

ON STAGE

Maniacs bring straight-ahead rock to Triangle

Continuing the string of major Triangle concerts will be 10,000 Maniacs' performance at 8 p.m. Saturday at the Raleigh Civic Center. The band has only recently begun to headline in venues of this size, formerly opening for the likes of R.E.M., Squeeze, and X. Touring behind the hit album *Blind Man's Zoo*, 10,000 Maniacs boasts a reputation as a strong live act.

Originating in Jamestown, New York, in 1981, 10,000 Maniacs began as a six-member band covering English post-punk (such as Gang of Four) and reggae (Bob Marley) tunes. The original band consisted of Natalie Merchant on lead vocals; Jerome Augustyniak, drums; Robert Buck, guitar; John Lombardo, guitar; Dennis Drew, keyboards; and Steven Gustafson, bass.

The band released an EP, *Human Conflict No. Five* and a full-length album, *Secrets of the I Ching*, in addition to touring non-stop, before catching the eye of Elektra Records in 1985. *The Wishing Chair* was a college radio staple, forcing even more extensive touring which prompted Lombardo to leave the band.

10,000 Maniacs' two subsequent albums, *In My Tribe* and *Blind Man's Zoo*, have reached platinum, following an R.E.M.-like path to the top. The band has managed to achieve success without altering its basic folk-rock sound. Expect a sound closer to *Blind Man's Zoo* than *The Wishing*

BRIAN SPRINGER concert

Chair in concert. According to Merchant, "[*Blind Man's Zoo*] reflects our live sound, a goal that we've long wished to attain."

While 10,000 Maniacs will be performing their hits such as "My Mother the War," "Like the Weather," "Can't Ignore the Train," and most of the material from *Blind Man's Zoo*, don't expect to hear their wonderful cover of Cat Stevens' "Peace Train." The band, in disagreement with Stevens' religious/political beliefs, has requested that the song be deleted from future copies of *In My Tribe*.

Merchant's songs tend to be politically oriented, as do her occasional between-song monologues. Songs such as "Please Forgive Us," which dealt with the Iran-contra scandal, and "Poison in the Well," which seemed to predict the Exxon Valdez oil spill, are sure to be concert selections.

While there may be a few surprises, in general the audience will see a no-gimmicks, straight-ahead rock act, with few if any additional musicians. I hope the band will unveil a few new songs, though. 10,000 Maniacs dispenses with many of the trappings of big-budget tours, including chore-



10,000 Maniacs are (l-r) Steven Gustafson, Jerome Augustyniak, Rob Buck, Natalie Merchant and Dennis Drew

ography, props, and the like. Natalie Merchant is guaranteed to transfix the gaze of every fan. If past experience is any indication, Raleigh should prepare for a better performance by 10,000 Maniacs than will be deliv-

ered by some of the larger acts on the remainder of the summer's musical agenda.

10,000 Maniacs will perform at the Raleigh Civic Center Sept. 9. For ticket information call 755-6603

Glimpse of greatness Sunday at the ArtsCenter

By KELLY THOMPSON
Omnibus Editor

For a glimpse of greatness on its way to stardom, few places in the Triangle can beat Carrboro this weekend.

Jazz pianist Mulgrew Miller, who has worked with the likes of Branford Marsalis and James Moody as well as produced four albums of his own, will perform Sept. 10 as part of the ArtsCenter's Sunday Jazz Series.

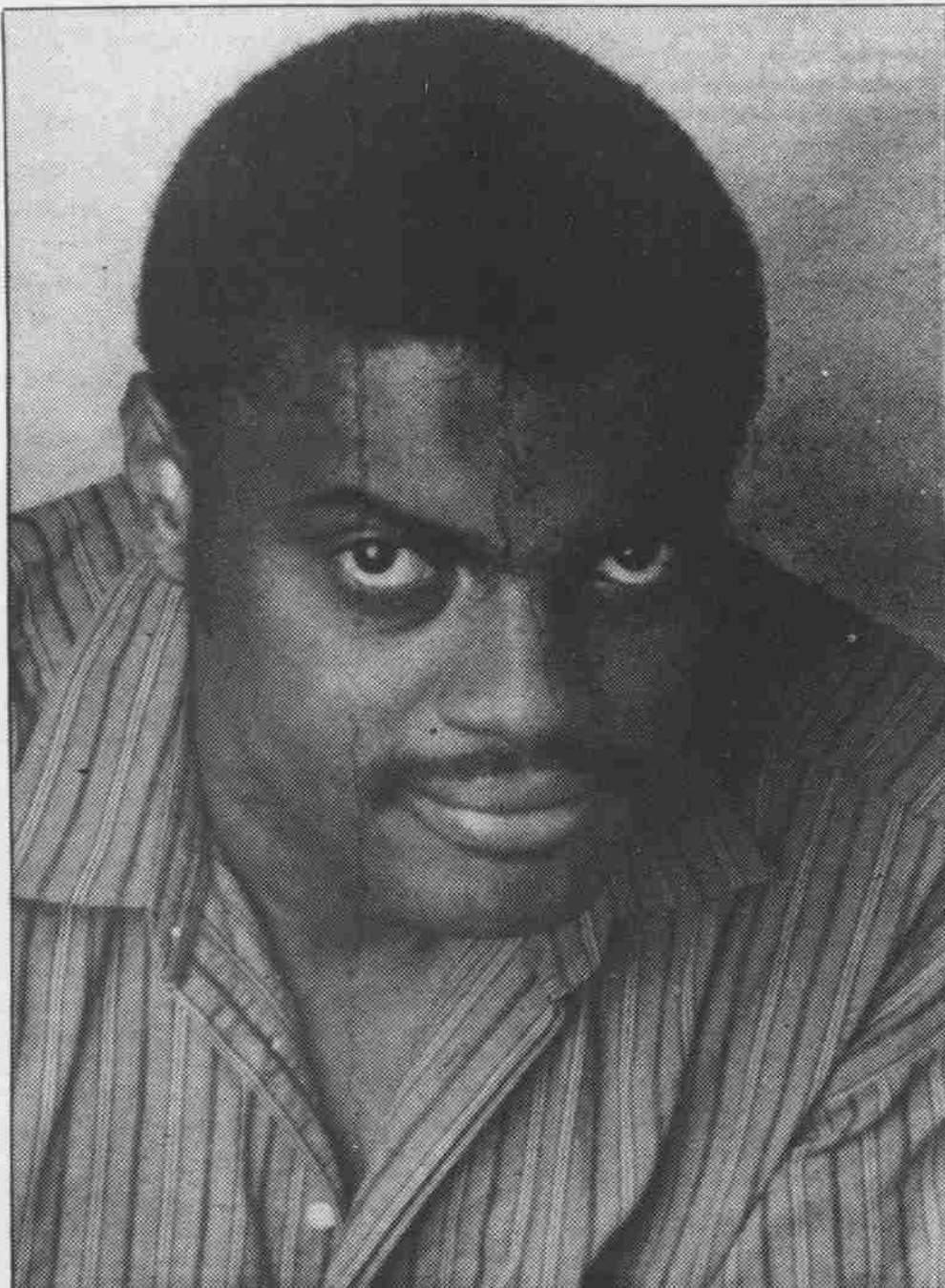
Miller will appear with bassist Clarence Seay and drummer Jae Sinnett. The concert starts at 7:30 p.m.

Born in Greenwood, Miss., in 1955, Miller began playing the piano at the age of 6. He experimented a broad range of styles, from classical to rhythm and blues, but concentrated on jazz while he attended Memphis State University in the early 1970s with another significant pianist, James Williams.

After college, Miller became a member of the Duke Ellington Orchestra and worked with several jazz leaders, including Art Blakey, Betty Carter and Woody Shaw. With his four albums on the Landmark label, however, he is establishing stardom in his own right. His latest release, *The Countdown*, features prominent jazz artists Joe Henderson, Ron Carter and Tony Williams. The St. Louis

Riverfront Times comments, "Miller has blossomed into a musician who has gone beyond his influences. Soon people will be citing him as an influence."

Tickets for the concert are \$7 for the public and \$6 for Friends of the ArtsCenter and students. ArtsCenter box office hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays. The ArtsCenter is located at 300-G East Main Street, Carrboro. For more information, call 929-ARTS.



Jazz pianist Mulgrew Miller heats up the ArtsCenter Sunday



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9/8 Friday
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9/9 Saturday
The Bad Checks w/ Leap of Faith

9/10 Sunday
Nikki Meets the Hibachi &
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The Lemonheads & The Downsiders

9/14 Thursday
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RECYCLE
This Newspaper

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