ALL THAT JAZZ

By Bob Matthews

One sure sign of Spring is the annual boat ride of the Left Bank Jazz Society, and the time is fast approaching. The outing will occur June 5, and just as has happened over the past couple of years, it will be an all-day cruise to Annapolis.

The music will be continuous on this one, with **Carlos Johnson and the Zone One Band** heading up the entertainment. In addition, **Dennis Fisher** along with vocalist **Jennifer Jones** will complete the music roundup.

The cruise takes place aboard the M.V. Lady Baltimore, which will depart from Pier One, Pratt St. at 9 a.m. The vessel arrives in Annapolis at about noon, for a two-hour stopover.

The return trip begins at 2 p.m., arriving in Baltimore at 5 p.m., and it is on that return trip that the crab feast which has become a high point of the annual cruise takes place—it's all included in the price of the tickets.

This is the third year for the cruise, and can remember vividly the ecstatic reviews the first one caused. Last year's was equally exciting, except for the crabs, which didn't quite measure up.

Have been assured that this year, there will be no slipups, and hopefully, the weather will cooperate—forecast is for sunny skies on that day. Further information, 945-4376.

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It's almost time for the Wolf Trap Jazz and Blues Festival, which kicks off Thursday, June 2 with **John Lee Hooker, Albert Collins and the Fabulous Thunderbirds.**

Friday, June 3, **Sonny Rollins and Harry Connick, Jr.**, Saturday, June 4, **Airto, Michel Camilo, Herbie Mann, Tito Puento and Flora Purim**. that is at a matinee which goes from 1 p.m.

Saturday evening, the **Dizzy Gillespie Super Band, with Airto, Monty Alexander, Paulto d'Rivera, Jon Faddis, Slide Hampton, James Moody, Flora Purim.**, also the Zawinul Syndicate.

Sunday, **The Neville Brother, Buckwheat Zydeco and Dr. John.** For further information,(703)255-1868.

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Sunday, June 5 at 3 p.m., **Morris Dow** and his jazz ensemble will be presented in concert at Gallery 409, 409 N. Charles St. Must confess, that we have been listening to Morris in various gigs around town, but didn't know much about his background.

According to the press release, the Philadelphia Inquirer called him one of the world's greatest exponents of the jazz harmonica. Had no idea that this was a part of his musical prowess.

He is originally from Philadelphia, but makes his home in Baltimore now, and headed up a band which toured Europe for two years while he was serving in the Air Force.

At any rate, Morris Dow and his group Eastern Sound, which was founded in 1974, will make this Gallery 409 appearance. Further information 396-3100.

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Must note the death of one of Baltimore's well-known musicians, Albert McKinney, who was buried Thursday. He was one of the founding members of the group Pockets, and extremely well-liked in the jazz community.

* * *

This weekend at the Maryland Inn's King of France Tavern, **Aleta Greene and the Stef Scaggiari Trio** will be performing. Both are well known in this area—Stef being a regular in the Monday night jam sessions at the tavern, and Aleta popping up on the club scene around town and in D.C.

Over at the Jazz Closet, **Gary Bartz** is in residence through Saturday night, with **Brenda Alford** holding down the Sunday slot, beginning at 6 p.m., and **Jenne Fisher** on Wednesday night.

Didn't make it over there as we had hoped last weekend, but word reaching me is that there is a new piano in the place, and the sound is simply magnificent.

Know that Bob Butta must be on cloud nine having a good instrument to play on—and my spies report that the entire group seemed to have new life. We'll have to check it out for ourselves.

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'South Pacific' evokes pleasant memories

Nostalgia is not exactly the right word to describe the current production of "South Pacific," now at the Lyric Theater through June 11, but the musical does evoke pleasant memories.

The music of the play is so familiar, that it is almost impossible to keep from singing along with the cast, but when Robert Goulet unleashes that magnificent voice in the Emile de Becque role—almost a reverent hush suffuses the audience.

And this is the key to the success of this production of the venerable, by theatrical standards, which opened on Broadway originally in 1949 and ran for 1,925 performances.

There is a line which says "comparisons are odious," but it is impossible not to remember the original cast of this classic musical, and whether you want to or not, you inwardly assess the performance against what you had heard previously.

Rebecca Andrew is cast as Ensign Nellie Forbush (the role made famous by Mary Martin) and she "washes that man right out of her hair" in the best tradition of the role.

Her portrayal is a bit more perky than we can remember seeing, but the voice quality does justice to the Rodgers and Hammerstein music and lyrics.

Was very impressed with Don Goodspead in the role of Lt. Cable. The possessor of a full-bodied tenor, his "Younger Than Springtime" was both evocative and soothing.

In our estimation, one of the weakest links in this production was the playing of Amy Jo Phillips in the role of Bloody Mary. Her acting was properly done, but the singing didn't quite measure up.

Pictured above, (center), Paul Keith, stars as "Luther Billis" and is surrounded by "The Seabees," in Roger and Hammerstein's "South Pacific." This musical classic stars Tony and Grammy Award-winner Robert Goulet as "Emile De Becque."

Realizing the difficulty of coming behind an extraordinary talent, Juanita Hall, for whom the role seemed to have been written, Ms. Phillips faced a formidable task. And, except for the singing — succeeded.

Won't go into the plot of the musical, since it has been around so long in many forms, stage, movies and books that it should be familiar. Sufficeth it to say, you will enjoy this current production.

It will be at the Lyric Theater until June 12, with matinees Wednesday, Saturdays and Sundays. Evening performances are Tuesday through Saturday.

Further information, 625-1400.

SOUNDS

By Carl Matthews

HERBIE HANCOCK
"Perfect Machine" (Columbia)

Joining Herbie Hancock on his latest state-of-the-art excursion are Sugarfoot, former Ohio Players vocalist, "Bootsy" Collins on bass, and of course turntable wizard DST and producer Bill Laswell.

Herbie, who recently won an Oscar and a Grammy for his "Round Midnight" score, recorded his first Blue Note album "Takin' Off" in the early 60's. The album included "Watermelon Man."

In the early 70's, Herbie recorded "Headhunters," which became the largest selling "jazz" album in the history of Columbia Records. "Headhunters" featured "Chameleon" (a popular single which was later covered by such artists as Maynard Ferguson) and a newer version of "Watermelon Man."

After such albums as "Manchild," "Thrust," and "Sunlight," Herbie hit the dance charts with his pop album "Feets Don't Fail Me Now," which included the single "Ready Or Not." He also did some memorable jazz work with the V.S.O.P. Quintet.

In 1983 Herbie came out with the "Future Shock" album. The video for the single "Rockit" won several awards.

So now Herbie has several years of "street" music experience behind him, and it shows. On the title track of his latest, the "perfect machines" are in full force, and you may have a hard time telling this track from something done by Kraftwerk ("Trans-Europe Express," "Numbers").

Herbie's current single, "Vibe Alive," is more hip than the stuff from "Future Shock" but Sugarfoot's electronically-enhanced vocals lack real "soul." This album version is an entirely different mix than that used on the 12-inch single. The album does not include the single's "scratching" and snatches of "Atomic Dog," "Bootzilla" and other songs.

GREGORY ABBOTT
"I'll Prove It To You" (Columbia)

Long live the new "groove ballad" king — announcing his second album on Columbia Records.

Gregory's first monster hit was the single "Shake You Down," which was featured in the album of the same name. The single was a number one smash in 1987, and has become the fastest song in the history of BMI (Broadcast Music Incorporated) to reach one million airplays.

Gregory has also recorded vocals for the album "Total Happiness: Music From The Bill Cosby Show Volume II."

If you loved his last album, you're sure to enjoy such gems as "Back To Stay," which brings back memories of Marvin Gaye, and "Prisoner Of Love," with its blues/rock feel. And of course, the title track, done in that trademark groove ballad style of "Shake You Down."

2 MEN, A DRUM MACHINE AND A TRUMPET
"Tired Of Getting Pushed Around" (I.R.S.)

The two men are David Steele and Andy Cox, two members of a group known as Fine Young Cannibals (FYC's new album is due out soon). Graeme Hamilton appears on trumpet.

The disco beat on this British 12-inch is hard-driving, but not as slick as, say, M/A/R/R/S's "Pump Up The Volume." A few more lessons from Herb Alpert and the horn might actually be good enough to sell a million records.

D.C. theatre runs two ethnic plays

Sanctuary Theatre presents Athol Fugard's stark landscape of South African apartheid, **Statement After an Arrest Under the Immorality Act** as part of a Trans-Africa Repertory duriung May and June.

It is in conjunction with Egyptian playwright Tewfik al-Hakim's surreal play, **The Tree Climber.**

South African poet-in-exile Mphela Makgoba will begin the evening of South African work by presenting selections from his work.

Statements will run Fridays and Sundays at 8:00 p.m. and Saturdays at 3:00 p.m. May 20-June 12, 1988. All performances will be at 1459 Columbia Road, N.W. with free parking available at the S.W. corner of 14th and Irving Streets, N.W.

Tickets are available at the door or Ticketplaces downtown. Students, senior, industry, and group discounts are available.

For reservations or more information, call 745-3666.

(Photo Credit: AMR MOUNIB)

From left to right, Lawrence Allen and Richard Brown are featured in the Sanctuary Theatre's production of The Tree Climber by Egyptian playwright Tewfik al-Hakim.

—Men of steel

(Continued from Page 3)

premiere.

" 'Tougher Than Leather' is a good album musically. We have hip hop, New Orleans style, jazz and of course, rap. We're showing our versatility. We are our own producers," said DMC.

"Tougher Than Leather" is a story of mystery, murder and revenge. The movie was produced and financed independently as a way of maintaining creative control just like the "Krush Groove" venture.

Jam "Master" Jay, the deejay of Run-DMC, says "Tougher Than Leather" is not Hollywood, it's Holliswood!" (Hollis, Queens is where the group members grew up within blocks of one another).

In reference to their distinctive attire and image—basic black with hats, glasses and chains, DMC stated, "The fans tell you the real deal. What we wear relates better with our audiences. I wake up and throw on my hat, clothes, and chains . . . it's me, not just an image. The chains are what the kids wear. It is like this, a chain is like putting on a tie."

Merchandising is the name of the game for the trio. They even wrote a song, "My Adidas" and started a whole new trend in sneaker wear.

They've become the first non-athletes to receive an endorsemen contract from Adidas Sportswear. It is an entire line including T-shirts, jackets, hats and sneakers at sports stores all over the country.

Run-DMC plans to produce more rap groups and welcomes the competition from other acts.

"We're on the lookout for new rappers all the time. We also welcome the competition from other acts - but we'll never give up our crowns," says DMC with a smile.

Run-DMC has definitely made it to the top and as Run said, "We've made it work not by softening up, but by being tougher than leather."

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