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THE CHARLOTTE POST

Charlotte's Fastest Growing Community Weekly

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Billy Preston

To Appear On

Soul Train

Billy Preston and Esther Phillips appear on Soul Train this weekend, television's celebrated entertainment hour for "youth" of all ages.

Dubbed by music critics as a great interpreter of feelings, Esther Phillips demonstrates her ability to mix soul, jazz and blues on "Love Addict" and "In a Soft and Subtle Way."

Her first hit, recorded at age 15, "Double Crossing Blues," was a million seller, as was her later and most popular, "What A Difference A Day Makes," released in 1975.

Billy Preston, the first Black American to work and receive label credit with the Beatles, and a former performer with Sam Cooke, Little Richard, Ray Charles and the Rolling Stones, sings and plays keyboards on "Wide Stride," "I'm Really Gonna Miss You" and "A Whole New Thing."

A child prodigy who played piano at age 3, Preston, at age 10, played the role of young W. C. Handy in the film "St. Louis Blues." He is much in demand as a collaborator with other artists as well as a soloist.

Soul Train is hosted and produced by Don Cornelius and sponsored by Johnson Products Co., Inc. of Chicago.

CBS To Air

"Miss Universe

Beauty Pageant"

Some of the most beautiful women in the world will vie for the title of Miss Universe on "The 1978 Miss Universe Beauty Pageant," to be presented as a special live broadcast, via satellite, from Acapulco, Mexico, Monday, July 24, at 9 p.m. on WBTV, Channel 3.

For the twelfth consecutive year, television personality Bob Barker will be master of ceremonies and singer Helen O'Connell will be television hostess for the pageant. The pageant judges will be announced at a later date.

Highlighting the special will be the announcement of 12 semi-finalists and the crowning of Miss Universe 1978 by Janelle Penny Commissiong, Miss Universe 1977.

Representing the United States is Judi Lois Anderson, Miss USA 1978.



KOOL AND THE GANG

...Self taught musicians

Kool And The Gang, Ohio

Players Put On Super Show

By Cynthia Bell
Post Staff Writer

Kool and the Gang along with the Ohio Players put on super shows this past Saturday and Sunday at Carowind's Paladium.

All-self taught musicians, Kool and the Gang tackle their music from the prospective of a cooperative endeavor. Each member contributes to the ideas of the other members.

Spiritualism along with professionalism is used in the group's approach to their music. They believe in an orderly universe in which everything has a meaning of its own.

Charlotteans witnessed the spectacular showmanship of these accomplished musicians. This group is made up of Robert "Kool" Bell, lead vocals, bass guitar, and leader; Khalis Bayyan, various saxophones, alto flute; Dennie "D.T." Thomas, alto saxophone, flute and various percussion; Amir Bayyan, synthesizer; Kevin Lassiter, electric piano and all keyboards; Claydes Smith, electric and acoustic guitars; Robert Mickens, trumpet, flugelhorn, and percussion; George Brown, drums; and Cliff Adams, trombones and tuba.

Back in the mid sixties, Kool and the Gang performed under the name of the Jazzacs. Sometimes they even ventured as far as New York. Often they would back up groups for feature act on their

bill, as well as play their own Jazz specialty.

Naturally to fit into the versatile bag that they were coming from they had to make a transition. "We had to get into a more funky thing because we have to live. So we had to learn to adjust our musical ideas. We had to make sure our Jazz roots didn't overpower the funk," complimented a spokesman for the group.

The group is still on the road constantly. They play clubs, theaters, and colleges, yet they still find time for special projects. The Miss Black America Pageant was the object of one their special projects. All of their music was used for the pageant with "Wild and Peaceful" as the theme.

Kool and the Gang have toured this entire country, Europe, and the Caribbean. They have appeared on "Soul Train," "American Bandstand," The Mike Douglas

"Juggernaut" Is CBS Night Movie

"Juggernaut," a gripping suspense drama set on the high seas, starring Richard Harris and Omar Sharif, will be rebroadcast on "The CBS Saturday Night Movies," Saturday, July 29, at 9 p.m. on WBTV, Channel 3.

The luxury liner Britannic is on a holiday cruise when suddenly the festive mood is shattered by a bomb threat: "You will pay me 1½-million dollars by dawn or the world's

Show, and several other television programs.

Since their debut to the music scene back in 1969, Kool and the Gang have contributed 18 singles to the Rhythm and Blues charts and a number of chart albums. "Kool and the Gang Spin Their Top Hits" is a one package deal of their major hit tunes on De-Lite Records.

This album covers the career of Kool and the Gang in full capacity. It begins with their first top 20 hit, "Kool and the Gang, to the most recent, "Open Sesame." "Open Sesame" was one of the songs featured in the movie, "Saturday Night Fever." "Summer Madness" which was featured in the "Rocky" soundtrack is also on this album with their other hits like "Jungle Boogie" and "Hollywood Swinging."

Aside from their singing profession, Kool and the Gang has its own production and publishing companies.

greatest luxury liner will rip open like a can of sardines and 1,200 men, women and children will die." The extortion note is signed "Juggernaut."

Authorities hesitate to pay the blackmail, fearing it will set a precedent, so it becomes a race against time between the bomb squad and the hour of doom. The suspense mounts as detectives on land rush to track down "Juggernaut."

"Wiz" Was

Delightfully

Enjoyable

Tom Mallow's National production of the Wiz performed here last weekend before sell-out crowds in three of its five performances. The performance was colorful, and exciting with enjoyable music throughout.

"The fabulous Wiz" was what the audience was looking for and lots more. Geoffrey Holder and Peter Wolf were excellent with the costumes and setting. The so very creative way that the characters and costumes were used with the choreography to depict the actual story was amazing for the human eye to behold.

Deborah Malone was outstanding in her portrayal of the character Dorothy. She was sweet, innocent, yet she was mature enough to be able to nab the very high notes of her many songs.

Bobby "The Lion" Hill captured everyone's heart. When he made his tall, graceful appearance the audience responded to his ravishing beauty. When he told me a couple of weeks ago that he was going to be the best lion yet, naturally I laughed. Now I have no doubt.

Out of all the institutions of higher learning, our own Johnson C. Smith was fortunate enough to have an alumnus in the cast. Jai Oscar St. John, "The Tinman," gave many Smithites the incentive of persevere.

Defoy Glenn To

Direct "Romeo

And Juliet" Play

Winston-Salem -- Defoy Glenn, of Charlotte, is the director of this year's NCSA Youth Theatre production of "Romeo and Juliet" by William Shakespeare.

Mr. Glenn is known on the West Coast for his writing of several segments of "The Jeffersons," in Charlotte, N.C. for his annual production of "The Miss Renaissance Ball" and in Winston-Salem for his production of "The Sty of the Blind Pig."

The production will be presented in four performances Monday through Thursday, July 17-20, at 8:15 p.m. in the Sound Studio at the corner of South Main and Vintage Avenue.