This Week

Third World

Baltimore

Popular reggae group **Third World** and The Wailers will perform at the Baltimore Fishmarket on Tuesday, April 11. Call 576-2222 for more information.

"Steel Magnolias" runs at the **Morris Mechanic** Theatre thru Sunday, April 30. The engagement stars **Barbara Rush** and **June Lockhart.** Call 625-1400 for more information.

The **Walters Art Gallery** is hosting two workshops in conjunction with the exhibit "African Body Art" Selections from Regional Collections" on Saturday, April 8. The first is "Jewels of the Nile," a parent-child workshop beginning at 10 a.m. and the second, starting at 1:30 p.m. is a Jewelry workshop for adults. Call 549-9000 ext. 236 for more details.

Jazz vocalist **Jackie Jones,** will perform at Club Eubie's in the **Baltimore Fishmarket** April 11 thru 16. Call 385-4949 for further information.

The opera **"The Coronation of Poppea"** will be performed at UMBC's Fine Arts Recital Hall on April 9-11. Call 455-2942 for more Information.

The women of **Kuumba** presenting a special adaptation of "Time Trek" at **Howard's Restaurant,** 1218 N. Charles St. every Friday thru April 21. Showtime is 8 p.m. and tickets are $6 in advance and $7.50 at the door. Call 298-7970 for further information.

The award-winning musical **"Dreamgirls"** will be performed at the Harborlights Dinner Theatre thru June 4 on Thursdays and Sundays. Call 522-4126 for more information.

The **Carver High School Alumni** is hosting its annual dinner dance on Friday, April 7 beginning at 10 p.m. at Martin's West. Tickets are $30 per person. For more information call Ms. Pearl Brooks at 655-5031.

The **Baltimore School for the Arts** is presenting an exhibit beginning Friday, April 7. Admission is free. Call 396-1185 for further information.

TONIGHT AT 7:30

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Coming Soon

Baltimore

The **Arena Players** will present the Jeff Stetson drama "The Meeting" Friday, April 14 thru May 7, running weekends only. Curtain is 8:30 p.m. Fridays and 7:30 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

James Lawrence will exhibit his artworks at the playhouse during the performance. Lawrence, who just returned from Baltimore after teaching, painting and drawing at the California College of Art, is currently teaching at the Maryland Institute of Art. Call 728-6500 for more information about "The Meeting" and 488-3495 to reach James Lawrence.

Gallery Talk in "The Play Life of a City" will be held on April 15 at the **Peale Museum.** Admission is free but reservations are encouraged. Call 396-3523 for more details.

Sunday, April 16 is the date for the New York Apple Style Awards show 1989 to be held at the Holiday Inn Downtown. Admission is $10 in advance and $12 at the door. This will be an amateur night talent search. Call Sheila at 467-6619 for more information.

The **Baltimore School for the Arts** is presenting the new stage adaptation of "A Wrinkle in Time" as part of their annual festival of performances and exhibitions April 14-16 at the School. Call 396-1185 for further details.

The **Morgan State University Dance Ensemble** will present its annual spring concert on Saturday and Sunday, April 22 and 23 in the Little Theatre on the campus. Call 444-3463, 3210 or 3022 for more information.

The **First Mid-Atlantic Guitar Festival** will be held at the College of Notre Dame on April 28 and 29. There will also be a benefit gala on opening night. Call 337-3683 in Baltimore and 474-9381 in D.C.

"White Girl" a film by **Tony Brown** will be held to raise funds for Morgan State University's Substance Abuse Center on Thursday, April 27 at Morgan's Murphy Auditorium. Call 435-4621, 551-7660 or 444-3144 for further information.

The preview party for the **1989 Symphony Decorator Show House** will be held on Saturday, April 22 beginning at 7 p.m. at the Show House, Oak Hill in Ruxton, Maryland. Call 252-2434 for additional information.

Baritone **William Ray** will perform with the Hopkins Symphony Orchestra on Sunday, April 30 at 2 p.m. in Shriver Hall. Call 338-6332 for more information.

William Ray

Diana and the Ravenetts is hosting a reunion featuring **Chuck Jackson** on Sunday, April 22 at the Pikesville Armory.

Washington, D.C.

The **Living Stage Theatre Company** is hosting a benefit featuring special guest **Olympia Dukakis** with music by **Julia and Company** on Monday, April 17 beginning at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are $50 with food catered by Occasions. Call 554-9066 for more details.

The **National Museum of African Art** has scheduled a full series of free concerts and films in conjunction with a special exhibition of sculpture, "Sounding Forms: African Musical Instruments" on view at the Smithsonian Museum from April 26 thru June 18. Call 357-2700 fro a full list of events and further information.

The 1989 Campbell Soup **Tour of World Figure Skating Champions** will be held at the **Capitol Center** on Saturday, May 20 at 8 p.m. and the **Baltimore Arena** on Friday, May 19 at 8 p.m. Call 301-499-6300 for more information.

"Gold of Africa: Jewelry and Ornaments from Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali and Senegal" will be on display at the Smithsonian's **National Museum of African Art.** Call 202-357-2700 for further details.

The **National Museum of American History** will host an exhibit **"Duke Ellington, American Musician"** running indefinitely. Call 202-357-2700 for further information.

Folk music star **Odetta** will appear at The Barns of Wolf Trap on Thursday, April 6 at 8 p.m. Call 703-255-1916 for more details.

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Jonathan Butler: From teen idol to grown-up star

Jonathan Butler does it all. He writes (with partner Jolyon Skinner) crunchy, chewy, melt-in-your-mouth black pop — Al Jarreau, George Benson and Billy Ocean are among the recipients of his songs. He plays fluid jazz guitar, and he sings with a melting sensitivity.

1986's "Introducing Jonathan Butler" on Jive Records, which showcased playing that was from a purely spiritual and emotional state, was an astonishing debut. It won him worldwide acclaim and became a Top 10 jazz record.

Last year's double album, "Jonathan Butler," was even more satisfying. Its hit "Lies" was nominated for a Grammy in the Best R&B single category, and "Going Home" was nominated for the Best Instrumental Performance category. The LP went gold.

Jonathan Butler, along with Najee and Angela Bofill, will perform Friday, April 7 at the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall.

"More Than Friends," Butler's new one, affirms the fact that he is an artist who's always growing — hip hop is evident in his sound for the first time. It's mostly about affairs of the heart — complex emotional statements.

Angela Bofill

"Breaking Away," however, is a richly-contoured, mid-tempo thing any member of the worked-out, done-in masses can relate to. "Sekona" and "Take Me Home" are airy, compelling instrumentals.

On the first single, "There's One Born Every Minute," there are soft minor key synth chords and gently plucking guitars in sweet contrast to hard, funky beats. A loverboy's in it to win but his girlfriend's fronting. His conclusion: love is for suckers. "True Love Never Fails" offers a less cynical view of romantic attachment. In a gospel-ly duet with Vanessa Bell Armstrong, Butler's voice sails to heights of glory as it testifies to the power of love.

Other highlights of the LP include a cheating song (the title track), and "She's Hot (Burning Up)," produced by Teddy Riley, founder and leader of the group Guy.

Jonathan Butler was born in South Africa, the youngest of seventeen brothers and sisters, and has been a professional performer since the age of eight.

As a child, he got the opportunity to join a traveling show as a vocalist and guitar player, and spent most of his young years on the road, living in tents and going in a caravan from city to city. The troupe would arrive in a town and hold a parade to announce that they were giving a show, and in the evening they'd perform.

At the age of 13, Jonathan began a recording career as a solo artist, recording songs from overseas, such as the oldies "Please Stay" by The Drifters, "I'll Be Home" by The Flamingos, and "I Love How You Love Me" by The Paris Sisters.

He had already been well known when he made his first record, but these hits made him a pop phenomenon in Africa, a teen idol comparable to the young Michael Jackson.

Thousands of fans would turn up at his live shows, and if he didn't keep a safe distance away — often singing from rooftops — he'd come home bruised from the overzealous displays of affection.

What was particularly unusual about Butler's fame was the fact that a large percentage of his audience was white; he was the only African artist to get airplay on all seven major African radio stations.

Jonathan Butler

Jonathan had always sung and played a westernized form of music; he was exposed to jazz as a child, and Stevie Wonder was his greatest inspiration. From the time he began making records, he searched for his own sound, investigating numerous musical styles.

After his experience as a teenybopper sensation, he formed a band that played an African form of jazz-rock fusion music. Then he performed with the respected Capetown jazz-rock band Pacific Express, with whom he recorded an LP entitled "Expressions."

(Photo by Ricardo Grey)

Najee

THE NIGHT LIFE

By Bonnie Matthews Butler
Entertainment Editor

Some of our friendly lady drink dispensers have been inquiring about the popular annual contest to find the city's best dispensers. The good news is that the Miss Night Life contest, a special project of the Urban Service Agency for the past 7 or 8 years — is alive and well.

Wonder why you don't know about it? The name has been changed: "Those always in the know, "tell me that the Miss Nite Life image was thought to be a bit too earthy for certain officials.

Don't quote me on the reason, but my sources say that it was a part of the recent shake-up at the Agency.

Your contest now goes under the banner of the Charm City Contest and Ball, and this year's crowning will be held on Sunday, August 20 at Martin's.

First reports were that the project, managed so successfully since its inception by **Vernon Wolst** — the daddy of Project Survival — was being taken out of his hands.

According to my sources, Wolst is still in the driver's seat — new name and all — and he's looking forward to this year's contest being the biggest and the best.

The bad news is — only five clubs have signed up so far.

Therefore, for those of you who have participated in the past, now's the time to call Vernon and sign up. It's for a good cause.

OTHER NIGHT LIFE HAPPENINGS: Our good friend **Charlie Brown** is out of the hospital and will be honored on Thursday, April 13 at a birthday party to be held at one of his favorite spots, The Sphinx Club on Pennsylvania Ave. beginning at 8 p.m. and featuring live entertainment. Admission is free so "come on down" and you'll be in the "in crowd" plus you'll have a chance to give your birthday greetings to this man about town.

* * *

Over on the east side at **Ronnie Strickland's Bird Cage, "Pan Handle Pam"** will be celebrating his birthday on Saturday, April 15 starting at 8 p.m.

Darlene Coulter is celebrating her birthday at the Frederick Bar and Lounge on Sunday, April 9 from 8 p.m. until 2 a.m. The club is located at 4004 Frederick Ave.

Curley's Harbor City Hall is hosting a grand opening on Saturday, April 15 beginning at 2 p.m. At 10 p.m., there will be a live show featuring The **Fabulous Friends, Air Water Band** and disco by **Jimmy** and his mixing machine. Admission to the show is $4 and food will be on sale. Call 727-5503 for more information.

The Sportsmen's Lounge on Gwynn Oak Ave. continues to have a week of fun at the popular night spot. Sunday's at 8 p.m. until 1 a.m., **Wild Bill** #1 spins oldies but goodies; Monday's beginning at 7 p.m. is the All-Star Progressive Jazz Jam featuring **Mickey Fields** and **Claude Ligon** with special guest artists and musicians sitting in plus free food; Thursday's it's **Vernon Wolst** and the **Big Blues Band** and on Friday's and Saturday's it's The **Dave Ross Trio** featuring **Tracey Curbean.** All of this live entertainment and no admission charge (You can't beat that with a stick!!).

The Lorman House on N. Fulton Ave. features **Mickey Fields** and Friends, along with **Ching Wong** and **Butchie** every Tuesday starting at 8 p.m. until midnight. Every Thursday **John Miller** hosts the Luncheon Train with jazz music playing (and not on the juke box).

(Continued on Page 9)