This Weekend

BALTIMORE, MD

The **Charm City Comedy Club** presents several comics this summer from all across the United States.

Direct from **Anita Baker's** National tour, **Rhonda Hansome** will tickle your funny bone on July 15 and 16.

For reservations and showtimes, call 301-576-8558 for more information.

The **Arena Players Playhouse, located at 801 McCulloh Street, features entertaining performances during the hot month of July.**

• **On July 15, 16, and 17, the Playhouse** presents **The Thunder Thigh Revue** featuring Kay Lawal and Joyce Scott. The Revue is a "warm, wacky, riotously, funny show featuring the Statue of Liberty, an amorous refrigerator and telephone sex . . ."

A portion of the proceeds benefits the Harambee Support Committee.

For showtime and ticket information, call 301-278-6500. P.S. The Playhouse is air conditioned!

* * *

The traditional summer festivals return to Baltimore once again.

Artscape is happening this weekend from the 15th-17th. Such artists as Ruth Brown, Hubert Laws and his Quintet, Ahmad Jamal, Moon August and Cleo Laine will perform throughout the weekend to provide summer filled days of fun and frolic.

For showtimes, dates and further information, call 301-396-4575.

Kay Lawal and Joyce Scott comprise the Thunder Thigh Revue appearing at the Arena Players Playhouse, July 15, 16, and 17.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Fort Dupont Park located at Minnesota Avenue and Randle Circle (S.E.) offers many free concerts this summer. The concerts are on Fridays and Saturdays and begin at 8:30 p.m. Call 202-426-7723.

• On July 15 and 16, **Teri Thornton, Archie Shepp,** and **Horace Parlan** appear.

Teri Thorton will also perform at **One Step Down**

Columbia

The **Merriweather Post Pavilion** has some soulful acts coming in July. This weekend, two acts perform.

Headlining the July 15, 1988 show will be **Lisa-Lisa and the Cult Jam.**

Opening the show for them will be the forceful group, **Full Force.**

For performance time and ticket information, call (301) 730-2424 in Baltimore, or call Teletron at 1-800-233-4050.

Coming Soon

COLUMBIA, MD

The **Merriweather Post Pavilion** has some soulful singers coming during the hot summer nights.

• On July 19th, the **Miami Sound Machine** performs.

For showtime information, call 301-730-2424 in Baltimore, or 1-800-233-4050.

* * *

WASHINGTON, D.C.

The **Warner Theatre** presents an evening of rap for hardcore fans.

• On July 24th, **Run-DMC, Public Enemy, Jazzy Jeff** and the **Fresh Prince, EPMD,** and the **DC Scorpions** perform.

For showtime and further information, call 1-800-4050.

* * *

Benson & Hedges Command Performance showcases the best in arts and entertainment and presents an outdoor extravaganza of world beat music for the summer debut of World Music Gallery at the Freedom Plaza.

Eight free outdoor concerts run July 11-14 and July 18-21 at 5:30 p.m.

All performances feature specially designed staging and lighting.

For further information call 1-800-752-9889.

BALTIMORE, MD

V-103 and the **AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers** present a special sneak preview concert for one night only.

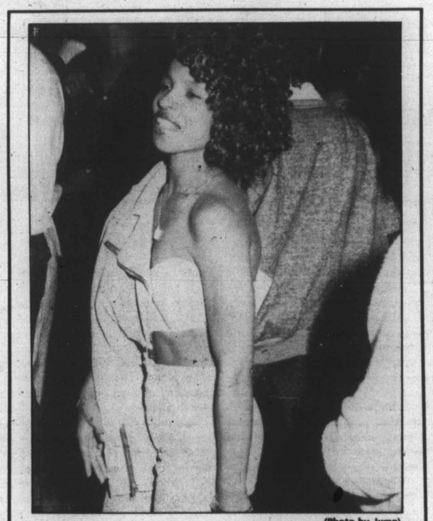
• On Saturday, July 30th at 8 p.m., **Jeffrey Osborne** will sing from his new album at **Shriver Hall** on the Johns Hopkins campus.

To get further information and tickets call either 301-347-1020 or 301-481-6000.

* * *

The WJZ-TV 13 Harborlights Music Festival at the Inner Harbor's **Pier Six Pavilion** is still swinging.

• Two great soulful legend groups, **The Temptations** and the **O'Jays** blow into town on July 23rd.



(Photo by Juma)

The young lady is enjoying the festivities at the PT Flaggs one-year celebration for V-103's Frank Ski. See the night club review on page 8.

Music Gallery debuts

WASHINGTON, DC — Benson & Hedges Command Performance, created in 1987 to showcase the best in arts and entertainment, has now assembled an outdoor extravaganza of "world beat music" for the summer debut of World Music Gallery at Freedom Plaza here.

Introducing leading musicians from around the world performing African-influenced contemporary music, Benson & Hedges Command Performance World Music Gallery will present eight free outdoor concerts July 11-14 and July 18-21, 1988, at 5:30 p.m.

The Washington dates are the first stop on a three-city tour to include performances at New Orleans' Washington Artillery Park, July 28-31, and Houston's Root Memorial Park, August 8-10.

All performances feature specially designed staging and lighting.

Arrow

Presenting both "roots" music and contemporary fusions of various African and Caribbean styles, tour headliners include leading musicians from around the world alongside the leading

(Continued on page 4)

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Thorton is the best kept secret in jazz!

By Sheryl Michelle Jeffries

A stunning, husky-voiced songbird, created a style all of her own.

She made three appearances in one month on Johnny Carson's "Tonight Show," and she was an invited guest to appear on the "Today Show" in a 2 hour special to Duke Ellington.

"Cannonball" Adderley called her "the greatest voice since Ella Fitzgerald," and Tony Bennett, said, "She's my favorite female vocalist...Teri sings with life, feeling, intensity, intelligence and taste . . a singer in years who doesn't have any gimmicks, any tricks . . . Instead, she's endowed with a perfect pitch, a three-octave range, solid training and years of invaluable experience."

She hit the charts in 1962 with her number one hit "Somewhere in the Night," (the theme song to the television show "Naked City"), only five years later to retire from public performances.

With all of that adulation and praise, one would wonder why anyone would want to give up a career after being established as a bona-fide artist, especially a jazz artist in the fickle field of show business.

But Teri's answer was a simple one, especially to her.

"I took the time off to raise my three children...In addition to raising them, I composed songs and achieved my "fame" from behind the scenes.

"I honed in on my craft the whole time. Music was always there...I didn't give it up.

"I really missed performing and knew when my children were older I would return to it.

The break could've buried me, but it didn't," said Thornton in an interview with the AFRO.

"Throaty Thrush," as she is called by her close friends, has recently made a comeback to show business. She is making appearances in major rooms in New York City, worked with the Glover Mitchell Band, recently completed a trip to Paris and will be performing in Washington, D.C. at Fort DuPont Park (located

(Continued on Page 5)

Classic Revue is on a roll

By Sterling S. Robinson

Baltimore's own Classic Revue has been on a roll since winning the regional finals of the Budweiser Showdown at the Palladium in March (see AFRO Friday Plus, March 25, 1988). They are scheduled to appear at Triples Nightclub on July 15 and 16 at 11 p.m. Triples is located at 3714 Branch Ave. in Hillcrest Heights, MD, (423-5991).

The seven-piece group features Sauda I. Olukayode (lead and background vocals), her husband Kashaka M. Olukayode (keyboards), their cousin Glenn Bydume (lead and background vocals), John Thornton (bass), Jamie Simpson (guitar), Gordon mack (drums) and Juan Woodard (percussion and vocals).

Everyone in the group composes original material. However, the principle writers are the husband and wife team of Kashaka and Sauda.

In fact, they penned the winning tune in the regional finals of the Showdown entitled "Don't Stop Knocking On That Door."

They have definitely come a long way since the early seventies when they were performing as the Kendells.

The group disbanded in 1975 and shortly afterwards Glen, Kashaka and Sauda began perfecting their studio recording technique. In 1983 they re-emerged as Classic Revue.

Regina Whitlock, their personal manager, recalls how fate brought them together. "I was sending groups out of town to Pennsylvania to work and one of them could not make a scheduled appearance at The Hilmir in Harrisburg.

"So a friend recommended that I send Classic Revue. At this point I had never seen them perform. But the club owner, Mr. Carl Simpson, said that the crowd really enjoyed them and requested a return engagement.

"Later on I had an opportunity to hear them at 32nd Street Plahza but they didn't know that I was there. We finally met at Pargo's one night and they asked me to represent them."

And since that time Ms. Whitlock has found the group to be "like a big family — down to earth, sincere and fun to be around." And yet they are a group that is serious about their music.

Kashaka explains, "Our logo is Classic Revue — more than just another band.'

"Our goal is to clear up the rap about bands not making it from the city. We believe we are the act that can make it on a national scale through our positive approach."

And this positive approach has been very beneficial during competition. Before winning the Budweiser Showdown, Sauda won the 1986 Randy Dennis Summer Best Fest and performed at the world famous Apollo theatre in NYC.

She was also the 1987 runner up in the WWIN Talent Showcase at Godfrey's. And just to keep it a family affair, cousin Glenn won the Coors Light Talent Showcase recently at the Warner Theatre in Washington, D.C.

Classic Revue seems to be on a serious roll with engagements at the Radisson Hotel and Casino in Atlantic City as well as Martins West, the Belvedere Hotel, Gentlemen 10 and the 20 Grande here in the city.

And even though they have already performed with the Manhattans, Softones and Joslyn Brown, they understand how important it is for them to keep reaching for the top.

"Kashaka admits, "We are very excited about our prospects for the future."

Whitlock agrees, "Hopefully the increased exposure will do a lot for them. They are stable kids and not into drugs of any kind.

"Their whole life is music and their goal is sincere and real . . . And that inspires me to work hard and do everything I can to help them succeed."

Photo Credit: John Murphy)

Classic Revue

Escape to Artscape this weekend

Once again, one of Baltimore's biggest summer festival spectaculars will be here over the weekend.

The weekend offers a myriad of events to suit everyone's need.

You don't need to know the difference between bluegrass and straight ahead jazz in order to enjoy the incredible lineup of performing artists that ARTSCAPE '88 offers this year.

It all begins on Friday, July 15 at 6:00 p.m., and the music doesn't stop until they bring the lights (and the house) down on Sunday night, July 17.

This annual celebration of the arts kicks off on Friday night with local jazz fusion group, **Moon August,** named best jazz band in the Maryland/Washington area by Maryland Musician Magazine from 1985 through 1987.

Vocalist **Ruth Brown,** recently immortalized as "Motor Mouth Mabel" in John Waters' Baltimore-based film "Hairspray," will take the stage Friday evening with her superb style of rhythm and blues.

Then lay back and relax to the sounds of jazz flutist **Hubert Laws and his Quintet.** But don't get too comfortable, 'cause the crowd pleasing, New Orleans style boogie woogie blues of **Fat Tuesday** will have you dancing in the streets!

Nationally known "singer of songs **Cleo Laine,** winner of the 1986 Grammy Award for Best Female Jazz Vocal Performance, will bring the evening to a perfect conclusion as she performs her special blend of jazz, pop, classical, and Broadway music together with equally talented composer-husband **John Dankworth and The John Dankworth Trio.**

On Saturday, July 16, ARTSCAPE '88 visitors will travel on a musical expedition of sounds from around the world.

The music starts with a calypso beat as the **Trinidad and Tobago Baltimore Steel Band** takes you down to the islands.

The more traditional and folk sounds of **Hellcon** bring festival goers back to their roots while **Gaynell and Company** will use computer and electronic drums to release your hidden Latin beat, as well as jazz and rhythm and blues.

Capture a view of the latest vaudeville from England with the zany theatrics of **The Wright Brothers** and on your way, make sure to stop by Africa through the music, costumes and movement of **"African Gifts"** featuring **Baltimore Dance Theatre, Olufunmilayo Jomo, Paisley**

(Continued on page 6)