Happenings This Week

EVENTS FOR CHILDREN

Enoch Pratt Library

August 12 Walbrook Branch Films: "The Booboo Monster Enters a Beauty Contest," "The Cow-tail Switch," "The Five Chinese Brothers," "The Rug Maker," and "The Smallest Elephant in the World," 3:30 p.m.

Govans Branch Film: "Winnie the Pooh and the Blustery Day," 5 p.m. and "Bear Skin", 1 p.m.

Herring Run Branch Films: "Winnie the Pooh and the Bluestery Day," "Winnie the Pooh and Tigger Too," and "Winnie the Pooh and the Honey Tree," 1:30 p.m.

Hamilton Branch Films: "The Phantom Tollbooth," 2 p.m. "Corduroy," "The Little Red Hen," and Leopold the See-through Crumbpicker," 7 p.m.

Highlandtown Branch Films: "The Amazing Cosmic Awareness of Duffy Moon," "Why'd the Beetle Cross the Road?," and Quasi at the Quackadero," 2 p.m.

Light Street Branch Films: "The Ghost of Thomas Kempe," and Alexander and the Car with a Missing Headlight" 2 p.m.

Northwood Branch Film: "The Seven Wishes of Joanna Peabody," 2 p.m.

Morrell Park Center Films: "Harold and the Purple Crayon," "Winnie the Pooh and Tigger Too," and "The Astronoughts," 3 p.m.

Pennsylvania Avenue Branch Films: "The Lorax" and "Hoober-Bloob Highway," 3:30 p.m.

Brooklyn Branch Films: "A Lad in the Lamp," "Your Feet's Too Big," "The Sandcastle," and "Frog Goes to Dinner," 6:30 p.m.

August 14 Cherry Hill Center Film: "Rikki-Tikki-Tavi," 2:30 p.m.

Broadway Branch Films: "My Mother Was Never a Kid,' 3:30 p.m.

Govans Branch Film: "Big Wheels and Sailor," 5 p.m.

August 15 Brooklyn Branch Films: "The Doodlers," "The Emperor's Oblong Pancake," "Frederick," and "Frog Went A-Courtin," 10 a.m.

Patterson Park Branch Films: "Stone Soup" and Tap Dance Kid," 3:15 p.m. For further information concerning these or any Enoch Pratt Library events, call 396-5494.

THEATRE

"1984"

Wilma Theatre will present an adaptation of George Orwell's "1984" in a three-week engagement at the Terrace Theatre of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. The production starts at 7:30 p.m. for each performance. For further information, phone (202) 872-0466.

"They're Playing Our Song"

On Stage Downtown will end its 1986 season when the F. Scott Black Towsontown Dinner Theatre performs Neil Simon's "They're Playing Our Song," on Tuesday, August 12, in the War Memorial Plaza. The free production begins at 8 p.m. For further information, phone 837-INFO.

CONCERTS

The Ink Spots

The Ink Spots will be in concert at the King of France Tavern through August 10. There will be two shows held each evening, at 8 and 10:30 p.m.

Lunchtime Concerts

The sounds of jazz will be featured every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday with Mid-town Music '86 at Hopkins Plaza through August 29. Each concert will begin at 12 noon and will last for about one hour. Call 752-8632 for further information.

"An Evening of Jazz"

The George Owens Band will present an "Evening of Jazz" on August 10, when they will be in concert at the Harborplace Amphitheatre. The event begins at 7 p.m. For further information, phone 332-4191.

FILMS

Summer Film Festival

The Anne Arundel Community College will feature films at the Pascal Center for the Performing Arts on Tuesday, August 12. "Little Women" and "Sylvia Scarlett" will be this week's features. For further information, call 269-7341.

WORKSHOP

"Job Hunting Mistakes"

The Enoch Pratt Free Library will sponsor a workshop entitled "Job Hunting Mistakes and How to Avoid Them" on August 14 from 7 until 8 p.m. The workshop will be held in the Main library's Poe Room. For further information, call 396-5394.

EXHIBITS

"Enoch Pratt's"

Photographs, memorabilia, documents, and newspaper articles recreate the life and times of the founder of the Enoch Pratt Free Library. "Enoch Pratt's World: A Centennial Exhibition" will be on display now through December, 1986 in the library's main branch. For further information, call 396-5494.

Black Artist Invitational

A show of painting, sculpture, photography and quilting at the Life of Maryland Gallery, Baltimore Life Insurance Building will be on display now through August 15. The exhibit is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. and includes works by such artists as Thomas Stockett, Walter Coleman, James W. Barefoot, Nathaniel K. Gibbs, Gerald D. Hawkins, William E. Joyner, Herb Lee, Elizabeth Scott, Jose Solorzano, Duane Thigpen, and Pat Ward Williams. For further information call 539-7900.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Royal Theatre Celebration

Baltimore's Royal Theatre will be remembered on Friday, August 15 at 6 p.m. when a historical marker will be unveiled on the theatre's orginal site, 1329 Pennsylvania Avenue, now a public park.

"Little People's Program"

The "Little People's Program" will return to the Inner Harbor every Tuesday and Thursday this summer through August 28th. Each show till begin at 12:15 and will feature clown acts, musicians and a host of other entertainment of interest to children.

The weekly entertainment guide for the Baltimore area. Published by the AFRO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS group.

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On The Cover....

On the cover this week are artists who perform in two different musical genres, Cleo Laine, in classical and jazz and Kool and the Gang in R&B and pop.

Cleo Laine, along with husband John Dankworth will perform on Friday, August 8 at 8 p.m. at Pier Six,

The husband and wife team of Cleo Laine and John Dankworth bring their special musical talents to the WJZ 13 Harborlights Music Festival on Friday evening, August 8th at 8:00 p.m.

Cleo Laine is the only singer to be nominated for a Grammy in the Female Pop, Classical and Jazz categories. Not one to be confined to the concert stage or recording studio, Ms. Laine has had a long and successful theatrical career. She was recently nominated for a Tony award for her performance in this year's best Musical, THE MYSTERY OF EDMOND BROOD. Her husband, John Dankworth, has been a major force in the realms of jazz, symphonic, choral and film music for the past three decades. As a conductor, composer and performer, he has won more awards than nearly any other British musician.

Tickets for Cleo Laine and John Dankworth are $15.00 for reserved pavilion seating and $8.00 for the lawn.

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Kool and the Gang will be in concert on Saturday, August 9 at Merriweather Post Pavilion.

Influenced greatly by the music df such jazz luminaries as John Coltrane, McCoy Tyner and Pharoah Sanders, Kool, Ronald and their friends Dennis Thomas (flute/alto saxophone) and Robert Mickens decided to form a band called the Jazziacs. In short order, Charles Smith (guitar), George Brown (drums), and Ricky West (keyboards) were recruited.

Lacking one essential ingredient-a bass player-Kool offered to give it a try. "One recalls. "I knew 'comin' Home Baby' (a jazz tune popularized by Herbie Mann), which you can play on one string. That was the beginning of my becoming a bass player."

It wasn't long before the Jazziacs started heading in the direction of rhythm and blues. By 1969, when the band took on the moniker Kool & The Gang and signed a recording contract, Kool & The Gang was ready to gradute into the world of pop music, From '69 to 1976 the group proceeded to record some of the funkiest music ever made. Gold singles such as "Jungle Boogie," "Hollywood Swinging," and "Funky Stuff" (all from the "Wild and Peaceful' album in 1976) forever established Kool & The Gang as one of America's foremost party bands. But by the middle '70's, with disco beginning to win the hearts and feet of an unusually large cross-section of the country, Kool & The Gang's funk was suddenly out of style. Only the inclusion of "Open Sesame" and "Summer Madness" on the "Saturday Night Fever" and "Rocky" soundtracks respectively stopped the band from disappearing from the musical mainstream entirely.

As the group's popularity and record sales plummeted in '77 and '78, Kool could only reach this conclusion: "Our approach was too progressive. We were playing the groove, but with jazz progressions on top. That's not what the public wanted to hear. We realized that maybe we were too close to the music, that we needed someone objective from the outside to come in. That's when we decided to look for an outside producer."

That producer turned out to be Deodato, "who just happened to be working at the House of Music," where the group was scheduled to record its next album. "We were interested in him because we both had jazz in common," Kool explains.

While Deodato was instrumental in smoothing down Kool & The Gang's rough edges, it was vocalist James (J.T.) Taylor who delivered the group's new, softer sound-first heard on the "Ladies' Night" album. "We needed that male voice up front," says Kool. "That's the only thing we were missing. We were writing songs that were pop oriented, but we didn't have the right voice to sing them. James was the voice."

Kool & The Gang moved further into the fusion of rock, pop and R&B with "Emergency"

Demand for the group's music went beyond the record stores. The makers of the network tv "Redd Foxx Show" pursued Kool & The Gang to write the show's them song. The makers of the new Bette Midler/Danny DeVito film "Ruthless People" had the band write a song for the soundtrack. And the filmmakers behind Whoopie Goldberg's upcoming "Jumpin Jack Flash" recruited Kool & The Gang for a soundtrack tune.

City Fair seeks participants

The Baltimore City Fair is currently seeking craftspeople to sell and display their work at the 1986 Fair. The 17th annual City Fair is scheduled for September 19, 20, & 21 at the Baltimore City Fairgrounds, underneath the Jones Falls Expressway.

Craftspeople are invited to exhibit and sell their works in a special crafts exhibition area on the Fairgrounds. Spaces are 10 ft. by 12 ft. The fee, which includes all three days of the City Fair, is $75.

Applications are available at the City Fair Office at Saratoga and Gay Streets (behind the Kids' Diner), or by calling 547-0015. Completed applications are due by August 22.

Bonnie Matthews Butler

Meanderings and Meditation

The Jazz Summerfest at the Forest is on again this year and they tell me it's going to be bigger and better than ever. The event is scheduled for Saturday, August 30 starting at 2 p.m. and will be a salute to jazz musician, **Mickey Fields.**

To get you in the mood for the fest, the Summerfest committee is sponsoring a Pre - Summerfest party at the old Masonic Temple, 1429 McCulloh St. on Saturday, August 16 from 3 p.m. until 6 p.m. One of the highlights of the pre - party is a viewing of the video that was shot at last year's summerfest.

Tickets for Jazz Summerfest '86 are $10 in advance and $12 at the entrance. This will entitle you to crabs, beer and continuous music headed by **Carlos Johnson.**

Available for sale will be all types of food including ribs, chicken and corn on the cob plus vendors will be displaying their wares.

For more information on the pre - party and the Jazz Summerfest '86 call 728-0900.

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Duke Martin's over on Reisterstown Rd. has started live jazz on Saturdays and Sundays. Scheduled for this weekend is **Bill Cummings** featuring **Jedda Queen,** August 15-16, **Lionel Jiggetts** and Company and September 5-27, **The Dennis Fisher Band** featuring **Jennifer Jones.** Hosts for the new venture are **Wendell Wright, John Wood** and of course, **Duke Martin.**

We'll be dropping by and we'll let you know the score.

Did you know that **Billy Ocean's** favorite way to unwind is gardening. Yep, that's what he toldus when he called last week from Miami.

We were supposed to talk with him when he played the Merriweather Post Pavilion but wound up in the hospital instead so Billy called us anyway to chat.

Seems Billy has 1½ acres in England and has grown so much green that he now has a hiding place there.

I'd hide in the bushes with **Billy Ocean** anytime. Wouldn't you?

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Had a chance to stop by Ethel's Place to sample the menu of the new chef, **Ed Rogers** and I must tell you, though the food is expensive, it definitely worth the price.

I do not profess to be a gourmet but when I finish my plate and want more, you can bet it was because the meal was superb. My hat's off to chef **Ed Rogers** and I recommend a meal at Ethel's wholeheartedly.

Drummer **George Brown** from the super group **Kool and the Gang** called last week from Caesar's Palace in Lake Tahoe, Nevada, where they are the main attraction. (Kool and the Gang will be appearing at Merriweather Post Pavilion this Saturday.)

The group, besides touring, is finishing up an album entitled "Forever" which they hope to release in September.

You can also catch them on the Wendy's commercials singing to their tune "Celebration."The words weren't written by the group but by the advertising agency responsible for putting the commercial together.

I would have preferred to hear what words they would have come up with in this commercial but, that's advertising.

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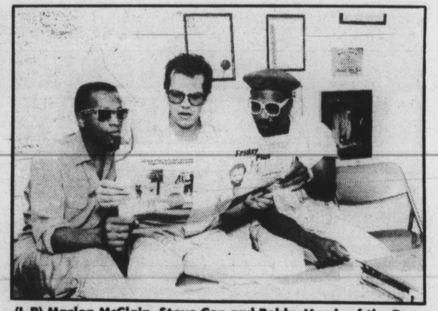
Dazz Band members **Marlon McClain, Steve Cox** and **Bobby Harris** dropped by the Friday Plus Offices to let us know that they are back and ready to go again. (We're on a roll, aren't we?)

They have just finished an album called "Wild and Free" which was released on August 4.



(L-R) Marlon McClain, Steve Cox and Bobby Harris of the Dazz Band check out Friday Plus during their recent visit to the AFRO.

The group is no longer with Motown and have now joined the ranks of Warner Brother Records. "We felt we weren't getting our "propers" at Motown." Bobby told us. "to set the record straight, though, we werent' dropped, we just weren't renewed. We're glad to be with Warner Brothers." We're gold they are back too.

Arena Players to premiere new work

The Arena Players Inc. will present its production of the Baltimore playwright's festival "Cocktail Party Chit Chat," by R. B. Jones, August 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23, 24 at the Arena Playhouse, 801 McCulloh St.

The play is a tense exciting drama centering on college friends who parted ways and are reunited one night at a social evening that becomes a harrowing hostage situation. The friends have adopted differing values. Some have gone all out for the American Dream of material wealth while another holds onto the revolutionary fervor that fueled the black movement in the 1960s.

When one adds the themes of rape, betrayal, marital infidelity and resentments and jealousies of youth grown monstrous with the passage of time the audience is in store for a drama that will leave them talking about what they have seen for days to come.

The play has action, witty verbal exchanges and moving moments. It is a play that holds the viewers' attention all the way through. Playwright R. B. Jones is a columnist and theater critic for the Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers and no stranger to controversy himself. "I wrote this play as a way of speculating on why people who were so fervent in the struggle when they were young, become so conservative when they reach middle age ... I also wanted to show what happens when political and personal antagonisms become entwined in an explosive situation."

The Cast of "Cocktail Party Chit Chat" seated on the couch are (l-r) Nora Saleema Bey and James Langley. Pictured in the backrow are (l-r) Lisa Watkins, Sonny Clash and Sam Washington.

Jones added, "This play is angry, a little violent and features some salty language — what else would one expect when you're in a hostage situation and your life is one? This is no genteel drawing room comedy. It is a play about gut issues and lost idealism."

Curtain time is 8:30 p.m. on Thursday and Friday and 7:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

The play is directed by Steven Maurice.

Caribbean/West Indies Festival this week-end

The Showcase of Nations presents the Caribbean/West Indies Festival at Festival Hall on Friday, August 8 through Sunday, August 10 from 12:00 noon-10 p.m.

Carnival tunes from the islands will echo throughout Festival Hall as six top disc jockeys spin popular native recordings. In addition, festivalgoers may enjoy a steelband panorama, calypso, Reggae and Soca music.

Accompanying the native rhythm will be performances by traditional, costumed folk dancrs, moco jumbees (stilt men), limbo dancers and breathtaking fire eaters.

Varous cultural attractions, including handmade jewelry, costume designing, masquerading and other native arts and crafts will be on display.

Festival visitors can also enjoy sampling many of the island treats including Jamaican beef patties, curry goat and Pelau Roti, and popular drinks such as ginger beer, sorrel, mauby and sour sop.

The Caribbean/West Indies Festival is sponsored by the Caribbean Cultural Association of Baltimore, Inc. and the West Indian Association of Maryland, Inc.

Admission is $1. For more information call the Baltimore Office of Promotion & Tourism at 837-4636.

THIS COUPON AND $4.00
will admit you to

"COCKTAIL PARTY CHIT CHAT"
by R. B. Jones
at
THE ARENA PLAYHOUSE
801 McCulloh Street

Dates: August 15, 16, 22, 23, 1986
Times: Friday 8:30 p.m. — Saturdays 7:30 p.m.
Clip and present at box office