



Cabaret singer Bobby Short talks with host/ executive producer Susan L. Taylor about his early years in vaudeville and how hard work has been the mainstay behind his success. Short also explains why his kind of music is still popular today. (Pictured: Susan Taylor, Bobby Short). Also featured this week: guest co-host Max Robinson concludes a two-part "Up Front" series on the illiteracy crisis in America. Featured is Paterson, New Jersey's Eastside High School principal Joe Clark, who turned a "blackboard jungle" environment into one of the top high schools in the nation. In

"Taking Care of business," Hal Jackson, vice president of Inner City Broadcasting, a multi-million dollar communications company, is seen hosting his popular jazz and rhythm and blues radio show in New York City. And "Our Style" is a special vignette on New York City's night life, including fashions of the city and black-owned restaurants. Also featured is the annual "Men Who Cook" benefit where New York men share their favorite dishes with the public. "Essence" airs on WSOC, Channel 9, Sunday, April 14, at 6 p.m.



Steven James plays Curtis Jackson, Joe Armstrong's friend, defender and confidante. As with co-star Michael Dudikoff, James' role calls for many of the same death defying maneuvers he exhibited in "American Ninja" and "Avenging Force". James is a New York-trained actor who holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from C.W. Post College in Brookville, Long Island. He picked up several stage credits in the early 80's, including principal roles in "Turnbuckle", a play by John Sayles and in "Molinux" at Playwright's Horizon. James moved to Los Angeles in 1983 and has worked steadily in features, tv shows and commercials ever since. His tv credits include the "C.A.T. Squad," a highly-praised TV film directed by William Friedkin, "The Atlanta Child Murders" with Martin Sheen and "Fatal Vision". He has been seen in such series as "Hotel", "T.J. Hooker" and "The Dukes Of Hazzard".

For Minority Arts Program

Metropolitan Life Foundation Recognizes 10 Museums

New York-Ten new museum programs have received Museum Grants for Minority Visual Arts award from the Metropolitan Life Foundation.

Began in 1984, the one of a kind museum grants for Minority Visual Arts program awards \$100,000 annually and will continue to do so through 1989, to museum-initiated projects that best help foster the professional advancement of minority artists, build new audiences for their works and offer a diversity of museum programming. Grants of up to \$25,000 each are awarded by a judging panel that includes distinguished artists and art professionals. The museums that received awards this year for their minority arts projects are:

The museum of African American Art Los Angeles-\$7,000 to develop a catalog of black art that will be available to local school districts as well as museums across the country.

Triton Museum of Art, Santa Clara, California-\$5,000 to organize an exhibition of painting, sculpture, drawings and prints by emerging Asian-American artists in its permanent collection.

The Montclair Art Museum, Montclair, N.J.-\$5,000 to purchase selected works of art from exhibitions featuring the work of Afro-American artists.

Museum of the National Center of Afro-American Artists, Boston-\$20,000 to increase the number of prints and drawings by living Afro-American artists in its permanent collection.

Jane Voorhees Zimmerli Art Museum, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J.-\$15,000 to

fund the traveling exhibit "Outside Cuba/Fuera de Cuba," which is composed of 96 works by 49 artists and includes painting, photography, works on paper, sculpture and multimedia works.

International Arts Relations, Inc., New York-\$20,000 to fund an exhibition of abstract paintings by 15 to 20 artists of Latin-American descent who work in New York City.

Portland Art Museum of the Oregon Art Institute, Portland, Ore., \$5,000 to a project, titled, "New Directions Northwest: Contemporary Native American Art."

Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia-\$5,000 to install "Sentimental Sojourn: Stages and Souvenirs," an exhibit

created by artist Betye Saar to mark the bicentennial of the United States Constitution.

San Antonio Museum Association, San Antonio, Texas-\$8,000 to create an exhibit featuring works of Mexican-American/Chicano artists.

Commenting on the awards, Metropolitan Life Foundation president, Sibyl Jacobson, said, "This is the largest number of programs to be awarded in one year which indicates that minority arts programs are either increasing in number and quality or they are becoming increasingly visible. In either case we are proud to be involved in this growth, and believe everyone is benefitting: the artists, the museums and the public."

Magical Legend Profiled

Special To The Post

As a teenager, Ehrich Weiss read a biography about the well-known French illusionist Robert Houdin. Inspired, Weiss left his job as a cutter in a necktie factory and set out to capitalize on his passion for magic. Changing his first name to Harry and adding an "i" to Houdin, he began traveling around the country, billing himself as "The King of Cards."

"Houdini!", a half-hour special, celebrates the magic and mystique of this legendary magician and escape artist. The program airs at 9:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 22 and at 10:30 p.m. on Friday, April 24, over the 10 channels of the University of North Carolina Center for Public Television.

"Houdini!" traces the life of one

of the world's greatest escape artists, showing how he gained press recognition by escaping from police chiefs' handcuffs and always going one step further than other escape artists. "Others took off handcuffs and Houdini jumped off bridges," says producer JoAnne Garrett. "Others copied his milk can escape and he created the Chinese water torture cell."

Born in 1874, Houdini claimed Appleton, Wis., as his hometown, living there until he was 8 and remaining in close contact with his friends. "Houdini!" records the visit of contemporary magician Doug Henning to Appleton in April 1985, when he performed one of Houdini's most famous escape tricks--Metamorphosis.

"Houdini!" includes interviews

Sleeping, Awakening To Sanborn Is Ideal

How many of you reading this column knew that jazz was available all night long, seven nights a week?

No, I'm not kidding! The expanded jazz format hosted by Barbara Nail, of WFAE (90.7 FM), began a month ago.

WFAE, the station that first brought jazz-contemporary and traditional to the Charlotte area is now giving the same aristocratic flavor of jazz over in the wee hours of the night.

Nail begins her jazz program at midnight six nights a week and at 1 a.m. on Saturday nights.

While her program tends to take a mainstream approach, Barbara does give air play to work from other areas of jazz.

Going to sleep with the sounds of David Sanborn and being awakened to a lullaby by Al Jarreau simply caps my idea of the perfect way to begin and end a day.

SPRINGFEST

It won't be long now and if the type of weather that we've been having for the past days hold out, the three-day festival /Springfest will blossom like always.

Springfest will be held Friday, Saturday, and Sunday on April 24, 25 and 26 at uptown Charlotte and the entire city will be turned into a carnival-like atmosphere with music, arts and crafts, and food. Each year Springfest has attracted more and more people, making it one of the largest attended attractions in the City.

SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

"Arts Under the Trees" sponsored by the Community School of the Arts will be in session at Springfest on the cool, green lawn of First Presbyterian Church. Activities will be designed with the child in mind, including painting, music making, sculpting, and face painting. Spectators can see magic, music, drama, dance and a demonstration by the Charlotte Fencer's club.

MAGIC 96

With a new radio station in town, (Magic 96 FM), there's a new face to welcome town. Viki Lewis, an evening announcer at MAGIC comes from Winston-Salem. She has over seven years experience in radio broadcasting in North Carolina. Most recently she was on the air with WKZL and the staff announcer for WXII-TV, a music station in Greensboro.

SATURDAY NIGHT LEFTOVERS

Saturday Night Leftovers is proud to present, "Seascape With Sharks and Dancer", an off-beat love story starring Lydia Smith and Joe Deese on Thursday, May 7 and continuing through May 16.

The play is set in a beach bungalow on Cape Cod, the young man who lives there has pulled a lost young woman from the ocean. Soon she finds herself trapped in his life. The struggle between his tolerant and gently ironic approach to life and her strategy of suspicion and attack becomes a kind of war about love and creation which neither can afford to lose.

MINI-THON

WDAV will hold its first mini-thon, May 6-9. It's a fast, fun way to raise \$30,000 for radio for the arts. If you'd like to answer phones or do other clerical work, then call Jessica Hunt at 892-2000, extension 108 to sign up.

WDAV is a listener-supported public radio station, broadcasting classical music and cultural arts programming 19 hours a day as a service of Davidson College. For membership information, write WDAV Radio, P.O. 1540, Davidson College, Davidson, N.C.

CHILDREN'S THEATRE

There's a lot going on at the Children's Theatre. "Something



With Jamie In The Title" is one of them. This play tells the story of what happens when Mom puts the family on a vegetarian diet to help Mago lose weight and brings Jamie, a street-wise runaway into the family to "bring Jamie out of her shell." A regional premier by Suzan Zeder, "Something With Jamie In The Title" deals with many issues faced by today's young people, including divorce, love, drugs, and sibling rivalry. The play runs Thursdays, April 23 and 30 at 7:30 p.m., Fridays, April 24 and May 1 at 8 p.m., Saturdays, April 25 and May 2 at 8 p.m. and Sundays, April 26 and May 3 at 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Summer classes are also being offered at the Children's Theatre for students ages 3-18. Workshops offer special opportunities in performance and production. Enrollment is limited for all classes and workshops. Scholarships are available through Children's Theatre and Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools Minority

Achievement Program. Additional information is available through Jackie Current, Education director at 376-5745.

FITNESS

CLASS AND SEMINAR

The Central YMCA and Cablevision of Charlotte are sponsoring an aerobics workout and health seminar by Charlene Prickett, host of "It Figures," an exercise program airing on Lifetime, a cable television network.

The aerobics class will begin at 9 a.m. on Thursday, April 23, with the seminar to follow, examining health and exercise-related issues.

HI-TECH BABIES

With the recent surrogate issue being settled in court, the whole issue of human reproduction is debatable. What are the ramifications of reproducing babies that are conceived in a test tube and then later transferred to the mother's womb or to the baby who is nurtured for nine months to a woman who is paid to give that child up immediately upon delivery?

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