

# Hard Times jazz

by Dave Robinson  
DTH Contributor

What better way to console oneself in these times of recession than by catching a performance of the Hard Times Jazz Band (HTJB). This young group from Raleigh turns back the clock with an anachronistic repertoire as diverse as the musicians themselves. "Any tune as long as it's old" seems to be the philosophy behind the band's amalgam of yesterday's jazz chestnuts, pop tunes, blues and swing.

Easily the area's most unusual musical group, the HTJB has been attracting quite a following. With its single horn player and emphasis on vocals, the name is perhaps misleading; yet there is enough improvisation to keep us "moldy figs" (traditional jazz buffs) coming back.

A recent performance at Cat's Cradle saw more than one balding head in attendance, as well as a devoted student following. One rarely sees the over-30 set invading a traditional student watering hole — but where else can our swing-hungry citizens hear such golden oldies as "It Don't Mean a Thing If It Ain't Got That Swing," "Bie Mir Bist due Schoen," "Heartaches," "Willie the Weeper" and "Old Black Magic"?

By the third set, a few brave souls were wildly attempting to Charleston on a postage stamp. At evening's end the band happily complied with encore demands, offering several songs (including a sing-along version of "When You're Smiling").

By drawing its repertoire from the past, the group hopes to start a trend for the future. The resulting sound is a mixture of styles and eras. Each member is unique in appearance and personal style as well, further contributing to the band's overall diversity.

Charles Norkus — wearing Great Gatsby attire and a huge grin — plays drums in the old two-beat tradition, very effectively backing the melodic lines. This represents a major transition for the tall, clean-cut Norkus, who was formerly into hard rock. Occasional solo spots give him a chance to



erupt on his own.

Tom Bryan's ambulatory electric bass patterns form more of a perpetual solo than mere backup, thus adding strength to an often-neglected component of jazz-band rhythm sections. His long, blond hair and large, black glasses are permanent fixtures, but his beatnik attire for one performance is likely to change to tails and tennis shoes for the next. Gliding across the stage with every note, this Rapunzel-like gentleman proves to be quite a virtuoso — and he plays ukulele to boot.

Classically-trained pianist Ken Moore — frantically trying to keep up with the score sheets before him — seems a bit new to the art of improvising jazz. Still, his keyboard clan and mousy appearance win the audience, and his jittery runs and tremolos inspire scenes of little Nell yelling "Help! Help!" as the train approaches. His off-key vocal renditions display a good, gutsy, growing barrel-house style as well as some crooning a la Rudy Vallee.

The group's only horn player is soprano and tenor saxophonist Lou Sawyer, whose parents once led a big band. Surprisingly enough to those who hear the HTJB for the first time, Lou is a woman. She grew up with this type of music and said Ben Webster and Johnny Hodges are her idols. Sawyer does a commendable job of playing in the traditional idiom and garners a large share of audience enthusiasm.

The "darling" of the group is the talented Beetle Barbour. Dressed in pink pastel, with rosy cheeks and flower-bedecked hair, she effectively recalls the female vocalists of yesteryear. Like Lou, she grew up listening to her parents' records, singing along with the vocalists. Easily holding a candle to the old "torch singers" as well as the blues, swing and jazz vocalists, Barbour commands enough respect from the crowd to instill a spontaneous hush during a quiet and scarcely-backed verse of "The Man I Love." Perhaps this group's greatest asset is its enthusiasm. The band members obviously have as great a time as the audience. Comic instructions, interjected one-liners and a good deal of clowning abound. Mistakes are shrugged off with a smile.

The Hard Times Jazz Band was formed by bassist Bryan, who explains that it grew out of a ragtime ensemble. "Nobody really got together with the idea of forming this type of band; it sort of evolved that way."

The group has been together in its present form since June and has had no trouble learning its repertoire. "We have more potential material than we can work up" said Bryan. "Show biz music is legitimate. I can appreciate the jazz of the modernists; yet they tend to consider the older forms of jazz as beneath them."

The group gigs regularly at Pier and DeJa Vu in Raleigh and Cat's Cradle here. Watch the Cradle for future engagements, and keep a lookout for a possible November performance in our own Great Hall.

Although one might yearn for a bit more jazz and less vocal or the addition of brass to round out the sound, this band is not to be missed. Few other groups dare to look backwards. This is not esoteric, elitist jazz; this is the fun-time variety with something for everyone. Solid, Jackson.

# KALEIDOSCOPE

## Night Life

### Chapel Hill

**A Square Dance**, featuring Hard Times String Band, will be held at 8 p.m. Saturday in the Tin Can in honor of visiting Canadians.

**Cat's Cradle**—Rob Abernathy performs today and David Olney and Steve Runkel entertain Saturday. Shows start at 9 p.m. \$1.50 cover charge. A Toronto Talent Show will be featured at 9 p.m. Sunday. 50 cents cover charge.

**Cave**—Red Herring performs at 9 p.m. today. 75 cents cover charge.

**Town Hall**—Bro-T-Holla performs at 9:30 p.m. today and Saturday. \$1.50 cover charge. Sunday is Jazz Night and there is no cover charge.

**Starpoint Tavern**—Tradewinds performs at 9 p.m. today and Saturday. \$1 cover charge.

**Endangered Species**—The Davie Circle and However Many perform today and Jim Magill performs Saturday. Area classical pianists perform Sunday. Shows start at 9 p.m. No cover charge.

### Raleigh

**Pier**—Class Moon performs at 8:30 p.m. today and Saturday.

**Embers Club**—The Tams entertain at 8:30 p.m. today and Saturday. \$4 cover charge.

**Harvey B's**—Spike performs at 9 p.m. today-Sunday. \$2 cover charge today and Saturday. \$1 cover charge Sunday.

**Cafe DeJa Vu**—Lariat Sam performs at 8:30 p.m. today. \$2 cover charge. Charlie Byrd entertains at 8:30 p.m. Saturday. \$3 cover charge.

## Cinema

### On Campus

**Alexander Nevsky**—Historical Russian epic by the great director Sergei Eisenstein. (Union Free Flick. Shows at 6:30 and 9 p.m. today in the Great Hall of the Union.)

**Summertime**—Katherine Hepburn as a middle-aged spinster who discovers love in Venice. Union Free Flick. Shows at 6:30 and 9:00 p.m. Saturday in the Great Hall of the Union.

**Two Daughters**—Satyajit Ray mingles two tales of love in a small Indian village. Union Free Flick. Shows at 6:30 and 9 p.m. Sunday in the Great Hall of the Union.

### Chapel Hill

**Flossie**—The Movies 3. Shows at 2:30, 4:15, 6, 7:45 and 9:30 p.m. with a late show at 11:45 p.m. today and Saturday. Admission: \$2.

**Hard Times**—The Movies 1. Shows at 3,

5, 7 and 9 p.m. with a late show at 11 p.m. today and Saturday. Admission: \$2.

**Last Tango in Paris**—Varsity Late Show. One show only at 11:30 p.m. Saturday. Admission: \$2.

**Let's Do It Again**—Plaza 1. Shows at 2:45, 4:55, 7:05 and 9:15 p.m. Admission: \$2.25.

**Lisztomania**—Varsity. Shows at 1:20, 3:15, 5:10, 7:05 and 9 p.m. Admission: \$2.25.

**Lost In The Stars**—Plaza 2. Shows at 3, 5, 7 and 9 p.m. Admission: \$2.25.

**No Way Out**—Plaza 3. Shows at 2:25, 4:10, 5:55, 7:40 and 9:25 p.m. Admission: \$2.25.

**Mahogany**—The Movies 2. Shows at 3:15, 5:15, 7:15 and 9:15 p.m. with a late show at 11:15 p.m. today and Saturday. Admission: \$2.

**Steppenwolf**—Carolina. Shows at 3:10, 5, 7 and 9 p.m. Admission: \$2.25.

**Straw Dogs**—Carolina Late Show. Shows at 11:30 p.m. today and Saturday. Admission: \$2.

**The Seventh Voyage of Sinbad**—Carolina. Shows at 12 and 1:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

### Duke Campus

**Scenes From A Marriage**—Freewater Films. Shows at 7, 9:30 p.m. and midnight in the Duke Biosciences Auditorium. Admission: \$1.

**The New Land**—Quad Films. Shows at 6 and 9 p.m. Saturday and Sunday in Page Auditorium. Admission: \$1.

### Durham

**Challenge to White Fang**—Northgate 2. Shows at 2:15, 3:55, 5:35, 7:20 and 9 p.m. Admission: \$2.50.

**The Giant Spider Invasion**—Northgate 1. Shows at 1:15, 3:10, 5:10, 7:05 and 9 p.m. Admission: \$2.50.

**No Way Out**—Carolina. Admission: \$2.50.

**Love and Death**—Yorktowne 1 Late Show. One show only at 11:45 p.m. Saturday. Admission: \$2.

**Old Dracula**—Yorktowne 2. Shows at 1:50, 3:40, 5:30, 7:20 and 9:10 p.m. Admission: \$2.50.

**Skyjacked**—Yorktowne 2 Late Show. One show only at 11:30 p.m. Saturday. Admission: \$2.

**Three Days of the Condor**—Yorktowne 1. Shows at 2:20, 4:40, 7 and 9:20 p.m. Admission: \$2.50.

**Gone With The Wind**—Center 2. Shows at 2 and 8 p.m. Admission: \$2.50.

**Let's Do It Again**—Center 1. Shows at 3, 5:05, 7:10 and 9:15 p.m. Admission: \$2.50.

## Music

Jean-Bernard Pommier, pianist, will perform at 8:15 p.m. today in Page Auditorium. Duke. Tickets are available for \$3, \$3.50 and \$4 at Page-Box Office.

Charlie Byrd, guitarist, will perform at 8:15 p.m. today in Dana Auditorium, Guilford College. Tickets are available at the College Union in Founders Hall or at the door.



Staff photo by Margaret Kirk

The Playmakers Repertory Company performs Jeff Wanshel's *Isadora Duncan Sleeps with the Russian Navy* at 8 p.m. tonight through Sunday in Graham Memorial Lounge Theatre. Tickets are \$2.50 at 102 Graham Memorial. Other performances are Nov. 13-16 and 20-23. See the DTH Monday for a review.

### Advent Calendars!

An old-fashioned custom, a pleasant way to bring in the Yule season. Prices are still reasonable.

### 1976 Calendars!

Beautiful, snazzy, funny, patriotic, for the kitchen wall, office, desk or bedroom, from about \$2.00 on up. Note: re-orders are usually not possible, so make choices fairly early!

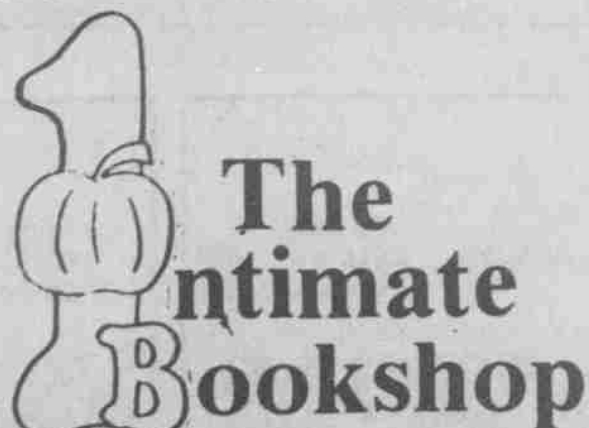
### Christmas Cards!

Our famous close-out cards (at extra-low prices) and a handsome batch of new numbers, and we try to choose the best inexpensive ones.

### New Fall Titles!

In every section! In the Children's Books, the paperbacks and the Bargains, too!

Put some excitement in your life! Enjoy a browse in



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9:00

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**Varsity**  
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1:20-3:15  
5:10-7:05  
9:00

A NEW RUSSELL FILM STARRING ROGER DALTRY

The erotic, exotic, electrifying rock fantasy

**LISZT MANIA**

TECHNICOLOR from Warner Bros. A World Communications Company

Marlon Brando in

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**Last Tango in Paris**

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the movies 1 2 3

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the movies 1 2 GREAT WEEK!  
3:00 - 5:00 - 7:00 - 9:00 - 11:00

Mahogany—the woman every woman wants to be—and every man wants to have.

Diana Ross  
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Also Starring  
BILLY DEE WILLIAMS  
And JEAN-PIERRE AUMONT

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the movies 2  
3:15-5:15-7:15  
9:15 & 11:15 p.m.

The Most Beautiful Erotic Fantasy Ever

2:30  
4:15  
6:00  
7:45  
9:30  
11:15

**PLAYBOY**  
August, 1975

In *Flossie*, director Bert Torn's literate modern-dress version of an English underground novel written (by one Jack Archer) back in 1910. Promoted as "the most beautiful erotic fantasy ever" and already challenging *Emmanuelle* as a box-office phenomenon abroad, *Flossie* lives up to its blurb with exquisite photography, pretty people, Maria Lynn exudes a Sweetheart of Sigma Chi innocence.

By BRUCE WILLIAMSON

'Flossie' Achieves Genuine Sensuality

"Flossie" is a genuinely sexy picture. It was beautifully filmed by Tony Foxbury, one of Ingmar Bergman's top cameramen, and it stars Maria Lynn, an astonishingly pretty young actress.

By HOWARD A. COFFIN  
Inquirer Entertainment writer

**Flossie**

N-O-W

the movies 3

—X—  
No one under 18 admitted.

Tonight at the Cradle

**Rod Abernathy**

Cat's Cradle - Behind  
Tijuana Fats - Rosemary St.

PHONE 967-4727

**Plaza 1**  
ELLIOT RD. AT E. FRANKLIN

3rd BIG WEEK  
2:45 4:55  
7:05 9:15

**SIDNEY POITIER**  
**BILL COSBY**

LET'S DO IT AGAIN

PG

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**Plaza 2**  
ELLIOT RD. AT E. FRANKLIN

NOW SHOWING  
3-5-7-9

**LOST IN THE STARS**

PG

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**Plaza 3**  
ELLIOT RD. AT E. FRANKLIN

NOW SHOWING

**ALAIN DELON** **NO WAY OUT**

2:25  
4:10  
5:55  
7:40  
9:25

also starring  
RICHARD CONTE