Best Bets

At Peabody

The Peabody Preparatory School will present an unusual ballet version of Humperdink's opera "Hansel and Gretel" as part of the annual Spring Dance on Friday, May 10 at 8:15 p.m. and Saturday, May 11 at 3 p.m. Tickets are $4 and $2 for senior citizens and students with I.D. For further information call 659-8124.

Pinochle Tournament

The Shanks Pinochle Club of Maryland is sponsoring a Preakness Pinochle Party and Tournament at Odell's, 21 E. North Ave. on Saturday, May 18 at 7 p.m. The cost is $10 per player and 1st prize is $150. For more information cal 833-4648 or 433-6142.

Nancy Wilson at Charlie's

Internationally acclaimed song stylist Nancy Wilson will be performing at Charlie's Georgetown, 3223 K St., N.W. on May 14-18 at 8:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. For further information call 202-337-7100.

K. F. C. Gospel Preliminaries

The Third Annual Kentucky Fried Chicken Gospel Music Competition preliminaries are underway. The preliminaries will be held at 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.

"Nuts" Opens At Source Theatre

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

Sammy Davis, Jr.

Patti LaBelle

Friday Plus

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'Motown Returns To The Apollo,' Special hosted by Bill Cosby set to air on NBC, May 19

Bill Cosby will be host to such top headliners as Stevie Wonder, Smokey Robinson, Boy George, Joe Cocker, Sammy Davis, Jr., Little Richard, Debbie Allen and The Commodores on NBC-TV's "Motown Returns to the Apollo," Sunday, May 19 at 8 p.m. and all-star presentation of contemporary music, dance and comedy which made the Harlem theatre a legend.

Numbers evoking different musical styles and themes, lavish dance productions, comedy vignettes and brief film clips of authentic Apollo performances will mark the 50th anniversary and official reopening of the landmark theatre.

The taping took place May 4 at the Apollo Theatre in New York City and benefitted the African Ethopian Relief Fund.

The evening will be highlighted by musical and-or dance segements keyed to the Apollo's history that will unite some stars on stage for the first time and reunite others.

"Rhythm of the Night," by DeBarge, opens an introductory number that will feature the stylishly dressed chorus dancing to "Take the 'A Train." "Nightshift," by The Commodores, will lead into the final segment of the show, which culminates in the entire cast singing "I Want to Know What Love Is," dedicated to Ethiopian famine victims and poverty-stricken Americans.

Stevie Wonder, Smokey Robinson, Martha Reeves, Jr. Walker and The Four Tops are featured in a re-creation of Motown's Motor Town Revue. Rare footage will be shown of a 1963 revue at the Apollo with Little Stevie Wonder, Marvin Gaye, Smokey Robinson and the Miracles, Mary Wells, The Supremes, Martha and The Vandellas and The Temptations. The comedy of Willie Tyler and Lester will also be featured.

Cosby will introduce some of the great soul groups that played the Apollo: The Manhattans, The Cadillacs and The Drifters. They are joined on stage by The Temptations and The Four Tops for a rousing ensemble.

A gospel musical sequence is highlighted by Patti La Belle singing "You'll Never Walk Alone" with the New Jersey Mass Choir.

Little Richard, Chuck Jackson and The New Edition are among those who will perform. Clips of Little Richard, James Brown, Jerry Lee Lewis, Buddy Holly and The Crickets, Fats Domino and Tina Turner performing at the Apollo is shown in the rock and roll segment.

Debbie Allen leads off a glamorous segment titled "Tall, Tan, Teasin'," which features five contemporary stars assuming the music and attitude of some of late great ladies of the Apollo.

Choreographed by Allen, it recalls the lavishly costumed chorus line of the original Apollo in the late 30s and early 40s. Vanessa Williams portrays Josephine Baker singing "La Vie En Rose" and "Two Loves Have I"; Debbie Allen evokes Billie Holiday with "God Bless the Child"; Jennifer Holliday sings Bessie Smith's blues number, "Pigfoot and a Bottle of Beer"; Marilyn McCoo performs Ethel Waters's "Am I Blue?" and Thelma Houston sings Dinah Washington's "What a Difference a Day Makes."

Stevie Wonder opens and Sammy Davis, Jr., closes (with "Birth of the Blues") a big band segment featuring Apollo favorites Sarah Vaughan singing "Body and Soul," Billy Eckstine singing "Caravan" and Cab Calloway. Eckstine and Vaughan sing "Everything I Have is Yours."

An actual Amateur Night, a new version of the classic audition presented late every Wednesday night, will be restaged. Young hopefuls are being recruited from the New York area who will be given an opportunity to perform. James Brown, Dionne Warwick, Gladys Knight, Pearl Bailey and Sarah Vaughan all got their starts in that Wednesday night tradition.

Suzanne de Passe is the executive producer of "Motown Returns to the Apollo." Don Mischer is the producer/director. The special is a production of Motown Productions/Inner City Broadcasting Co., in association with Don Mischer Productions.

Jennifer Holliday

FROM THE EDITOR...

On the cover this week are two giants in their respective fields who are appearing in the Baltimore/Washington area.

The Oscar Peterson and The Oscar Peterson Trio with Neils-Henning Orsted Pederson and Martin Drew will grace the stage at Charlie's Georgetown in Washington, D.C. until Sunday, May 12. Performances are 8:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m.

In Baltimore, Clarence Carter of "Slip Away" and "Jennings Alley" fame, along with First Class will be appearing at the Gentlemen's Ten, 2135 Edmondson Ave., on Saturday, May 11 from 10 p.m. until 3 a.m.

DeBarge

Donnie Matthews Butler

Meanderings and Meditation

"Hot time, summer in the City" — that upbeat rock tune of the early 70's aptly describes "hot" times coming to Baltimore and Washington this summer.

To begin with, the 1985 Miller High Life Concerts at Merriweather Post Pavillion promises to have the "hottest and brightest talent appearing on the charts today.

Madonna opens the season on June 1 and the concert is already sold out.

Some of the other popular entertainers scheduled to appear are Phil Collins (June 21), Willie Nelson (June 25), Jeffrey Osborne (June 29), Huey Lewis and the News (July 27 and 28), Liza Minnelli (July 29 and 30), and Barry Manilow (August 22 and 23).

Tickets for the shows can be purchased at Ticketron outlets in Sears and Woodward and Lothrop stores, or by calling Teletron at 800-382-8080.

Also coming back by popular demand is the Channel 13 Harborlights Music Festival opening with Peter Allen on June 29 at 8 p.m.

Under the auspices of the Baltimore Center for the Performing Arts, WJZ-TV and George Wein's Festival Productions, Inc., top talent has been secured and attracted to this summertime festival.

Scheduled to appear are Billy Crystal, Smokey Robinson, Gladys Knight and the Pips, The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, and the Charlie Daniels Band, to name a few.

Live entertainment and innovative concepts are part of the summertime fun coming to the Baltimore Nite Scene.

Rosa Pryor Productions, along with The Jazz Closet, Sun Rise Social Club, Red Fox Lounge and the Point After, are hosting a round robin of excitement.

Each club will play host to the other and all of the employees and patrons go 'round to the different watering holes and party.

Diamond N the Ruff, featuring Nikkie Cooper and Sir Thomas Hurley, play at each spot. This is an excellent way to hear Nikki sing the new tunes she added to her repertoire. And add them she has.

This talented singer has continued to show growth in her style and presentation.

Another interesting tidbit heard today is the opening of a new night spot on 32nd Street called "32nd Street Plaza."

The entrepreneur responsible for the ambitious undertaking is none other than contractor Bob Clay, known for "knowing how to have a good time."

Opening around the middle of June, the "32nd Street Plaza" promises to be the "hot spot" in the Baltimore/Washington area. Coming soon, I'll tell you all about the new venture.

Starting Monday, May 13, Bob and Irvin will be presenting their brand of "good times" at the Ramada Inn on Security Blvd. I understand the arrangement here is amicable.

This is a good way to find out for yourself about the way Bob likes to party and I look forward to nothing but good times this summer.

See you next week.

R. B. Jones

On Stage

"Never Too Late" at Arena Playhouse Shows Its Age

The illustration on the front of the program for the Arena Players production of Sumner Arthur Long's "Never Too Late" is a stork delivering a baby. Unfortunately this production was still born.

The play is at least 20 years old and a play that is not a classic begins to show its age over such a long period of time. Essentially the play's about a middle-aged housewife, who discovers she is pregnant and how her condition creates havoc in her staid Republican Mid—West home.

The husband, Harry Lambert is a successful lumber yard owner and a class A-1 chauvinist. His wife exists off the household meal money and does not even realize that her husband is well to do, with lots of money in the bank. She had never seen the joint checkbook until she became pregnant. He is both stubborn and cheap.

Edith Lambert the long suffering wife is totally under her husband's thumb. Not only does she do all the cooking and cleaning for herself and her husband, but she also does the household chores such as washing and ironing for her 24-year-old daughter and her son-in-law who live in the house also.

The plot involves the chaos

(Continued on page 1)

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