

ENTERTAINMENT OF OUR TIMES

BY JOHN MYERS

THE MOVIE SCREEN

OPERA/SOUTH TO PRESENT

BENJAMIN MATTHEWS
Benjamin Matthews, rising bass star of opera, concert and the recital stage, has been signed by OPERA/SOUTH for Timur in its May production of Puccini's "Turandot" in Jackson, Miss.

Guest artist these past two seasons with the Philadelphia Grand Opera, he has also sung with the St. Paul Opera, the Apollo Opera of Chicago, Goldovsky's Opera Theatre and with Opera Classics of New Jersey. He appeared in "Così fan tutti" as Alfonso, in "Simon Boccanegra" as Fiesco, in "Aida" as Ramfis and in "Carmen," "Manon Lescaut" and in Robert Ward's "Crucible."

Two European concert tours gave him recognition as a recitalist and his concert, opera and oratorio appearances in this country have won him praise from public and critics for his excellent vocal qualities, fine musicianship and exceptional coloratura.

Matthews' concert repertoire ranges from Bach and Beethoven to Schubert and Brahms, and includes a wide selection of folk songs and spirituals.

"Turandot," Puccini's last opera and considered by many his masterpiece, is set in Peking in legendary times. Timur is the deposed king of tartary whose son is a suitor of the beautiful and cruel princess for whom the opera is named. OPERA/SOUTH's production will be the first in Mississippi.

OPERA/SOUTH, which is based in Jackson, began production last May under the sponsorship of three black colleges in and near the Mississippi capital, Jackson State, Utica Juniot and Tougaloo College. Its premiere production, Verdi's "Aida" won praise from local and national critics.

The National Opera Institute awarded the new company a grant last month to help cover production costs of "Turandot."

Already announced for the production are Emma Goldman who will co-star as Liu, Timur's servant, and designer-director Donald Door. Miss Goldman sang the title role in last spring's "Aida" and Door designed and staged it.

CHANNEL FOUR PRESENTS BLACK/WHITE UPTIGHT

"Black & White: Uptight", an Avant! Films production narrated by Robert Culp will be shown on WUNC-TV 4 Sunday Feb. 13 at 7 p.m. The Relations Week in Durham scheduled for Feb. 13-20.

"Black & White: Uptight" is a strong film. Its message, deliverance, and assault on the viewers feelings do not let up from its opening lines of "Don't play with that nigger" through the reverse attitudes of "I wouldn't walk from here to there to save the life of any honkey I know," to its ending of "What can I do."

The film covers the broadest spectrum of feelings both of radicals and moderates of any film of its kind I have ever seen. I found myself shocked at some of the dialogue and realized I felt as such simply because it was the same views I had heard on street corners all over America. This film does not come across softly or obligingly. It comes across fiercely, strongly, and insultingly. It is a film to be seen by all. I heartily endorse this film for everyone from the meekest 'Uncle Tom' to the wildest Bobby Seale. Everyone who has ever asked why will come to a better understanding of "Black & White: Uptight". It can not totally answer the question of racism, but it can and does give every viewer a logical explanation of man's

pitiful attitudes and feelings.

- Questions for discussion:
1. How did the film affect you? How did it make you feel? (Angry, ashamed, hopeful, frustrated, depressed, fearful, determined to make some changes?)
 2. What specific parts did you react to? Why?
 3. Did you learn anything new? About yourself? About others?
 4. How did you rate on "The checklist of hidden prejudices? Did you recognize any of them as your own?"
 5. Do you feel that the film increases polarization? How?

THREE DOG NIGHT

Three Dog Night, the country's foremost rock group, has been signed to sing the title song for Columbia Pictures' "X Y & Zee," which stars Elizabeth Taylor, Michael Caine and Susannah York. The song, "Going In Circles," written by Ted Meyers and Janananda, will be performed over the main and end titles of the film. It marks the first time Three Dog Night have recorded for a motion picture.

"X Y & Zee," a Kastner-Ladd-Kanter production, was produced by Jay Kanter and Alan Ladd, Jr. with Elliott Kastner as executive producer. Brian Hutton directed the film from Edna O'Brien's screenplay.

"X Y & Zee" began its World Premiere engagement Wednesday (26) at the Loews State 2 and Orpheum Theatres in New York.

THE LAST PICTURE SHOW

Success of "The Last Picture Show," the BBS Production for Columbia Pictures, has led to nationwide distribution of two long-playing record albums carrying music from its soundtrack.

MGM Records is distributing the music performed by Hank Williams and heard throughout the film. Columbia Records has prepared album featuring the music of Pee Wee King, Tony Bennett, Eddie Fisher, Johnny Ray, Frankie Lane and others. "The Last Picture Show" is set in the early 50's, and the work of these performers is importantly heard.

Recipient of three New

THE FRENCH CONNECTION AT CENTER II

The French Connection (R)
Gene Hackman-Fernando Rey-Roy Scheider

The French Connection is one of the best cop flicks since "Bullet". The difference is, it is true. Popeye Doyle, played by Gene Hackman, is tough. He gives the appearance of what one would feel a New York cop to really be like. He is not smoothie and sophisticated. He is tough, belligerent, and just plain mean. He has his own ways of doing things and he does them without consent, when called for.

The picture revolved around a heroin smuggling plot which ends with the villain getting away from prosecution. Another point of the movie, criminals do not always pay for their crimes.

The chase scene in "The French Connection" is almost unbelievable "Bullet" would have been proud. Popeye Doyle was. The movie is packed with action, humor and drama. The characters are not stereotyped. The bad guys do not always get caught and punished; the cops are not good men working for their country; and justice does not prevail. It is basically a good flick with a message: Crime may pay, but be careful. BURT REYNOLDS TO STAR IN "SHAMUS" HOLLYWOOD — Burt Reynolds has been signed by producer Robert M. Weitman to star in "Shamus," an original story about a hardhitting private eye, for Columbia Pictures.

Reynolds will play the title role in the film which is set in New York during the late 1940's. The actor recently completed "Fuzz" and the soon-to-be released "Deliberance." Reynolds also starred in two television series "Hawk" and "Dan August."

"Shamus," which will be directed by Buzz Kulik from a screenplay by Sam Pessin, is Weitman's second project for Columbia, following his highly-successful "The Anderson Tapes." Filming is scheduled to begin on location in New York this spring.

York Film Critics awards, "The Last Picture Show" was directed by Peter Bogdanovich and stars Timothy Bottoms, Jeff Bridges, Ellen Burstyn, Ben Johnson and Cloris Leachman, introduces Cybill She-



ISAAC HAYES TAPPED FOR 8 GRAMMIES

NEW YORK — Soul singer Isaac Hayes has been nominated for eight Grammy awards, the most for any one artist in the annual awards for the previous year's best recordings.

Songwriter-singer Carole King and the Carpenters, featuring Karen Carpenter singing her brother's arrangements, received four Grammy nominations each.

Grammys — statuettes shaped like old-fashioned gramophones — will be awarded on live television March 14 by the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences.

University And College Dramatic Arts

HARVEY PATTERSON TO DIRECT PLAY AT NCCU

Harvey L. Patterson, a dramatic arts student at North Carolina Central University, will direct the NCCU Dramatic Arts Department production of "The Owl and the Pussycat," to be performed February 15, 16, and 17 in NCCU's B. N. Duke Auditorium.

Patterson, son of Mrs. W. J. Patterson of Cherryville, is taking charge of the production as part of his honors program in dramatic art. He has extensive experience in theatrical work, having taken part in every production at C. C. Central since he entered school.

As an exchange student at the University of Wisconsin in 1970, Patterson studied television production. He is currently a regular member of the cast of "Black Unlimited," broadcast by WTVD in Durham each Saturday evening.

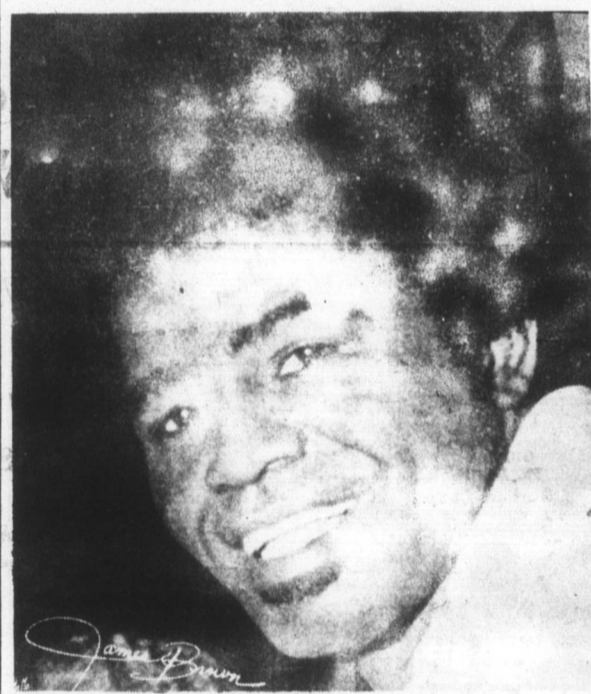
pherd. Bogdanovich and Larry McMurtry wrote the screenplay based on McMurtry's novel. Stephen J. Friedman produced "The Last Picture Show," with Bert Schneider as executive producer.

On Its Way.

Verta Mae Grosvenor, whose "Vibration Cooking" has put her among the most popular Black authors, reads from her new Doubleday book "Thursdays and Every Other Sunday Off," which she

calls "a domestic rap."

Alice Childress' "Boys and Girls" touches on a similar theme as a woman domestic asserts her signity and rebels against being called "girl" by a patronizing employer.



THE CREATOR OF BLUES/SOUL: JAMES BROWN

James Brown, the master of raw soul, will be presented in concert with his J. B.'s Blues Band on Friday Feb. 18 at Times Square Banquet Hall. Brown, virtually a "living legend" in the music business, first introduced SOUL music to the masses in 1956 with "Please, Please, Please," his first gold record and now practically the national anthem of blues/soul. Brown's string of hit records includes almost forty titles such as "Papa's Got A Brand New Bag", "Try Me", "Out of Sight", "I Feel Good", "It's A Man's World", "Cold Sweat", "Maybe The

Last Time", "Lost Someone", "Think", "Night Train", "There Was A Time", "If I Rules the World", "Popcorn", "Sex Machine", "Super Bad", "Soul Power", "Hot Pants" and more recently the unprecedented achievement of two top ten hits at the same time — "Make It Funky" and "I'm A Greedy Man." Music journals throughout the world recognize Brown as the most important creator in Soul music. He is without a doubt the most copied artist of this musical era, his influence felt among artists of all types and races.

THE BOOK COVER

By JOHN D. MYERS

The Producer
Christopher Davis
321 pgs.
Harper & Row Pub.
Price \$8.95

"The Producer" covers a year and a half in the life of Hillard Elkins, the producer of "Oh! Calcutta!" as one might imagine, the life of Elkins is hectic and at times, ungoverned. The writer captures as much of this seemingly unorganized life style as possible, therefore, his writing is, at times, hectic, and seemingly unorganized. The reader has trouble, in spots, keeping up with the dialogue and characters.

Davis has given an appropriate picture of a busy man involved with building an empire in the theater. The book cover "Oh! Calcutta!" and "The Rothschilds;" their actors, directors, mechanics, and failures and successes. Davis leads his readers through restaurants, theaters, cities, and dressing rooms in search of the plot for his book. The Producer is intensely interesting reading, if for nothing else, an excellent character study. Davis has given the literary scene a view of power, struggle, and success. He has done it in a unique way, allowing the reader to loose and find himself in the pages of a thoroughly involved manuscript. He has succeeded in bringing a piece of glamor and excitement to the home of every reader who dreams of being famous. He has done it well.

BREAKLIGHT: THE POETRY OF THE CARIBBEAN
My heritage is of the night of dry-thatched cottages, of painted faces, and of drums.

My memory shows dry mountain tops green fields and trees that never grey or die

So I stand misunderstood, hated for the thickness of my lips and my memories of drums.

Andrew Salkey introduces the reader to a fresh haunting modern poetry: the poetry of the Caribbean. In this most comprehensive survey of post-way Caribbean poetry, Andrew Salkey combines the poetry of Cuba, Jamaica, Trinidad, St. Vincent, Barbados and other islands to form a unique perspective on these new Caribbean states. The quality is high, the verse uniquely rich with the live of life and of nature.

Contributors include Dennis Scott, Derek Walcott, Arthur Raymond, Marina Maxwell, Edward Braithwaite, Sebastian Clarke, Martin Carter, Tony McNeill, and Jan Carew among others. The introduction by Andrew Salkey is a perceptive essay on the literature and literati of the often socially fragmented Caribbean.

"Breaklight: The Poetry of the Caribbean" (Doubleday, February 18, 1972) serves as a companion volume to "The Poetry of the Negro", thus completing the anthology by including the Caribbean states.

Andrew Salkey is a Jamaican novelist, children's writer and radio journalist. He lives in London.

PERSUASION?

From the earliest times, men have been trying to get others to work harder. Egyptians cracked the whip to make sure slaves finished pyramids for the Pharaohs on time. They even buried slaves in the tombs to serve in the afterworld. (That's really working overtime!) More than 3,000 years later, the Industrial Revolution failed to end the sweat shop syndrome. American Oil Company reports it took the labor unions and industrial psychology to change things. But in one job, there's no room for clock watchers: pollution control needs everyone's help. It's time we all got the lead out and did something about pollution. One way the experts at AMOCO say you can help is by keeping your car perfectly tuned. An untuned engine is a major cause of air pollution.

JAMES BROWN SHOW

Featuring--

BOBBY BYRD LYN COLLINS

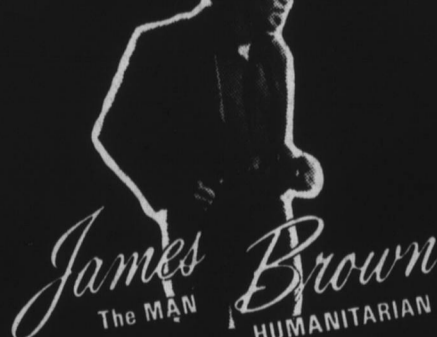
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