—Best Bets—

THEATRE

"Shrew"

Baltimore City College will present "Shrew", the musical version of Shakespeare's "The Taming of the Shrew," on May 16 and 17. Show time is 8 p.m. For further information, call 396-6430.

FILMS

Enoch Pratt Free Library

"The Magic Box," with Robert Donat as inventor William Friese-Greene supported by a galaxy of British stars in cameo roles, will be shown at 7 p.m. on Wednesday May 7, at the Central Library For more information, call 396-5494.

For Children

Tuesday, May 6 Brooklyn Branch: "Millions of Cats," 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 7 Brooklyn Branch; "Aladdin and His Wonderful Lamp" and "The Amazing Cosmic Awareness of Duffy Moon," 3:30 p.m. and "Millions of Cats," 7 p.m.

Northwood Branch: "Big Henry and the Polka Dot Kid" and "The Magician, 3:30 p.m.

Friday, May 9 Brooklyn Branch: "Sleeping Beauty," "Animal Homes," and Six Penquins," 10 and 10:30 a.m.

Patterson Park Branch: "P.J. and the President's Son," 3:15 p.m.

EXHIBITS

"Enoch Pratt's World"

"Enoch Pratt's World: A Centennial Exhibition", will be on display at the Central Library. Photographs, memorabila, documents, and newspaper articles recreate the life and times of the founder of the library. The exhibit will be on display through December, 1986. For more information, call 396-5494.

Smithsonian Institute Activities

Saturday, May 3, 12:30 p.m.: LECTURE "The Human Ideal in Bamana Sculpture" Dr. Kate Ezra Sunday, May 4, 2-4 p.m.: RECEPTION "Children's Exhibition Preview"

Thursday, May 8, 7 p.m.: LECTURE "Creating Generations: Images of Women in Bamana Art" Dr. Mary Jo Arnoldi

Saturday, May 10, 1-3 p.m.: WORKSHOP "Bokolanfini: Bamana Decorated Cloths"

Saturday, May 17, 12:30: STORYTELLING "Storytime at the Museum in Oral Tradition"

Saturday, May 17, 2 p.m.: LECTURE/DEMONSTRATION "The Art of the Mande Griots" Lecture by Dr. Charles Bird and Demonstration by modern griot Djimo Kouyate

Saturday, May 31, 1-3: WORKSHOP "Bokolanfini: Bamana Decorated Cloths"

For further information about these May events, call (202) 357-2700.

Visual Artists Alliance

The Visual Artists Alliance of Howard County will hold its annual Spring Show at Slayton Rouse Gallery in Columbia, MD on May 18. The exhibit will be on display through June 16. For further information, call 543-3636.

CONCERTS

Howard University Choir

The Howard University Choir will lead off the university's graduation season with its annual Spring Concert May 4 at 6 p.m. in Cramton Auditorium. The 100 voice choir will be joined by the Washington International Chorale and Howard alumni and will be accompanied by the orchestra. For further information, call (202) 686-5400.

BSO Series

Sunday, May 4, 3:00 p.m. An all Beethoven Program; David Zinman, conductor and Rudolf Serkin, Piano

Friday, May 9; Saturday, May 10; Sunday, May 11; "Anything Goes-The Music of Cole Porter" Monday, May 12, 8:15 p.m. "Showcase Series"

Thursday, May 15 and Friday, May 16, 8:15 p.m. "Celebrity Series" David Zinman, conductor and Jose Feghali, Piano

Sunday, May 18 7:00 p.m. Gala Pension Fund Benefit David Zinman and Danny Kaye, conductors.

Thursday, May 22, 8:00 p.m. Westminister High School, David Zinman, conductor

Friday, May 23, 8:15 p.m. "Favorites" Series David Zinman, conductor

Thursday, May 29, 9:55 a.m. Open rehearsal

Saturday, May 31, 8:15 p.m. "Pops" Series with Catherine Comet, conductor. This program will feature the music chosen in the audience poll which was taken on March 29. For more information, call 727-7300.

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"La Cage Aux Folles" coming to the Lyric

LA CAGE AUX FOLLES, the internationally-acclaimed Broadway musical comedy that won six 1984 Tony Awards including Best Musical, is coming to the Lyric Opera House from May 6th through May 31st for a limited engagement as part of its national tour.

Starring Peter Marshall and Keene Curtis, LA CAGE AUX FOLLES has music and lyrics by Jerry Herman, book by Harvey Fierstein, direction by Arthur Laurents and choreography by Scott Salmon.

In LA CAGE AUX FOLLES, Peter Marshall portrays Georges, the owner and emcee of the lavish St. Tropez nightclub, "La Cage Aux Folles." Keene Curtis portrays Albin, Georges' mentor and the glamorous, flamboyant star of the nightclub. Marshall is best-known as the host of the popular television game show "Hollywood Squares," but has previously performed in the Broadway musicals SKY-SCRAPER, BYE, BYE BIRDIE and ANYTHING GOES. Curtis played Daddy Warbucks in the musical ANNIE on Broadway and in Los Angeles and San Francisco, and in 1971 won a Tony for his performance in the musical THE ROTHSCHILDS.

David Mitchell, who won Tony Awards for ANNIE and BARNUM, designed the St. Tropez setting. Theoni V. Aldredge, who has won Tony Awards for LA CAGE, ANNIE, and BARNUM, has designed the costumes. Jules Fisher, a three-time Tony winner, has created the lighting for LA CAGE.

Jerry Herman has written the score to such legendary musicals as HELLO, DOLLY!, MAME, DEAR WORLD and MACK AND MABEL. Harvey Fierstein won two 1983 Tony Awards as actor and playwright of TORCH SONG TRILOGY. Arthur Laurents is best-known as author of the books for such landmark musicals as WEST SIDE STORY and GYPSY, and wrote the screenplays for "The Way We Were" and "The Turning Point."

Scott Salmon, who made his debut as a Broadway choreographer with LA CAGE AUX FOLLES, has previously choreographed musicals for Dallas Summer Musicals, St. Louis Municipal Opera, and Kansas City Starlight, and over 100 network television shows including the Barbara Mandrell Series.

LA CAGE AUX FOLLES, a Mechanic Theatre subscription attraction, opens Tuesday, May 6th at 7:30 p.m. at the Lyric Opera House. Performances thereafter are Monday-Saturday evenings at 8:00 p.m. with matinees Wednesdays and Saturdays at 2:00 p.m. and Sundays, May 11th and May 18th at 3:00 p.m. (No performance on Monday, May 12th.)

Tickets for LA CAGE AUX FOLLES are available in person at the Mechanic Theatre box office (Hopkins Plaza) or may be charged by phone to a major credit card by calling TeleCharge at (301) 625-1400. (Toll-free TeleCharge is available for out-of-state theatregoers by calling 1-800-638-2444.)

Special discounts are available for groups of twenty or more by calling (301) 625-4230. The Lyric Opera House box office is open 2 hours prior to each performance, selling tickets for that performance.

For ticket information, please call (301) 625-1400.

"Gbana-Bendu" at Morgan

By Elyn Garrett

Morgan State University will present their production of Yulisa Amadu Maddy's play, "Gbana-Bendu" on May 1-4 at the university's Little Theatre.

The play, directed by the author, is full of songs and rituals of traditional West Africa. According to Professor Maddy, the Senior Fulbright Scholar from Sierra Leone, the play shows "how the Western influences have helped traditional African people to corrupt their traditions."

Maddy, who has been doing theatre for some 25 years, told us that he believes that one can never be too close to his work. He proves this belief by not only being the play's writer but director as well. He is also playing one of the lead roles.

When asked about the message he hopes this work will relay, he stated, "I do not believe in carrying the torch promoting Western Civilization or white Anglo-Saxon puritan idealogies. I am here to let Americans know what we are capable of doing without their aids, their help, or their influence. In short, I do not sing or dance to the master's music, and that is what "Gbana-Bendu" is all about.

"Gbana-Bendu" means great ancestor; one who did not allow his people to be in bondage. Maddy assures us that the title is excellent for this production, as the constant clash between the traditional and the modern create an unforgettable evening of West African entertainment.

We were interested to know how he found his cast members, which consisted of students in the Theatre class, most of which are telecommunications majors. He explained that his biggest job lies in re-educating the students against what they have been indoctrinated with concerning African culture. "I am fighting against the Tarzan image which is the popular tarnished image of peoples in third world countries."

Maddy went on to say that he thinks that "the 1960's and early 1970's would have provided a student body that would have been 100 percent positive and receptive about their own origin. Today, I am dealing with students whose parents and even some of their teachers are ashamed of their African identity."

"Theatre of Nations" announces schedule

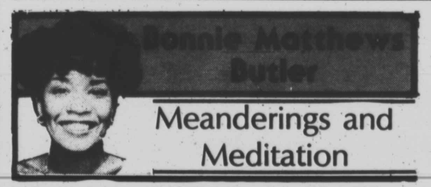
The THEATRE OF NATIONS international theatre festival to be held in Baltimore June 15-28 announced its schedule of performances. Theatre and dance companies from around the world plus the United States will perform in varied venues around the city during the two week festival.

Highlights of the schedule include: The National Theatre of Great Britain's production of "Animal Farm" at the Morris A. Mechanic June 17-22; The Music Theatre Group/Lenox Arts Center's spectacular "The Garden of Earthly Delights" at Goucher College's Kraushaar Auditorium June 18-21; Jordcirkus, the Swedish communal theatre at The Baltimore School For the Arts June 17-22; Fred Curchak, U.S.A. June 18 & 19, Polivka from Poland June 20-22, The National Theatre of Bulgaria June 24 & 25, Northern Ireland's Charabanc June 26-28 and Grupo Contedores De Estorias of Brazil June 28 & 29 at The Theatre Project.

Center Stage will offer the final week of its "Playwrights 86" series, three new plays in rotating repertory, during the first week of the "Theatre of Nations" and will host Theatre Pardes, formerly known as "The Traveling Jewish Theatre" during the second week of the festival.

A number of local theatre companies will be participating, including the Arena Players which will present an original musical, "Eyes," by Marie Evans.

A complete schedule of performances is attached. For additional information on "Theatre of Nations," call (301) 625-4270.



Bonnie Matthews Butler

Meanderings and Meditation

The "I'd Love to meet New Edition" contest was a rip roaring success and must confess we really enjoyed reading your responses.

We have given your letters to the group and they have promised to read everyone of them.

We want to thank **New Edition, Ed Warner** of Pace Concerts, **Virgil Simms, Cynthia Badi** and **David Orr** from Coca-Cola, Councilman **Nathaniel McFadden** and **Hakim** for all of their help in making the contest a success. Thanks.

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In a previous column, we reported the basketball game between **WEAA-FM** and **WWIN** Radio to benefit the Larry Dean Memorial Fund.

The game has been rescheduled for Friday, May 9 at 6 p.m. at Dunbar High School on Orleans St.

This is a fundraiser for a worthy cause. Tickets are $3.00.

And speaking of the Fund, they're also sponsoring a Ceremonial Tribute to Larry Dean at Coppin State College on Saturday, May 17 at 7 p.m. and a Champagne Party at Godfrey's Famous Ballroom starting at 10 p.m.

Mary Wilson, formerly of the **Supremes** will provide the entertainment.

For more details call 367-3501.

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The Project Survival Miss Nite Life Contest is underway and holding a cocktail party on Sunday, May 4 at 5 p.m. at the 32nd Street Plaza.

For ticket information call 396-1760.

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We'd like to thank the Alexander Hamilton Elementary School No. 145 on Popular Grove St. for asking us to be a judge in their dramatic reading festival.

The kindergarten, first and second grade students who participated were poised, articulate and neat as a pin.

All of the participants deserve a standing ovation along with the teachers and the principal for hosting such an important event for the students.

Antoine McKnight and **Tamika Bush** won on the Level II competition and **Thomas Sullivan** and **Carla Brown** won for the Level I reading. Good job, students and teachers.

Carla Brown, Thomas Sullivan, Tamika Bush and Antoine McKnight show off their awards for excellence in the dramatic reading festival held recently at the Alexander Hamilton Elementary School.

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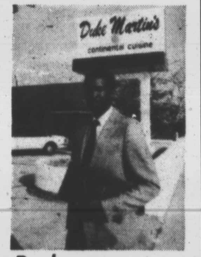

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