

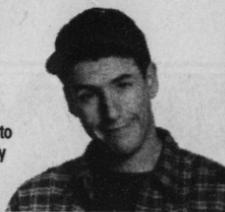
DIVERSIONS

WEEKLY ENTERTAINMENT SECTION • THE DAILY TAR HEEL • THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1995 • PAGE 5

Movies Page 6

Beaming Billy

Adam Sandler brings his "Saturday Night Live" talent to the big screen in the comedy hit "Billy Madison."



Music Page 8

Visiting Giants

TMBG and company bring their unique sound to the Ritz and a strange interview to the pages of Dive.



in the SWING

Five Days of Live Jazz Shows And Festivities Hit the Hill In Honor of the Great Satchmo

BY LEE RICHARDS
STAFF WRITER

Once, when faced with the question "What is jazz?" jazz great Louis Armstrong responded whimsically, "If you have to ask the question, you'll never know the answer..." The people of Chapel Hill will be given the opportunity to see if they know the answer to that question at the 18th annual UNC Jazz Festival.

This festival, which in the past has featured such artists as Wynton Marsalis, will begin Feb. 24. It will feature five days of live shows and lectures intended for the entertainment and education of the most knowledgeable of jazz critics as well as any passer-by open to a new experience.

The festival will kick off with the performance of pianist Hal Galper, who is currently on tour with his trio. Students and faculty may have seen his fliers around campus, but contrary to popular belief, he is not running for SBP.

Earlier this week, I caught up with Galper in someplace that sounded like Indianapolis, but neither Galper nor I was able to establish exactly in which time zone he was.

After playing phone tag across the East Coast, I finally got the chance to hear his comments on his trio, their music and life in music.

"Berklee gave me all the tools I needed to do what I do," he said, speaking of his education at the prestigious Boston school of music, which took place in the stylistic and social upheavals of the early '50s. During this time he discovered "the music."

After spending a time playing and learning as a house pianist in Boston clubs, he moved into a brief period when he was a "free player."

Any readers unfamiliar with free jazz can check out noon traffic on Franklin Street as a pretty good example. "But that was just a phase," Galper said, sounding displeased with having had the label associated with him.

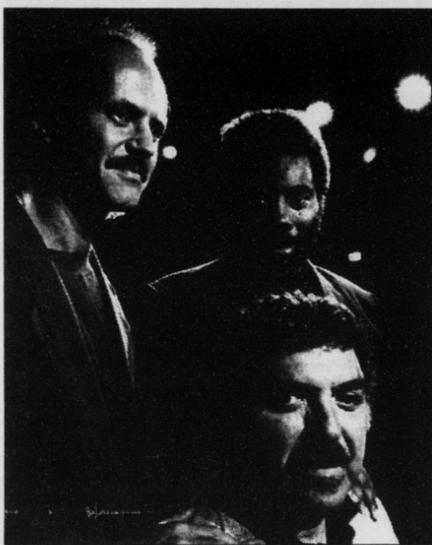
The next "phase" in Galper's career found him in Paris in 1960. "I was disgusted with Paris... that entire experience really put me off on music," he said. He left Paris discouraged and didn't play for two years.

Once back in Boston, Galper hooked up with Chet Baker and spent a time with him until the urge to move on to more modern music hit.

"I went to New York for the first time after that... I left, discouraged, got my health back in order, and then I went back." The second trip proved to be a flop as well.

"Man, New York's a real pretentious place. A lot of the great players are there, man, but I really think most of that whole scene is a myth," he said. Regardless of his opinion of New York, he went back again.

"It takes most people twice to make it in New York, but



The Hal Galper Trio

it took me three times." That final trip seemed to be the payoff. By 1967, Galper had played with greats like Stan Getz and recorded two solo records.

One dramatic and fateful day in the mid-'70s, Hal threw his Fender Rhodes keyboard off a pier (where it joined a couple of '72 Fords, and several Teamsters).

"I was trying to prove a point," he said. Galper and I both agreed that the action pretty much spoke for itself.

The next five years were spent as a sideman for Lee Konitz and John Scofield, among others, followed by an incredible 10-year stint with Phil Woods.

"I was really fortunate to have that experience, but after 10 years I realized that I was ready to do my own things," he said.

"You know, for a time, I was a teacher at the New School, but my trio started taking too much time and it just wasn't fair to the students, so I resigned," he said.

The trio at the time was made up of Steve Ellington (drums) and Todd Coolman (bass). "Steve is just one of my favorite players. We just have this really unique way of playing together. I've played with him for over 30 years," he explained.

Galper met Ellington at Berklee, and they later played together on the Chet Baker gig. Bass player Coolman left a few years ago: "He had a family and decided to stop touring... He was really our favorite, and we looked for a while, but now we have Jeff (Johnson). He's been with us for about two years now... the trio is really starting to develop its own identity," he said.

When asked to describe his own music, Galper was reluctant to describe it in specific terms, but emphatically stated that the music was "accessible and very communicative" and that the crowd should come away thoroughly entertained.

Aside from the feature performance Feb. 24, there will be a free show Saturday featuring Galper and UNC ensembles.



The Hal Galper Trio has been honored with a Grammy for best instrumental jazz group for its 1983 "Live At The Vanguard." The musicians also were bestowed with the 1985 Golden Feather Award. You can check out Galper, Ellington and Johnson on their soon-to-be-released *Rebop* CD on Enja Records.

The primary feature of the Jazz Festival, in addition to the Hal Galper Trio, will be the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra. They will pay homage to the great Satchmo, Louis Armstrong, at 8 p.m. Feb. 28.

Many around campus may only know him as "that guy on the 'Good Morning Vietnam' soundtrack." He is, aside from that, considered one of the greatest entertainers that ever lived.

"The Majesty of Louis Armstrong" will feature the legendary music of Armstrong's Hot Fives, Hot Sevens and All Star groups. With these groups, he influenced the likes of Billie Holiday, Ella Fitzgerald and Frank Sinatra, among others.

The Armstrong legacy will be in the hands of music

director John Faddis (an acclaimed trumpeter in his own right), Marcus Roberts, Dr. Michael White, Nicholas Payton, and others of the Lincoln Center.

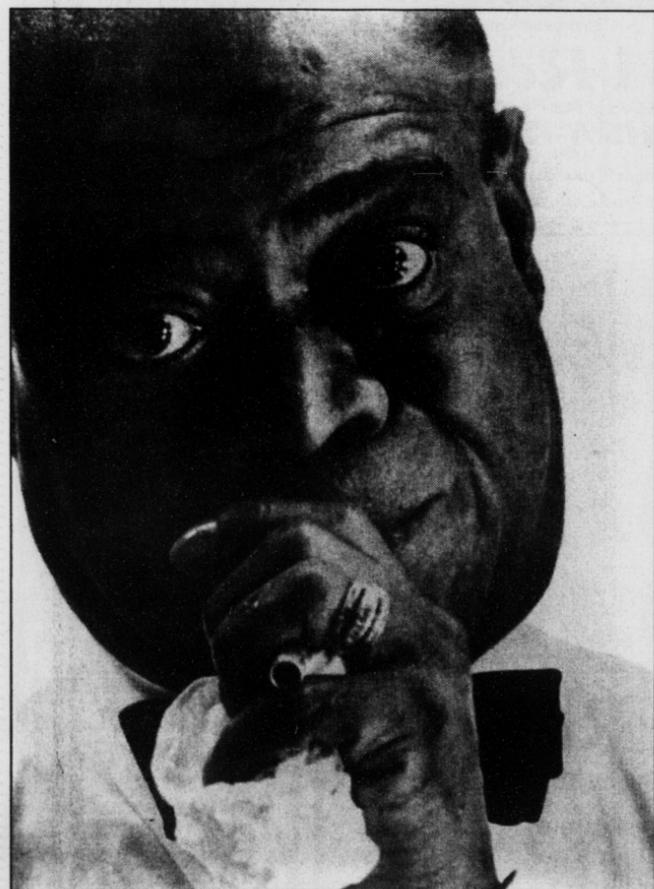
Under the auspices of Jazz at Lincoln Center, this one-time program will feature Louis Armstrong's music and the many performances he made that serve as the basis of jazz.

Created in 1988 for Lincoln Center's renowned Classical Jazz series, the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra is the official "house band" for Jazz at Lincoln Center activities.

Comprised of several generations of the world's foremost jazz musicians, the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra is dedicated to developing a performance repertoire of historic compositions and newly-commissioned works for the big band format.

All who are able to attend are likely to leave with a deep respect for an aspect of American history often overlooked here in our little world of pseudo-nostalgic coffee shops and garage bands.

Call 919-962-1449 weekdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. for more ticket information.



Schedule

FRIDAY 2/24

Concert: The Hal Galper Trio featuring Steve Ellington and Jeff Johnson

8 p.m.
Hill Hall Auditorium
Admission \$5 General Public, \$3 with student identification
Tickets available at Carolina Union Box Office 962-1449

Louis Armstrong, considered to be the greatest single influence in jazz, will be honored at the festival.

SATURDAY 2/25

Concert: UNC Jazz Band and Vocal Jazz Ensemble with the Hal Galper Trio

8 p.m.
Memorial Hall
Admission Free

SUNDAY 2/26

Performances: Collegiate Jazz Festival featuring performances from UNC-Chapel Hill, N.C. Central University, East Carolina University and Appalachian State University.

2p.m. to 6 p.m.
Great Hall of the Student Union
Admission Free

MONDAY 2/27

Movie: Round Midnight

8 p.m.
Carolina Union Film Auditorium
Admission Free

TUESDAY 2/28

Concert: Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra

8 p.m.
Memorial Hall
Admission (various prices with student discounts available)
Tickets at Carolina Union Box Office 962-1449