

Blues Are Color Blind Says White Musician

By SUE SHAUGHNESSY

"I stick out like a neon sign on that stage, and people always talk to me after the concert."

After two weeks of playing piano with B.D. King, the King of the Blues, that's the reaction of 22-year-old Rick Wright.

Rick, son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Wright of 1281 Garden, Livonia, is the only white musician in King's band.

King's music is considered the best in the blues field, and he has recently been "discovered" by the white college student. Among blacks, who have traditionally followed blues, King has been making a name for himself since he cut his first record in the late '40s.

WRIGHT SAYS that the reactions to him as the only white member of the group are interesting. "Many of the white students just look at me after the concert," he says. "The blacks, however, have been most friendly and after the concert always come to talk about the music and the program," he continues.

According to Wright, King has started to refer to him during the concert, pointing out that it isn't necessary to be black to enjoy and be able to play the blues.

How did the Franklin High graduate land his spot pounding the keyboard in a blues group?

"IT WAS pure luck," Wright says. "I have always liked King's music," Wright explained, "and I used to go to the concerts and be the only white person there."

After a concert in Detroit, I went backstage and asked him if he was interested in hiring another pianist. The drummer, who does the hiring for the band, took my name and phone number, and I never heard from him.

It was a year and a half later that I attended one of King's concerts in San Francisco, and I went backstage again. The drummer took my name and phone number again, and I thought it would be the same story.

"Four days later I had a phone call to fly to New York to join the group, and here I am," Wright says. He started out as a drummer, but an injury dating from the Marine Corps days limited his ability on that instrument.

ACCORDING to Wright, it is really because of his wife, Pam, that he's playing the piano today.

It seems that while attending Schoolcraft College, Wright was forced to pawn his piano. When he and Pam, who also

attended Schoolcraft, left for San Francisco, the piano was bailed out of the pawn shop and packed along with the young couple's belongings.

While in San Francisco, Wright played club dates and waited for his break. It was during this period that he jammed in informal sessions in San Francisco with members of the famous Electric Flag group.

"This might sound like a story of incredible luck. But when Wright tells you that he really believes that a person can create his own environment to the degree that he believes in his own abilities, you are not so certain."

"Everybody has a story," Wright explained, "and people should take the time to listen. I don't believe in violence," the young man continues, "but rather in telling the truth calmly."

"If enough people do this, then the truth will be known," he says.

"FOR EXAMPLE," the musician continues, "you hear about the gun fights between the police and the Black Panthers, and that's all people hear."

"I know many Black Panthers in San Francisco, and while I don't agree with the violence, I think that people should know that these same Black Panthers feed hundreds of children every morning so that the kids can go to school with a breakfast in their stomachs."

Why isn't this type of story told?

Wright and his wife are moving back to Michigan now that he has a contract with the King group. "I don't know why, but most of the music is new in Detroit," he says.

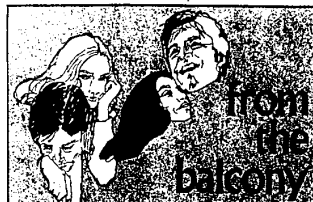
Before the move, however, there are playing dates in Chicago, Washington, D.C., on the West Coast and a six-week tour of Japan.

And in each place, Wright will continue to "tell the truth calmly."

Sweden Is Film Scene

The wildlife of Sweden is pictured in the film "Sweden - Mountains to the Sea" scheduled for showing at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 10, in the Rackham Auditorium, Woodward at Farnsworth.

Dr. John Douglas Bulger will narrate his film. The evening is sponsored by the Detroit Audubon Society. Tickets may be purchased at the door.



Theatre	Film	Industry Rating	Catholic Rating
ALGERS DRIVE-IN Wayne Road opposite Westland	de Sade Succubus	X	C
CINEMA I Livonia Mall	The Reivers	M	A-3
CINEMA II Livonia Mall	101 Dalmations	G	A-1
CIVIC Farmington	The Unreleased	G	A-1
LA PARISIEN Ford and Middlebelt Garden City	Rob & Carol Ted & Alice	R	B
MAI KAI Farmington and Plymouth Livonia	John and Mary	R	B
PENN Plymouth Ave. Farmington	101 Dalmations	G	A-1
QUO VADIS Warren and Wayne Rds. opposite Westland	On Her Majesty's Secret Service	M	none
QUO VADIS PENTHOUSE I	Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid	M	A-3
QUO VADIS PENTHOUSE II	Easy Rider	A-4	
TERRACE Plymouth Rd. east of Farmington, Livonia	The Arrangement	R	B

Industry ratings: G—suitable for general audiences; M—suitable for mature audiences; R—restricted to persons 17 and older; X—no one under 17 admitted; unless accompanied by parent or adult guardian. Age restrictions may be higher... check theater.

National Catholic Office for Motion Pictures:
A1 Morally unobjectionable—for general patronage.
A2 Morally unobjectionable—for adults, adolescents.
A3 Morally unobjectionable—for adults.
A4 Morally unobjectionable for adults with reservations.
A5 Morally objectionable in part for all; C—condemned.

Donna To Dance In Olympia Show

A young Livonia dancer's years of training in ballet and modern dance have apparently paid off. Donna Shingledecker, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Shingledecker, 28855 Mason St., has been selected to the cast of "Disney on Parade," a new live touring show that will play 27 American-Canadian cities in 1970.

She is currently in Chicago with the cast. After the Chicago stop, Donna will be returning home Jan. 7 as the show opens at Olympia Stadium in Detroit for five days and nine performances.

Two of the production numbers she will appear in are recreations of "Cinderella" and "Alice in Wonderland," two of Disney's most successful classics.

Tickets for "Disney on Parade" are available at Olympia, all major Hudson stores, or by mail.

WSU To Offer Credit Courses In Livonia

A total of 12 courses will be offered by the Wayne State University's Division of Urban Extension in Livonia's Franklin High School during the winter quarter beginning Jan. 12.

The courses range from education and guidance to English literature, political science and business topics.

SPECIFIC course titles in the Franklin location are:

Evaluation and Measurement; Role of the Teacher in Guidance; Mental Hygiene and Its Relation to Problems of Education; Philosophy of Education; Psycho-Educational Intervention and Acting Out Phenomenon; Shakespeare; English Literature of the 20th Century; Political Process in the Urban Setting; Psychology of Social Behavior; Leadership and Group Process in Speech; Accounting Principles and

U-M Sets Winter Courses

College courses will be offered throughout Wayne and Oakland counties including one based in the Farmington High School by the University of Michigan Extension Service.

The winter term begins the week of Jan. 12. Course locations include the U-M Dearborn Campus and the Rackham Education Memorial at Farmington and Woodward, Detroit.

Oakland locations are in high schools throughout the county and include Southfield, Birmingham, and Walled Lake in addition to Farmington.

The Farmington based course is entitled "Education of Exceptional Children."

A complete listing of the courses offered is available from the U-M Dearborn campus or the Rackham Memorial. Registration for classes is scheduled Jan. 5 through 9 in Dearborn, Jan. 5 through 23 at the Rackham Center and on the first night of class in the Oakland County locations.

The courses may be taken for graduate or under graduate credit.

New Trails

Michigan is making efforts to develop trails, not only for snowmobiling, but also for hiking, bicycles, horseback riding and automobiles, in its state parks. Some trails may be single-purpose, but efforts are being made to develop multi-purpose trails wherever practical.

EMU Announces Casting Call

Tryouts for the third in a series of four productions in the Eastern Michigan University Players Series, "Mother Courage and Her Children," are scheduled for Jan. 5 and 6.

Director James W. Gousseff, professor of speech and dramatic arts, will hold tryouts for Brecht's multi-media anti-war exploitation on those dates from 2 to 4 p.m. and 7:30-10:30 p.m. in 131 Quirk.

Parts are available for 20 men and 10 women out of whom will be chosen five soloists and five choruses for a production that might well be termed a "mini-musical."

Scripts for "Mother Courage" will be available in room 100, Quirk between 12:45 and 4:30 p.m. daily.

Additional information regarding the production may be obtained in person at the Quirk Theatre Box Office or by calling 482-3453 during box office hours.

Singles Meet

The Singles Inter-Parish Club will meet at 7 p.m. in Our Lady of Sorrows Parish Hall, Powers and Shawnee, Farmington. Single church members, of any denomination, between the ages of 21 and 35 are invited.

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A total of 167 credit courses will be offered in 15 different locations in the metropolitan area by the WSU division.

Graduate and undergraduate courses for the College of Education, College of Engineering, College of Liberal Arts and School of Business Administration are included in the curriculum.

IN ADDITION to Franklin High School, courses will be offered in Dearborn, Detroit, Flint, Grosse Pointe, Jackson.

Farmington Students Rewarded

Two North Farmington students are among the three high school students winning scholarships to the Bloomfield Art Association's Winter term of art classes.

A watercolor "My World" won a scholarship for 17-year-old Jeff Merrill, a senior at North Farmington. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Murray G. Merrill of 7122 Heather Heath Lane, West Bloomfield.

Wendy Snyder, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leopold J. Snyder of 31415 Stonewood Court, Farmington, won a scholarship for her entry, a woven piece. Wendy is 16 years old and a senior at North.

Scholarships allow the students to enroll in a 16-week class of their choice and study in a professional atmosphere with instructors drawn from the universities and art schools in the area.

Milford, Pontiac, Port Huron, Royal Oak, St. Clair Shores, Troy, Warren, Wyandotte and the University's Southfield Extension Center where 50 courses will be held.

Students are urged to register now since those who wait to register at the first class meeting may find the section closed. You may register by mail or in person.

Application blanks may be obtained by calling the credit program at 538-2104 or writing the program at Division of Urban Extension, WSU, 25610 W. 11 Mile Road, Southfield 48075.

Dinner Meeting Set Jan. 9

The Dearborn-Livonia-Singlets have scheduled a dinner meeting for Friday, Jan. 9, in the Boardwalk at 8470 N. Telegraph Road, Dearborn Heights.

A social hour begins at 6:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 7:30 p.m. Dinner reservations, which are required may be obtained by calling Susie Alviani at Lo 5-9392 or Patricia Terwilliger at 427-3540 after 6 p.m.

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