This Weekend

NEW EDITION

"THIS IS WHOOPI GOLDBERG'S BEST WORK SINCE 'THE COLOR PURPLE'. HER TALENT AND ACTING SKILLS POUR FORTH."
—Richmond Shepard, WNEW-AM RADIO (N.Y.)

"Whoopi Goldberg gives a performance of such wisdom and tenderness that she reaches new heights as a dramatic actress of substance and strength...'Clara's Heart' has certainly captured mine."
—Rex Reed, AT THE MOVIES

"Whoopi Goldberg's best dramatic performance to date."
—Judith Crist

Whoopi Goldberg
Clara's Heart

WARNER BROS. Presents
An MTM ENTERTAINMENT Production
WHOOPI GOLDBERG "CLARA'S HEART"
MICHAEL ONTKEAN · KATHLEEN QUINLAN · SPALDING GRAY
BEVERLY TODD and introducing NEIL PATRICK HARRIS
Music by DAVE GRUSIN Executive Producer MARIANNE MOLONEY
Screenplay by MARK MEDOFF Based upon the novel by JOSEPH OLSHAN
Produced by MARTIN ELFAND Directed by ROBERT MULLIGAN

PG-13 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED

DOLBY STEREO

Starts Friday October 21st!

LOEWS 5-STAR CINEMAS — Reisterstown Rd. Plaza 358-8056
LOEWS GLEN BURNIE 7 — BWI Blvd. at Hillside Hwy. 761-5300
UA MOVIES GOLDEN RING — Golden Ring Mall 574-3333
UA MOVIES HARBOR PARK — 36 Market Place 837-3000
SENATOR — York Road at Belvedere 435-5330
WESTVIEW — 6029 Delle, Rte1, Phx 747-3000

BALTIMORE

WAR, the jazz-rock blues group most remembered from the late 70s will appear at Blues Alley, Baltimore, 1225 Cathedral St., on Thursday, October 20. For more information, call)301) 837-2288.

Morgan State University's homecoming extravaganza starring **Shirley Murdock and Howard Hewett** will take place on Saturday, October 22 at both 8 p.m. and 12 midnight in Murphy Auditorium. For tickets, call (301) 444-3120.

KUUMBA, the Baltimore-based female performance company, is currently at Howard's Restaurant, 1218 N. Charles St., on Thursdays during October, with their production of "A Storm is Coming," directed by Kay Lawal. For more information and performance times, call (301) 298-7970.

UMBC will present **"Ubu Rol"** at the UMBC theatre now through Saturday, October 22, and Tuesday, October 25 — Saturday, October 29. Absurd and scandalous, this loose parody of "Macbeth" has both humor and a message. For info, call (301) 455-2476.

Whoopi Goldberg's newest film **"Clara's Heart"** opens at area theatres on Friday, October 21 in both Baltimore and Washington, D.C. A new venue for Whoopi, she protrays a Jamaican housekeeper and guardian of her employer's troubled son. Pleasant and sensitive, the movie filmed in Baltimore is definitely worth seeing .

Saxophonist **Grover Washington, Jr.** will be appearing for one day only at Blues Alley, Baltimore. Call (301) 837-2288 for all details.

WHOOPI GOLDBERG

The hottest young group to hit the scene, **New Edition** will take control of the stage at the Baltimore Arena on Wednesday, October 26, at 7:30 p.m. For more info, (301) 347-2000.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

The **Fifth Dimension** is currently appearing at Anton's 1201 Club, 1201 Pennsylvania Ave.

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Coming Soon

BALTIMORE

Champion figure skater **Debi Thomas** is coming to Baltimore in the Benson & Hedges On Ice Show, October 30 at 7:30 p.m. at the Baltimore Arena on Baltimore and Howard Sts. for one performance only. For info, call (301) 347-2010.

Angela Bofill will come to Blues Alley, Baltimore, 1225 Cathedral St. for a four-day engagement from Thursday, October 27 through Sunday, October 30. For tickets and showtimes, call (301) 837-2288.

DEBI THOMAS

The Gospel Truth, a rousing gospel show starring Tramaine Hawkins, Johnny Brown, Herbert Rawlings and David Whitfield will play the Lyric Opera House from November 1-13. For ticket prices, call (301) 889-3911.

Sassy Sarah Vaughn will soon take her turn in Baltimore from November 15 through November 20 at Blues Alley, Baltimore. Call (301) 837-2288 for details.

Heard the **Temptations** and **The O'Jays) are scheduled to hit B'more on November 24 (Thanksgiving Day). Stay tuned for more info.**

RAMSEY LEWIS

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Ramsey Lewis will make a stop at Blues Alley in Georgetown, 1073 Wisconsin Ave., N.W., on Tuesday, October 25 through Sunday, October 30. For showtimes, call (202) 337-4141.

Lou Rawls will appear at Anton's Club, 1201 Pennsylvania Ave. from Wednesday, October 26 through Saturday, October 29. For more information, call (202) 783-1201.

Ladysmith Black Mambazo will perform on November 20 at 8 p.m. at the Warner Theatre, 13th and E Sts. For details and and ticket prices, call (202) 626-1050.

FREDDIE JACKSON

Freddie Jackson will bring his tour 88 through Constitution Hall on Friday, November 25, at 8 p.m. with special guest Loose Ends. To charge tickets by phone, Call 1 (800) 543-3041.

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ALL THAT JAZZ

By Bob Matthews

As promised, caught the opening night performance of the movie "Bird," last week to see for myself what the discussion is all about—and we must say it is a movie impossible to ignore.

Our task was to dwell on the music involved, leaving the dramatic critique to our colleague Penny Demps, but separating the two proves extremely difficult.

All dyed-in-the-wool bebop lovers will be ecstatic over the music in the film, what with the actual playing of Charlie Parker laid over a modern-day backing.

This technological feat of dropping out the original backing to Bird's solos is an unbelievable achievement. To the credit of Forest Whitaker, he matched perfectly his movements while simulating Bird.

It was obvious that he had really studied for this portrayal, and he had it down to the nth degree — simply beautiful to watch, as well as hear.

Other musicians backing up the solos were relegated to minor emphasis, except for the Dizzy Gillespie impersonation. Here too, the lip-synching was well done.

And, of course, we could recognize the sound of Jon Faddis playing the Dizzy parts. Outside of Dizzy and Red Rodney, none of the other musicians were identified.

To us, this was a glaring flaw. For example, when Parker is in Paris and is about ready to come back to the U.S., his musician companion urges him to stay—he doesn't, of course.

The point is, who was this musician with whom he gigged around Paris. There are many possibilities, as those familiar with parker's career know, but the movie gives no definitive word.

Take the scene where Charlie gets a chance to sit in with some of the top musicians of the day. They couldn't dig his innovations in the music, and it all came to a halt when the drummer sailed one of his cymbals to the floor.

The drummer is unidentified.

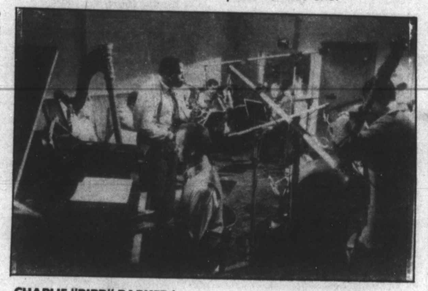
There were a lot of other tiny imperfections in the movie, for example it is inferred—though never said—that Chan Parker and Charlie were married.

They were not. In the documentary on Parker, Chan herself is filmed telling the questioner that she never was legally married to Charlie, and has been shut out of any benefits from his estate because of it.

There weren't too many laughs in the film, except for the Red Rodney sequences, but we got a big chuckle out of the nightclub scenes on 52nd Street in the 40s.

The movie had the audience practically all black, which just wasn't the case in N.Y. during that period of history. Harlem was thriving then, and blacks didn't go downtown that much.

Found it interesting too the little sequence outside the club Birdland, which was faithful to the original. An added touch of authenticity was the midget doorman, playing the role of Pee Wee Marquand, who was the perennial emcee at the club.



CHARLIE "BIRD" PARKER in a rare recording session taken from a scene in "Bird."

As a jazz music purist, we thoroughly enjoyed the music in the film. Most of it was familiar—in fact, we could sing along with most of the riffs.

But found myself almost in the same dilemma we experience with Billie Holliday's lifestory. Musically we love her—but as a person, we feel pity.

The same holds true for Charlie Parker, and this movie "Bird," simply points up an innate weakness in a musical genius.

Go see it—you'll have to make your own decision.

* * *

Be advised, **Sarah Vaughan** will not be at Blues Alley this weekend, although earlier program listings had her scheduled. Haven't been able to find out yet what caused the change, but change it has.

On tap at Blues Alley Baltimore through Sunday night, is **War** a group known for an eclectic mix of music, including bossa nova, jazz, and other ingredients.

Blues Alley Washington is featuring **Angela Bofill** through Sunday night, and on Monday's one-nighter they have guitarist **Henry Johnson.**

At the Baltimore club, **Tony Williams** and his group will be performing, and this is one which shouldn't be missed. Tony is one of the premiere drummers extant, and his current group, with which he has been recording, is a real smoker.

* * *

The Left Bank Jazz Society presents in concert this Sunday, October 23, the **Shirley Scott** Quartet. Shirley will be playing piano for this one.

With her are **Benny Nelson,** bass; Mickey Roker, drums, and **Bootsie Barnes,** tenor sax. All of these musicians (most from Philadelphia) are familiar to Baltimore audiences—they've played here many times.

This session will be a doubleheader, with the **Malachi Thompson Freebop Band** as the second attraction. In the group are Malachi on trumpet; **Carter Jefferson,** tenor; **Nasar Abadey,** drums and **James King,** bass.

Session will be held in the Tawes Center Ballroom of Coppin State College, 2500 W. North Ave., and goes from 5-9 p.m.

The usual LBJS accoutrement is in effect—BYOB, and setups available. Should note, there is a slight increase in price—but that is to be expected in this day and age.

* * *

Over at the One Step Down, the **Herb Ellis Trio** will be performing Friday and Saturday nights . . . The Resident Associates Program of the Smithsonian is presenting the **Igor Brill Quartet** Friday, Oct. 21 at 7:30 p.m.

This is a group of Russian jazz musicians, making their U.S. debut. Before you sneer and say what do the Russians know about jazz, let me remind you of **Valery Ponomarev** who played with **Art Blakey** for a couple of years.

He was such a student of **Clifford Brown** that it was often difficult to tell the sounds apart. Don't think this upcoming group is in that genre, but they could be.

At any rate, the concert is in the Baird Auditorium of the National History Building. More information (202) 357-3030.

* * *

The Central Pennsylvania Friends of Jazz will be holding its November concert Sunday, November 13 at the Harrisburg Sheraton East.

Featured will be the **Charlie Haden Quartet,** with **Allen Broadbent,** piano; **Ernie Watts,** reeds, and **Lawrence Marable,** drums.

Concert goes on from 5 to 9 p.m., and haven't got the word as yet whether a high school big band will precede the concert. Will let you know in time.

'Bird' - MEMORABLE, MUSICAL, AND LONG

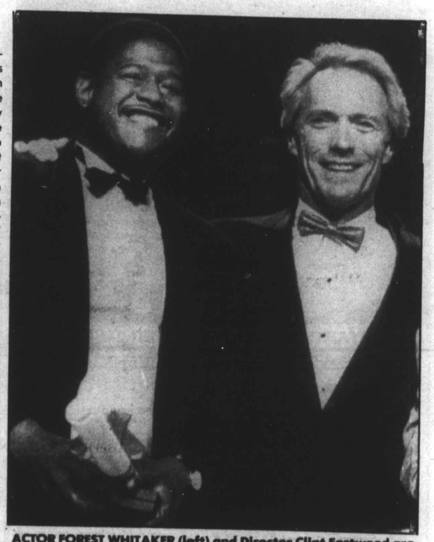
By Penny S. Demps
Friday Plus Editor

Last week I had the opportunity to screen Clint Eastwood's newest film project, "Bird," an 'artsy' movie concentrated on the roller-coaster life of legendary musician Charlie Parker. Before viewing the film, I had no background information on just what type of man Parker was, or why he was considered to be an inspiration to many musicians, in fact, I didn't even know how he received the nickname "Bird." After the two-and-a-half hour movie ended, I still didn't have the answers.

Forest Whitaker plays Charlie "Bird" Parker with a true sense of compassion but at times, he seems to be unsure of himself and his characterization. Perhaps this awkwardness is the result of the movie's slow pace and uneven timing.

I have enjoyed Whitaker's portrayal of other characters in past movies, so therefore I trust the problem didn't lie with his ability but rather with his direction. I also realize that portraying a real-life figure is one of the hardest challenges for any actor, let alone a real-life character that

(Continued on Page 7)



ACTOR FOREST WHITAKER (left) and Director Clint Eastwood are shown at the 41st Cannes Film Festival during which Whitaker won Best Actor Award for his role in Eastwood's movie "Bird."