at the Lyric Opera House May 14

Mickey Rooney and Ann Miller will recreate their original starring roles in the smash hit burlesque musical, "Sugar Babies," for a limited two-week engagement at Baltimore's Lyric Opera House beginning Tuesday, May 14 with performances through Sunday, May 26.

Described as the "ultimate burlesque musical," "Sugar Babies" is a three million dollar musical extravaganza replete with fourteen showgirls (the "Sugar Babies"), a male ensemble, a gallery of comics, fan dancers, a tribute to Little Egypt, specialty acts, a candy butcher, a strip tease, an opera interlude, a minstrel number, blackouts and sketches, a soubrette covered in live doves, a rousing patriotic finale and dozens of other treats, including two of the greatest stars ever seen on the musical stage, the legendary Mickey Rooney and Ann Miller.

On October 8, 1979, "Sugar Babies" opened on Broadway to fantastic critical and popular acclaim, becoming an instant sell-out and the season's first smash hit. The show received eight 1980 Tony Award nominations and Mickey Rooney was honored with the coveted Theatre World Award. Now in its sixth year, "Sugar babies," and original stars Mickey Rooney and Ann Miller, have chalked up over 2,000 performances on Broadway and across the country.

"Sugar Babies" opens Tuesday, May 14 at 7:30 p.m. Performances thereafter are Tuesday through Saturday evenings at 8:00 p.m., with matinees Wednesday and Saturday at 2:00 p.m. and Sundays at 3:00 p.m.

Tickets for "Sugar Babies" are available in advance at the Mechanic Theatre Box Office (Hopkins Plaza), or may be charged by phone to a major credit card by calling TeleCharge at 625-1400. (Toll free TeleCharge is available for out-of-state theatregoers by calling 1-800-638-2444). Groups of twenty or more should call (301) 752-1407. Tickets are also available by mail order to the Mechanic Theatre Box Office.

For additional information please call (301) 625-1400.

"Great Performances" salutes the American Musical Theatre

"Great Performances" presents a month-long salute to the American musical theatre Fridays at 9:00 p.m. on Maryland Public Television (MPT) — TV 22, 28, 31, 36, 62 & 67.

The salute begins Friday, May 3 with Angela Lansbury recreating her Tony Award-winning performance as Mrs. Lovett in Stephen Sondheim's "Sweeney Todd." Joining the star of the hit television series "Murder She Wrote" is George Hearn, currently appearing on Broadway in "La Cage aux Folles." Hearn plays the demonic Mr. Todd, the legendary barber of Victorian London who kills his customers and has them ground into meat pies.

The next "Great Performances" presentation to honor the American musical is "Taking My Turn," airing Friday, May 10 at 9:00 p.m. This off-Broadway hit, which explores aging and the young-at-heart, stars Margaret Whiting, Marni Nixon, **Cissy Houston** and Tiger Haynes.

"West Side Story" has proven to be one of the signature works of its composer Leonard Bernstein. "Great Performances" continues its tribute to the American musical with "Bernstein Conducts 'West Side Story'." It features a behind-the-scenes look at the recent Deutsche Grammophon recording session of "West Side Story" with Bernstein conducting his score for the first time on disc.

For his recording Bernstein assembled what he considered a "dream" cast of singers including, Kiri Te Kanawa as Maria, Jose Carreras as Tony, Tatiana Troyanos as Anita, and Kurt Ollmann as Riff.

The enduring musical includes American and international standards such as "Tonight," "Maria," "Somewhere," and "I Feel Pretty."

The month-long showcase concludes with some of the best and brightest moments from 22 Broadway musicals in "Best of Broadway" airing Friday, May 24 at 9:00 p.m.

Hosted by Tom Bosley, the presentation boasts the likes of Mary Martin, **Diahann Carroll, Nell Carter,** Debbie Reynolds, Anthony Perkins, Ray Walston, and the unforgettable Ethel Merman, among others. Says Jac Venza, executive producer, "This assemblage is the virtual royalty of musical Broadway."

FROM THE EDITOR...

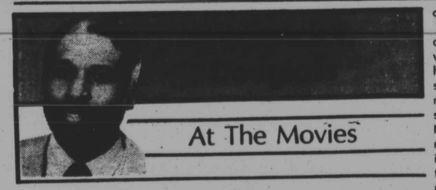
On the cover this week is Joe Williams, that smooth blues singer.

He is appearing at the Smithsonian Resident Associate Program in Washington, D.C. on Sunday, May 5 and Ethel's Place May 8 through May 12.

Williams began singing with various swing bands at the age of 16. In 1954, he joined the Count Basie band and recorded his debut album, "Swingin' With the Count" in 1955.

Through the years, Williams' singing has earned him numerous awards and many successful engagements.

In 1983 his "star" was placed on the legendary "Hollywood Walk of Fame."



At The Movies

Madonna's Acting Debut In "Desperately Seeking Susan"

Madonna, the caucasian singer whose crossover hit "Like A Virgin" has impressed listeners of many colors, recently made her acting debut in "Desperately Seeking Susan," an interesting flick about amnesia, New York's punk sub-culture, and a woman's desperate effort to find fulfillment in life.

The two main characters of this tale are Roberta Glass, an uptight, severely repressed lady from a suburban dream world; and Susan, a tough, brash, exploitive young lady whose gypsy lifestyle takes her on many meandering paths that lead to diverse encounters with mobsters, punks, and various oddball characters.

Roberta Glass is suffering from an advanced case of ennui. Bored with her suburban lifestyle and her shell of a marriage, she seeks fulfillment in watching old movies and reading the "Personals" section of newspapers. Noticing a recurring advertisement headed "Desperately Seeking Susan," Roberta becomes totally engrossed with the romance of two lovers who stay in touch with each other by newspaper. She records the boring details of her lacklustre marriage and her fantasies about what Susan's life must be like in a diary. Ultimately, she decides that she will find out who Susan really is after reading about upcoming rendezvous between Susan and her lover.

Traveling to the Big Apple, Roberta finally gets a glimpse of Susan and decides to follow her to find out more about her. Susan's boyfriend has to leave town with his band, so she is off alone in New York and headed for trouble as usual. And so is Roberta Glass because her life is about to be madly entangled with Susan's madcap, haphazard approach to living. Roberta's troubles begin when she buys a jacket that she sees Susan trading for a pair of boots in a store that caters to a punk clientele.

Returning home, Roberta finds that the jacket contains a key and she places an advertisement in the "Personals" in an effort to return the key to Susan. Susan reads the ad and so does her boyfriend who asks a friend of his to watch out for Susan when the meeting takes place because he feels that she is in danger. He tells his friend that he will be able to identify Susan by watching out for a young lady wearing a jacket with a pyramid sewn on the back.

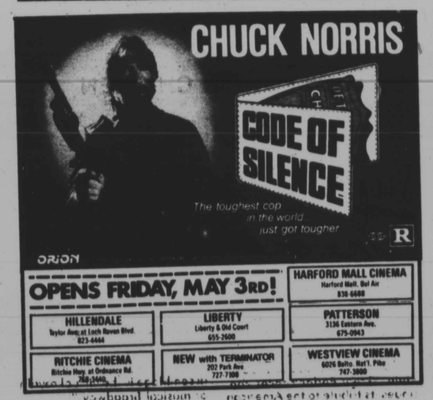
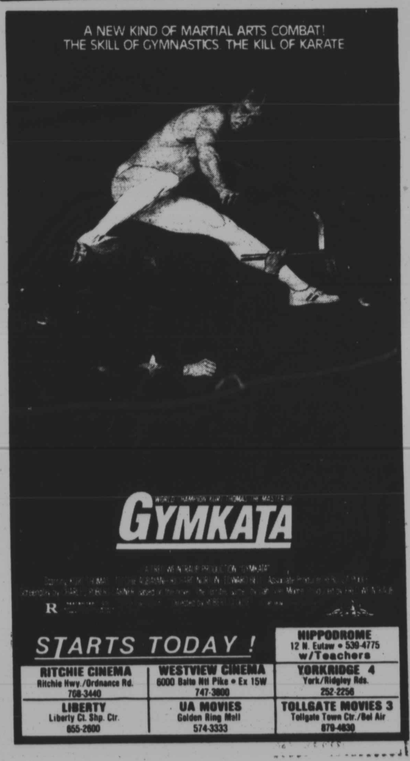
Naturally, Susan fouls up the whole game plan by pulling one of her stunts and trying to beat the cab driver out of his fare. Her deviousness leads to her being arrested before she can meet Roberta and get the key. Adding to the complexity of this situation, Roberta hits her head against a pole while trying to get away from a mobster who thinks that she is Susan. You guessed it. When Roberta gets back on her feet, she has amnesia and begins to think that she is Susan.

Colliding with the bizarre lifestyle and past of Susan, Roberta finds herself in hot water. One of her biggest problems is that Susan stole a pair of valuable ancient Ethiopian earrings from a mobster just before he was killed. Thus his partner, who spotted the pyramid on the back of Susan's jacket in the hallway just before killing the gangster, is desperately seeking Susan to get the earrings back. He thinks that Roberta is Susan. From this point on, the story deals with a series of misadventures resulting from the switch in identities.

I found "Desperately Seeking Susan" to be an interesting story. While I think that the movie could have been faster paced and that the potential for humor could have been exploited to a greater degree, I found the movie to be unique and worth seeing. And, while I do not like Madonna's singing, I found her acting to be acceptable. Or maybe she was just portraying **herself** on the screen.

1985-86 Mechanic Theatre subscription series

The 1985-86 season of the Morris Mechanic which marks the tenth year the theatre has been operated under the auspices of the Baltimore Center for the Performing Arts, will feature the smash hit musicals "Dreamgirls" and "42nd Street;" two hit comedies, Neil Simon's "Biloxi Blues" and "Noises Off;" and four other attractions to be announced at a later date.

"This season a phenomenal 22,200 subscribers joined us for our shows at the Mechanic Theatre and Lyric Opera House. Baltimoreans are responding in record numbers and the New York Producers now come to us with their shows. With a four-week season, we'll be able to offer the public more seats and more performances to choose from."

For additional information telephone the Mechanic Theatre Subscription Office at 625-4200.