Carl Matthews SOUNDS

RUN-D.M.C.
"Raising Hell" (Profile)

Okay, friends. I'm going to give you the same warning about this rap album as I did for Grandmaster Flash's "The Source" album.

That is: "If you want mainstream R&B music look elsewhere." Because this is some of the most muscular rap and hip-hop you'll find today. Naturally.

And if you're an owner of either of Run-D.M.C.'s previous two albums, you know exactly what I'm talking about.

Okay. Now, I think would be a good time to give a little background information on Run-D.M.C., for those nice readers who may not be all that familiar with these hell-raisers.

"Run-D.M.C." is comprised of three young men in their early twenties. First there's Joseph Simmons, known as "Run"; Darryl McDaniels, known as "D.M.C."; and their turntable-spinner, Jason Mizell, known as "Jam Master Jay." They're from Hollis, Queens in New York.

After graduating from high school in 1982, this crew, under the management of Joseph's brother, Russell Simmons, signed with Profile Records and in March 1983 released their first 12-inch single, the popular "It's Like That."

Also on side one of that 12-inch was "Sucker M.C.'s (Krush-Groove 1)" — no music, just rhythm and rap, but a good lesson on how to be fresh.

Now, the music on their latest album is not all that unique, musically speaking. Run-D.M.C. is not about to deviate from the well-known style that has helped them sell so many copies of their last two albums, "Run-D.M.C." and "King Of Rock."

Therefore, if you've never liked the combination of rap and heavy metal rock guitars Run-D.M.C. has brought us in the past, you probably won't like 'em now.

On the other hand, if you really dug their last album, "King Of Rock," you'll love "Raising Hell."

The album begins with "Peter Piper," a track that appears on the flip side of Run-D.M.C.'s current 7-inch single, "My Adidas" (it also appears after "My Adidas" on side one of the 12-inch). You see, UTFO and Whistle aren't the only rap artists with a sense of humor.

On "Walk This Way," Aerosmith's Steve Tyler (vocals) and Joe Perry (guitar) do a fresh remake of their rock classic released on Aerosmith's "Toys In The Attic" album ten years ago. Aerosmith's version is better I think (it was one of my favorites by them, too), but this current version is pretty close to the original in style and quality (same key, tempo and all).

Now here's one of the best cuts on the new album: "Is It Live." Great drum programming by Sam Sever.

As always, this album was produced in fine style by Russell Simmons and Rick Rubin, who might be thought of as the Phil Spectors of rap (would you believe the Trevor Horns? How about the George Martins? Gamble and Huff? Ashford And Simpson?).

— Meanderings

Continued from page 3

and the evening with the contest winners, **Tonya Batty** and **Lenny Lyles** .....**V-103's Reggie Thomas** and **Rhonda Brice,** manager of Brice's Hilltop on Reisterstown Rd. have continued showcasing the talent from Randy Dennis' Best Fest. Every Thursday from 8 p.m. until 11 p.m. past winners or the Best Fest All-Stars appear at the club, The band, **Justice,** backs up the singers.....Reggie told us the night is building and from what I've seen of the talent, you're in for a real treat.....**Whitney Houston** has been scheduled for an appearance at the Merriweather Post Pavilion on July 26. Also, at the same venue, **Jeffrey Osborne** has cancelled his date that was slated for August 13th. However, he's coming to the Lyric Opera House shortly. Interesting.....**Kay Lawal, Harriette Lane, Isisara Bey** and Zara Hamm, collectively known as **Kuumba, will be performing at St. John's at 27th on June 19 and 20 starting at 8 p.m. This will be a special feature of the Theatre of Nations Festival. These four talented ladies perform original comedy material with song and dance. Tickets are $6 at the door and $5 in advance. For more information call 366-PLAY or 243-5344.....**"Raising Hell", the concert tour featuring **LLCool J. Run-DMC** and **Whodini** will wind its way to Baltimore on June 27 at the Baltimore Civic Center. **LL Cool J's** latest album, "Radio" was recently certified gold with sales in excell of a half-million units. The show promises to be "hot" .....**Shirley Bassey** will be playing the John F. Kennedy Center on June 19 and 20 and **Dionne Warwick** comes in on July 11 and 12. It's all apart of the 1986 Summer Fun Festival sponsored by Diet Coke.....And finally, The Budweiser Showdown, a music talent search competition sponsored locally by V-103 and Budweiser, was won by **Quest** and **The Grove** featuring **Lolita** finished in second place. Now, both of those groups will have a chance to compete to become one of the five finalists to appear in the National Budweiser Showdown which will be held on June 20. **Quest** received $1,000 in Fender musical equipment and the winning song will be released on a record and distributed by V-103. **The Grove** received $500 in Fender equipment. The national winner will receive a recording contract.

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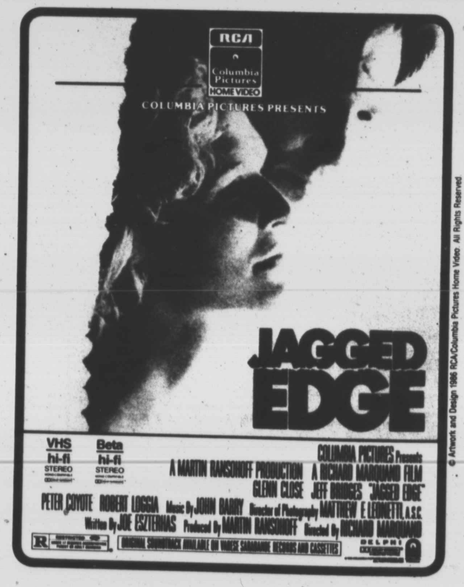

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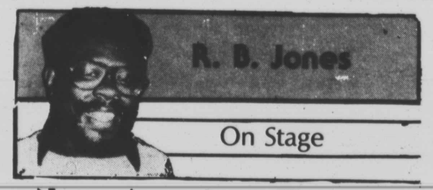

R. B. Jones On Stage

New American Theater

Over the past three years I have been viewing a great deal of what is supposed to be profound, moving new American Theater. Perhaps I am living in the past. Perhaps I am not artsy enough, but a great deal of what I see bores me and does not touch the most hypersensitive emotional chord in my body.

The basic problem is that much of what is supposed to be moving contemporary theater is rumination on personal, introspective problems that are portrayed in isolation from social factors that effect the individual personality.

There is no connectedness to broader humanity. Also much of the writing is concerned with exploring the richness of language for the sake of verbal acrobatics. It may be dazzling to the ear at first but eventually one yearns for something of significance or profundity to be said.

Recently Center Stage did a Pulitzer Prize-winning play by Sam Shepard, "Buried Child." It was interesting and even poetic at times but it did not say anything meaningful. Interesting theater is fine but one does expect to hear something significant about the human condition from a Pulitzer Prize winner.

Perhaps many of the contemporary playwrights feel that there is little left to say, or saying anything is a futile gesture because none will listen. Whatever the reason, much of the new theater seems cold and academic and ultimately unsatisfying.

Vincent Smith

Local Playwright Returns In Triumph

When the Theater of Nations was originally planned, there was no inkling that it would provide a forum for the performance of a native Baltimorean's triumphant return as the author of an Off-Broadway hit.

On June 26, Baltimore will welcome back Vincent Smith, author of "Williams and Walker," a musical entertainment. The play, which is a recreation of the career of Bert Williams and George Walker, two vaudevillians and Broadway stars who were the toast of New York in the early 1900s.

They starred in several hit shows and their partnership was cut short by the untimely death of George Walker. Williams went on to have a successful solo career becoming the first black performer to be a headliner in the Ziegfeld Follies.

Despite the success of Williams his life was deeply scarred by racism and he was forced to perform in burnt cork blackface. Smith's play poignantly portrays the dilemma that Williams faced.

The production coming to Baltimore is a joint effort of the New Federal Theatres and The American Place Theaters. Bringing Williams and Walker to life are Ben Harney and Vondie Curtis-Hall original cast members of "Dreamgirls" and the production is directed by Shauneille Perry.

Soap fan lost in orbit over Collins' role

By Kimberly Redmond

Q: I'd like to know if Kate Collins, the actress who portrays Natalie Hunter on "All My Children," also played Gomer Pyle's girlfriend in the series "Gomer Pyle, U.S.M.C." - T.K., Glenwood, Iowa.

A: No. Elizabeth MacRae portrayed Gomer's girlfriend, Lou Ann Poovie. Prior to joining "All My Children," Collins was primarily a stage actress, though she made brief appearances on "One Life to Live," "The Guiding Light", "Search for Tomorrow" and "Another World" before landing the role of Hunter. Collins is the daughter of former Astronaut Michael Collins, who pilotted the Columbia on the Apollo XI mission for the first lunar landing in July, 1969.

Q: I think Perry Stephens, the actor who plays Jack Forbes on "Loving," is dreamy. I'd love to know more about him. — P.S., Portland, Maine.

A. Stephens was born in Frankfurt, Germany, and grew up in Decatur, Alabama. He became interested in music while in high school. During the three summers in which he was a student, he worked at Nashville's Grand Ole Opry.

An appearance in Dick Clark's "Opryland: Night of Stars and Future Stars" offered Stephens the opportunity to work with Gene Kelly and Ben Vereen. Soon afterward, he left college to play the lead in a touring company of "Li'l Abner."

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