

ENTERTAINMENT



DANCE THEATER—Presenting their own distinct brand of ballet to Russian audiences, the renowned Dance Theater of Leningrad, as well as before Raisa Gorbachev, the wife of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev at the Kremlin's Palace of the Union, the first such tour by an American dance company in 13 years. Performing at the famed Kirov Theater in

BEHIND-THE-SCENES

Prince's new love under wraps: Rumors are flying that Prince is in love, and while he's being secretive about the whole affair, word is that the lucky lady is an actress who was recently a regular in a hit TV series. Meanwhile, tickets to Prince's concert in Madison Square Garden on Oct. 2 sold out in 48 minutes. With his European tour winding down, he's all set to open his first full-scale U.S. tour in nearly five years Sept. 14 in Minneapolis. His high-energy tour, featuring Sheila E., won't raves in Europe.

So where does Prince get the time to pen a rap tune for Chaka Khan? Well, he did, with the legendary Miles Davis coming to his aid on trumpet. The tune, "Sticky Wicked," will be featured on her coming Warner Bros.

LP due to be released this fall.

Cosby hobnobbing in style: Bill Cosby is still vacationing with his family on the French Riviera at the \$1,000-a-night Hotel Du Cap. And in good company, too. He and wife Camille were seen lunching with Frank Sinatra and Roger Moore (and their respective spouses). Additional reports have the Cosbys spending time with Prince Rainier of Monaco.

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar speaks too soon: When 41-year-old Lakers' captain Kareem Abdul-Jabbar announced he would pursue an acting career after this—his 20th and final NBA season, he added that he had an option on the book, "Bloods" (chronicling the impressions of a Vietnam War correspondent), to produce as a feature film or TV special. But

"Bloods" author Wallace Terry denies the report, saying Jabbar's claims on the property were detrimental to those negotiations...

Speaking of negotiations, word is Fox Broadcasting is seriously thinking shutting Arena Hall up. Indeed, Fox may be considering legal action to prevent former "Late Show" star Hall from hosting a syndicated talk show in January. Fox reportedly has a first-look contract with Hall.

Hollywood "Black Pack" member Keenen Ivory Wayans makes his directorial debut in "I'm Gonna Get You Sucka," a spoof on every type of action-packed, blaxploitation film ever made. He was inspired by the film "Airplane" and the success of "Hollywood Shuffle," a film he co-wrote.

Bobby McFerrin Kicks Off Series With Improvisational Techniques

There is something almost superhuman about the range and technique of jazz vocalist Bobby McFerrin (Newsweek).

A dynamo whose a cappella performances have been refining the art of jazz vocals with the click of his tongue, tap of his feet and pound of his chest, he stands alone onstage embodying a full repertoire of singers, instruments and animals. "His voice can sound like a walking bass or a growling trumpet, a bebop saxophone, an opera singer, a blackbird, a female rhythm and blues singer, a lead guitar, an aria by Bach or any of the above in tandem" (International Herald Tribune).

His one-of-a-kind improvisational performance will kick off the WUNC Jazz at Center Stage Series Tuesday, Sept. 13, at 8 p.m. on the Stewart Theatre stage. The series, co-sponsored by WUNC radio, will also feature Sheila Jordan on Nov. 12 and Shirley Horn on Feb. 4.

Born in New York City to Robert and Sara McFerrin, both classical singers, Bobby concentrated on piano in high school. In 1970, his musical direction took an extreme left turn when he heard Miles Davis' seminal fusion album, "Bitches Brew." Later, seeing Davis perform, McFer-

rin was particularly impressed with keyboardist Keith Jarrett, and traces his decision to do spontaneous solo vocal concerts to Jarrett's similarly conceived piano concerts.

Honing his skills and developing his own unique style, Bobby McFerrin has risen to become one of the top vocalists in the world. Voted No. 1 Male jazz vocalist in both the Downbeat Critics' and Readers' polls for the fourth consecutive year, he also received the 1986 and 1987 Grammy Award for that category as well as best vocal arranger. His television appearances include theme music for "The Cosby Show," "Sesame Street" and "The Max Headroom Show," to name a few. With several albums to his credit, McFerrin has been performing throughout the world in virtually unheard-of solo a cappella concerts. The audience response is inevitably overwhelming as he involves them directly in making his music, often wandering through the crowd or calling people onstage to enlist their talents.

Tickets are available at the Center Stage Box Office (737-3104) Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5:45 p.m., where convenient VISA and MasterCard orders are accepted. Tickets may also be purchased (cash only) at

Ladd's Book Shop of North Ridge (878-4404) Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Sunday, noon until 5 p.m. Individual tickets are available Sept. 6 at \$15 for the general public and \$7.50 for NCSU students.

In addition, tickets for the entire WUNC Jazz at Center Stage series are available for \$30. The Inner Circle reserves a seat onstage during the series for \$75.

A Personal Touch

"Son" Thomas Is The Living Blues

JACKSON, Miss. (AP)—Primitive blues, country blues, front-porch blues—all names for Delta blues, the raw, plaintive songs of that flat and fertile triangle of Mississippi black land.

Those are then native notes bluesman James "Son" Thomas has just secured on record—a personal album that, for the first time, can actually be called his. The record is named, naturally, "Gateway to the Delta."

"Well, my mind runs that way," says the thin, sly bluesman of the title.

Thomas is a native of Eden, a patch of a town just north of Yazoo City on Hwy. 49 where he lived and worked, hard, for more than half his 61 years.

There, with funding from the Mississippi Arts Commission and Rust College in Holly Springs, Thomas felt the memories and sang the song—front porch blues, literally, into a microphone for half the cuts on the album. The rest were recorded at Rust College in Holly Springs.

"I went to some of the places where I had such hard times," Thomas says of the ironically named Eden. "I wanted to record on some of the land where I was working."

The result is a music documentary—songs that buzz with the heat, humidity and harshness of a sharecropper's life in the Delta. These are dressed-down blues—ornamented only by the mood and skill of the player, not by the voltage of his equipment.

"It makes up my own music," Thomas said. "I don't write music, and I don't play out of no book. I do my own recording—making my own notes."

Authenticity was the goal that led the album's recording party "back in the hills" of Eden, the musician said, to the porch on the log cabin of James and Maggie Rouster, old friends of Thomas.

"We wanted Son to have a sense of place," said Sylvester W. Oliver, Jr., the album's executive producer. Oliver, a practicing ethnomusicologist, is director of institutional advancement at Rust College.

WTVD Tells Of New Newscast

Thomas, Caplan Co-Anchor

WTVD-TV 11 has announced that the station will launch a new 5:30 p.m. newscast Monday through Friday beginning Monday, Sept. 19.

The newscast will be co-anchored by Miriam Thomas and Mike Caplan.

The airing of the new 5:30 p.m. program will mean news viewers across the WTVD viewing area will be able to watch the latest WTVD-TV 11 news one-half hour earlier.

The 6 p.m. newscast, anchored Monday through Friday by Larry Stogner, will continue its service to the community.

"We believe the growing area WTVD-11 serves is ready for news earlier in the evening," said WTVD General Manager Alan Nesbitt. "This is a significant increase in our news service for the many viewers available and anxious to get the information they want and need."

The 5:30 p.m. news program will present all the latest news, sports and Accu Weather forecasts, along with special features designed to help people meet the challenges of life.

Miriam Thomas has become a favorite to news viewers for several years on WTVD News at Noon, demonstrating skill and professionalism in news reporting as well as compassion and warmth in her presentation. She will continue to host the noon news program.

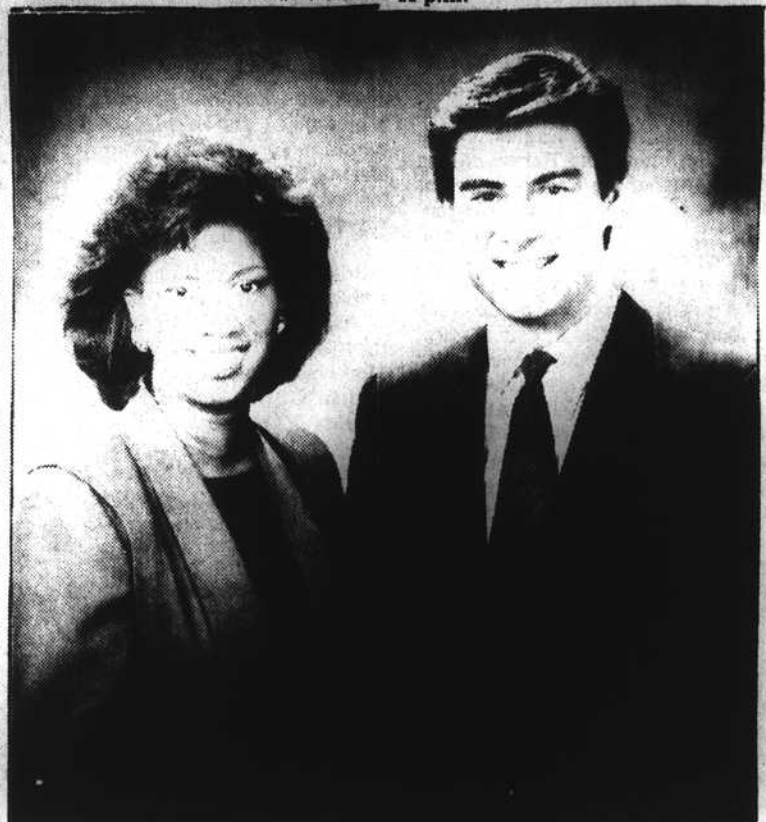
Mike Caplan has won many fans across the state for his enthusiastic weathercasting on the 6 and 11 p.m. weekday newscast, which he will continue. Mike brings to the 5:30 program an upbeat style as well as

multi-faceted experience in news and informational programming.

According to WTVD-11 News Director Dave Davis, the pair will make a great team. "WTVD is fortunate that we have such talented people already on hand who our viewers have come

to admire and respect," he said.

The addition will provide the channel with more than 2½ hours of local news programming on weekdays, along with the weekend news at 6 and 11 p.m.



MIRIAM THOMAS, MIKE CAPLAN

Soul Singer's Daughter Shot In Michigan

HIGHLAND PARK, Mich. (AP)—The daughter of the late soul singer Jackie Wilson was slain in what police said was an apparent drug-related shooting.

Jacqueline Wilson, 37, was shot in the back Monday outside a store. Detective Hubert Yopp said. No arrests were made.

The slaying is believed drug-related because of the amount of narcotics trafficking in the area and because the people Wilson associated with had drug connections, Yopp said.

Jackie Wilson, whose hits included "Lonely Teardrops," "To Be Loved" and "Your Love Keeps Lifting Me Higher and Higher," died in 1984 at age 49.

Ms. Wilson was the third of his children to die unexpectedly. In 1977, Sandra Wilson Abrams died of a heart attack at 24; in 1970, Jackie Wilson, Jr., 16, was shot to death.

American Airlines To Co-Produce "Figaro"

American Airlines will continue to celebrate its daily, nonstop flights to Paris from Raleigh-Durham International Airport by co-producing the French comedy "The Marriage of Figaro" with PlayMakers Repertory Theatre this fall. Dates for the production are Sept. 21-Oct. 9.

Peter Birkett, district sales manager of American Airlines at RDU, said, "We are very excited about this production, since it provides yet another way for us to celebrate our Paris flights, which began in May."

"Further, by supporting PlayMakers, we feel that we are contributing to the cultural environment of more than 5,000 American Airlines employees and their families, as well as others in the community," Birkett added. "Our partnership with PlayMakers last season was of significant mutual benefit, and we are pleased to work with the company again."

PlayMakers' co-producer program is designed to forge a link between the company and area businesses to

enrich the cultural life of the area. A professional, not-for-profit theater company, PlayMakers relies on contributions for about 40 percent of its operating budget.

The third largest employer in the Triangle area, American Airlines also provides support to other cultural programs such as the North Carolina Symphony and the Durham Arts Council.

"The Marriage of Figaro," written by Pierre Caron de Beaumarchais, will preview on Wednesday and Friday, Sept. 21 and 23, with opening night on Saturday, Sept. 24. Performances will continue on Sunday, Sept. 25, and Wednesdays through Sunday, Sept. 28 through Oct. 9.

All performances are at 8 p.m. except Sunday at 2 p.m., and will be presented in the Paul Green Theatre in Chapel Hill. Tickets range from \$12.50 to \$25, depending on the performance selected. Also available are subscription tickets for the 1988-89 season.

For information, call the PlayMakers box office at 1-962-1121.



IN PERFORMANCE—Singer Bob Dylan is captured in performance at the Forum in Los Angeles during the time of Robert Shelton's biography of Dylan called "No Direction Home." Dylan, one of the most elusive figures in pop music will perform at the Dean Smith Center in Chapel Hill at 8 p.m. on Sept. 15.



SINGING THE BLUES—"Folkways: A Vision Shared," unites Bob Dylan, Bruce Springsteen, Emmylou Harris and others in a tribute to Woody Guthrie and Huddie Leadbeater. Guthrie and Leadbeater were cornerstones of Folkways



Records after it started in 1947 and their influence on modern folk and blues music echoes throughout the performances on the new Columbia album.