Tonight Show's Tommy Newsom set to perform at Peabody

Tommy Newsom, of television's Tonight Show fame, will come to the Peabody Conservatory as guest conductor of the Peabody Pops Concert Band (Ron Dobra, conductor) and saxophone soloist for a free concert on Saturday, May 25 at 8:15 p.m. in the Miriam A. Friedberg Concert Hall at One East Mount Vernon Place. For information, call the Peabody Box Office at 301 — 659-8124.

The program will include the **Victory Suite** by Richard Rodgers, arranged by Robert Russell Bennett, "Grand Walkaround" from the **Cakewalk Suite** by Hershey Kay, the Suite from the ballet **Pineapple Poll** by Sir Arthur Sullivan, **Ode to Billy Joe** by Bobby Gentry, **Summer of '42** by Michel Legrand, with Tommy Newsom, saxophone solo, the **National Band Association March** by Richard Franko Goldman, and the **Chester Overture** by William Schumann.

The second half of the program will be Big Band selections arranged and conducted by Tommy Newsom.

Tommy Newsom needs no introduction as the assistant conductor (to Doc Severinsen) and lead saxophonist of the Tonight Show band, with which he has been for over twenty years.

Besides being a successful television entertainer, Mr. Newsom has enjoyed a happy career as a composer and arranger, with compositions ranging from jazz top television and radio commercials to a suite for symphony orchestra. He won a Cleo Award in 1969 (for his radio and television commercial on American Airlines), and an Emmy in 1982 for his arrangements for the "Night of a Hundred Stars" show.

Newsom has arranged and composed for Benny Goodman, Doc Severinson, Woody Herman, Charlie Byrd, Buck Clayton, Beverly Sills, Marilyn Horne, and the Bell Telephone Hour.

Newsom started his musical career at Peabody, receiving his Bachelor's degree in 1952. He majored in clarinet, which he studied with Sidney Forrest, and also took music education and composition courses.

Friday Plus

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"Sugar Babies" roars in

By Bob Matthews

An elderly gentleman seated in front of me turned to his wife during the second act of "Sugar babies" at the Lyric Theatre Tuesday night, and remarked:

"This takes me back to the old days at the Gayety Theatre on the Block."

And that sums it up as neatly as you please, for "Sugar Babies" is a burlesque show in the tried and true tradition of that showbiz form. Only thing missing was the stripteasers who came along during the latter days of the art.

All of this is to say that "Sugar Babies" is one of the funniest shows to hit town in many a moon. For those whose memory goes back to pre World War II, all the old jokes are there.

Most of the classic burlesque skits remain intact, such as "Meet Me Around the Corner, in a Half An Hour," with the blacks coming fast and furiously.

At the press conference immediately preceding the show, Mickey Roonly dismissed the absence of Ann Miller, in the current tour, saying he hadn't seen her in about 11 weeks.

The official word, however, is that Ann was ill, and substituting for her was Jane Summerhays, who may not be as vibrant an actress as Ann, but certainly dances as well.

Mickey says that after this tour is completed, he is going to take a year off to write a book about Mickey Rooney. It has to be a real smash, for Mickey on stage the THE perfect clown.

He has learned to kid himself — myriad references to his height, or his eight marriages — and gets the audience totally involved in whatever schtick he is up to.

We were perfectly entranced to watch him move, for despite the roly-poly stature he now has, his movements are graceful and flowing.

Sugar babies has been continually updated as new people assume the major roles. And in this version, two new young comedians are given an opportunity to strut their stuff.

And the results are simply gorgeous. Jeff Dunham is a ventriloquist, an amazing one, who employs 4 or 5 different dummies, with such sparkling dialogue you'll crack your sides laughing.

Frank Olivier is a young juggler, whose act is more or less a standard version of swinging indian clubs around, execpt he indulges in running conversation with himself, and the audience.

As a matter of fact, he brings one member of the audience on stage for a bit of business, all the while casting playful jibes at Dundalk. His is a really hilarious turn.

All in all, Sugar Babies is a fun evening. Its 2½ hours of almost non-stop laughter, which prompted several members of the audience to comment, "Don't mention 'Grind' and 'Sugar babies' in the same breath."

So, we won't. But, for a peep at show biz the way it was at its height — Sugar Babies is it. It will be at the Lyric Theatre through May 26.

PREAKNESS FESTIVAL ACTIVITIES

MAY 17

World's Fastest Typists Contest
9 a.m.-1 p.m., Omni International Hotel.

Pistachio Preakness
Noon, Harborplace Ampitheatre.

Disc "Jockey" Days
B104 Radio's Spring/Summer Fashion Show, noon, Hopkins Plaza.

Crab Derby
3 p.m., Harborplace Ampitheatre.

WBAL Radio Preakness Parade
For the Kids of Baltimore, floats, balloon characters and marching bands, 7 p.m.

MAY 18

Preakness Infield Party
9 a.m., Pimlico Racecourse

110th Running of the Preakness Stakes
2nd jewel in thoroughbred racing's Triple Crown, 5:30 p.m., Pimlico Racecourse.

Extended Metro Service and Pimlico Shuttle
From Rogers Avenue Station, 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

Safety Features Boat Check
All day, Inner Harbor.

Maryland State Hobie Cat Championships
Through May 19, 11 a.m., Gunpowder State Park.

Legends of Rock and Roll
Chubby Checker, The Coasters, and more, 8 p.m., Baltimore Civic Center, call 659-7157.

MAY 19

Sailboard Regatta
1-3 p.m., Inner Harbor.

Summer Sunday Music Festival
George Owen's Band, 7-9 p.m., Harborplace Amphitheatre.

MPT Presents An Evening of Fantasy and Cold Reality

"The Whimzical World of Oz," airing Wednesday, May 22 at 9:00 p.m. on Maryland Public Television (MPT) — TV 22, 28, 31, 36, 62 & 67, focuses on the delightful and quirky imagination of L. Frank Baum. Through illustrations, film clips, and interviews this hour-long special traces some of his creations back to his good-humored pen and into the land of Oz.

Baum's characters originally came to life in illustrations created by W.W. Dunslow and J.R. Neill, both of whom worked with Baum on different Oz books. Behind-the-scenes footage of the forthcoming Disney production, "Return to Oz," demonstrates the transition of characters from these still illustrations to animated screen creations through the use of animatronics and claymation.

In addition to clips from this most recent production, viewers are treated to scenes from the 1925 silent Oz film; the 1939 classic, starring Judy Garland; the animated "Journey Back to Oz;" and "The Wiz" starring Diana Ross.

Interspersed among the clips and special effects are interviews with younger fans who comment on the meaning of the world of Oz.

Unlike the world of Oz, the world of Dwarfs is very real and often times cruel. This is evidenced in the pervasive misconceptions about "little people."

Dwarfs must learn to confront and endure the curiosity of the public, heckling, inability to compete in athletics, social rejection, as well as physical barriers produced by the scale of the "average-sized" world.

Little People of America, a support network for dwarfs, was conceived in 1957. The organization has enjoyed a steadily increasing membership and meets annually for a national convention. Footage from this annual convention provides insight into

(Continued on page 4)

Bonnie Matthews Butler
Meanderings and Meditation

The "Colonel" swears it's "finger lickin' good." To be sure, he's talking about Kentucky Fried Chicken.

Just as good is the 3rd annual Kentucky Fried Chicken Gospel Music Competition that the "Colonel" from the Bluegrass state is promoting here in the Baltimore/Washington area.

The chicken folks kicked off the preliminaries the last two weeks and the participating groups shook the house.

They clapped, stomped their feet and shouted "Amen!" as the over 15 gospel choirs, soloists and ensembles sang praises to the Lord.

At the second of the two rounds in the Baltimore competition (Two are held in Washington, D.C. as well as Baltimore) held at Jones Tabernacle Baptist Church on Baltimore St... it was standing room only.

With a brief welcome by Mary Clayburn of WWIN, the distinguished panel of judges was introduced.

Chief Judge of the proceedings was Archie Buffins, president of the National Committee on Cultural Diversity, Multicultural Affairs Advisor to the John F. Kennedy Center Board Chairman and recently appointed Board Chairman of the Center for Black Music Research along with Bill Cummins, writer, producer and arranger of six gospel albums and Chairman of the Music Department at Lake Clifton High School;

Catherine Dorsey, assistant music director of All Saints Catholic Church; Pauline Wells-Lewis, currently heard on WBGR-AM; Rev. Evora Robinson, founder and director of the Maryland Suburban Mass Choir and State Representative of the Maryland Chapter, Gospel Music Workshop of America; and Al Stewart, host of WEAA-FM's "Gospel Grace" and general manager of WEAA-FM of Morgan Stte University.

The final semifinal preliminary will be held on May 22 at the Upper Room Baptist Church, 60 Burns St., N.E. Washington, D.C. at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free.

Finals of the Kentucky Fried Chicken Gospel Music Competition will be held on July 14 at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

One suggestion. Be sure to get there early. If the preliminaries are any example of what's to come, you're in for a treat.

See you next week.

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