

Jazz from page E1

grounda. The response from the artists has been fabulous."

While their parents are listening to music, children can paint, glue, color and create works of art with volunteers from the Ann Arbor Art Association's Art Ventures Workshop.

"Jiffy Mixes sponsors that tent. They use Jiffy Mix products to make musical instruments. We got some pretty big kids in there too."

Brown explained that when adding programs, the board of directors looks at the goals of the festival and ways in which they can be accomplished.

"There's a variety of ways that we can do that," said Brown whose "day job" is art fair director for the Ann Arbor Summer, Holiday, and Greentown art fairs.

"One is by making the festival attractive to families so that kids get an introduction in a happy entertaining way to the music. Another is to provide information to others that are interested in it. Film can do that. The films that we've chosen this year, the

topics are about classic jazz and they're made about the artists who are important to the art form."

Ann Arbor will be a hotbed of blues and jazz. Buddy Guy and Johnnie Bassett and the Blues Insurgents will perform at 8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 27, at the Michigan Theater. Kurt Elling and the Laurence Hobgood Trio hit the Bird of Paradise stage at 8:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Gallup Park will host H.O.R.D.E. Festival veterans Medeski Martin and Wood, along with Don Byron Quartet, Big Jack Johnson and the Oilers, Lavelle White on Saturday, Sept. 6. Local acts Mudpuppy and Lady Sunshine and the X Band fill out the bill on Sunday.

Marcin Ball, Beau Jockey and the Zydeco Hi-Rollers, Honeyboy Edwards, Paul Keller Sextet, Transmission, and the 200 Jazz Band fill Gallup Park with music on Sunday, Sept. 7.

"We're very lucky to have the outdoor segment of the festival at Gallup Park, one of the City of

Ann Arbor's premier parks. It's a spectacular setting. There's big beautiful trees, a large grassy area, and the river runs by it. We have a large tent so we're there rain or shine," Brown said.

This year, local restaurants America's Deli, Mr. Rib, Philly's, Macaroni Grill, and the Barrio will offer their specialties. Espresso Express and Ben and Jerry's will also set up shop.

Humble beginnings

The Ann Arbor Blues and Jazz Festival began as a grassroots event in 1972 with a mission to offer a variety of music. Due to bureaucratic red tape, the festival closed two years later but was resurrected in 1982 by a small group of volunteers from Ann Arbor's cultural, entertainment, and business communities.

Keeping with the founders' vision, the volunteers brought it into the 1990s by adding arts and crafts exhibits at Gallup Park, more venues for music, and souvenir merchandise. Festival co-founder Peter Andrews

created the children's area to keep kids busy while adults watched the performers.

The festival is now run by its 21-member board of directors which is responsible for booking the acts, seeking out volunteers, coordinating food vendors, producing souvenir merchandise, marketing and ticket sales.

"Board members were selected for the unique talents and experience that each of them bring to the festival," said board president Bob Barden. "Our board includes a lawyer, a CPA, the host of a jazz radio program, and many with event production and marketing experience. They vol-

unteer their time because they love blues and jazz and want the festival to succeed."

Throughout the 25 years, the primary changes have been within the audience and financial matters, Brown explained.

"Some of them are the same people, they are just 25 years older and they're bringing their kids. One of the changes is sponsorships. Twenty years ago we were supported entirely on ticket sales. The economic realities of producing a festival like this are very different than they were 25 years ago."

Various sponsors including The City of Ann Arbor and

'Southern Comfort help ease the financial burden. Official festival merchandise like T-shirts and buttons help support the festival and "let the people in Ann Arbor take their memories with them to wear throughout the year," Brown said.

She guarantees those memories of younger and older performers will be good ones.

"The lineup's eclectic and that's the fun of it. The original blues and jazz festival mixed young performers with the icons of the genre. That's what this festival continues to do."

Falsettos

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Finn tells this complicated story with humor, drama and music. "Falsettos" is sung throughout without spoken dialogue but, also, not at operatic range.

"He's created a new way to go, not opera or musical comedy," Colanni said. "He has a good sense of melody, a beautiful sense, but he has an off-centered, skewed view of life."

Colanni, a retired ad executive who lives in Tennessee, directed JET's first production in 1990, "The Man in the Glass Booth," and most recently directed "Torch Song Trilogy" for JET, which also deals with homosexuality.

Colanni said JET artistic director Evelyn Orbach has seen the Broadway production and decided it would be the right choice for the theater's first musical.

"It's very unusual. Despite the fact that it tells a story, if you look at it, it is all unspoken scenes. It's very emotional," said Colanni. "It's not integrated like most contemporary musicals."

Milicia Govich, who plays Marvin's abandoned wife Trina, says the play is very intimate.

"It's so real and funny, hysterical," she said.

Govich, a New York City-based actress, was visiting her

boyfriend in Brighton when she heard about the JET production and leaped at the opportunity.

"It's a wonderful part," she said. "You go from laughter to tears. It's one of the parts I've always wanted to do. A friend of mine just got to play Maria in 'Sound of Music' and I was talking to her about this play and she said, 'That's your Maria.' And she's right, it is."

Govich toured with Carol Channing in "Hello Dolly" and has performed in many productions in and out of New York.

"I'm delighted to be part of this," she said. "New York is not the only place to do theater."

Colanni and Govich note that although the play is sung throughout, it isn't opera.

"The music is very Sondheimesque. It's really about being, not what a pretty voice you have," Govich said.

Colanni said that the "recitative" is really private talks and each of the characters is strongly drawn out very opinionated. He said Finn doesn't take sides even though Finn admits that Marvin is like himself.

Even the young son voices his views, at one point telling his parents, "Just because you failed as parents, don't take it out on me."

The role of the son is played by

Nick Cornfield of Rochester, a seasoned performer at 12.

"Jason's a mellow kid," said Nick, a student at Hart Middle School. "He's more mature than anyone else."

Nick is quite mature himself when discussing the play.

"It's about coping and family values," he said. "It's like how he's the most mature while everyone else is going crazy."

Nick has performed in the Meadow Brook production of "Christmas Carol" four times and counts veteran actor Booth Colman among his friends. He has also performed in "Shadowlands" at Meadow Brook and with the Avon Players.

He said right now he's considering either acting or the law as a career. His all-time favorite show is "Les Miserables," which he has seen four times.

The music will be provided by a three piece band of pianist, synthesizer and percussion under the direction of Ben Cohen.

Other plays in the JET season are: "The Shiva Queen," Nov. 26 to Dec. 31; "Taking Sides," Feb. 11 to March 8; "The Cemetery Club," April 22 to May 24; and a Festival of New Plays, May 27 to June 28.

'Hoodlum' guilty of ponderousness

By JOHN MONAGHAN
Special Writer

Ellsworth "Bumpy" Johnson is the kind of guy that, even with a gun pointed at his head, will look you straight in the eye and remind you to shoot straight. As played by Laurence Fishburne in the new movie "Hoodlum," he becomes a Robin Hood-style folk hero to Depression-era Harlem.

His legend is one only passable justice by director Bill Duke, whose movie, despite a couple losses steam about halfway through its over two-hour running time. The same thing happened with his 1991 premier "A Rage in Harlem," which spawned an equally strong black and white two-dimensional characters.

The real Johnson worked the numbers racket (or illegal neighborhood lottery) in Harlem during the 1930s, going head-to-head with Lucky Luciano and Dutch Schultz, two far more familiar gangsters of the day.

They are played respectively (and with great gusto) by Andy Garcia and Tim Roth.

They exist as two sides of a bad penny. Schultz, who can't get ahead by a sentence without the use of expletives, contrasts with Luciano, whose high style is actually more in line with Johnson's. Schultz despises them both.

To his credit, Duke and writer Chris Brancato do establish the social strata of the mob. The cinematographer and production designers, meanwhile, create a passable replica of Harlem.

The movie's conscience comes from the missionary turned moll played by (or rather posed by) former Miss America Vanessa Williams. She forces Bumpy to confront the blood that he is shedding on the streets of a once-peaceful Harlem, still in the midst of its cultural renaissance.

From Bumpy's point of view, numbers running is worth protecting. During the Depres-

sion, he says, "it's the only home-grown business a black man can feed his family on." Duke has assembled a superb supporting cast. Clarence Williams, still best known from his days on the "Mud Squad," is one of Schultz's right hand men. Cicely Tyson plays "The Queen," the East African matriarch whose Harlem "bank" Bumpy pledges to protect. Fishburne, though well cast in the lead, is shown in way too many shots contemplating in front of a chess board. While making him a deep thinker (even a poet), you rarely understand what motivates him outside of his steadfast loyalty to his cousin Illinois (Chi McBride) and especially "The Queen."

"Hoodlum" wants it both ways, maybe more. It strives for the atmosphere of '30s gangster films along with the attitude of modern "gangsta" rap. It also wants the depth of "The Godfather." Only the first goal is achieved by the final act.



GUIDE TO THE MOVIES

General Cinemas Bargain Matinee Daily plus \$1.25 (Two-Act) Show Daily Centex 8 Ford Rd. 11, 11:00-1:30 981-1900 Advanced same-day tickets available *Denotes V.P. Restrictions Friday Show Thursday "SPAWN" (PG-13) "AIR FORCE ONE" (R) "CONSPIRACY THEORY" (R) "PICTURE PERFECT" (PG-13) "FREE WILLY 2" (PG) "FREE WILLY 2" (PG) "FREE WILLY 2" (PG) "AIR BUD" (PG) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES	Showtimes: Downtown L.B. 11:00-1:30 313-361-3449 Bargain Matinee Daily All Shows 11:00-1:30 Corpus Christi Show Daily Late Shows Fri. & Sat. 8:00 p.m. LEAVE IT TO BEAVER (PG) "G.I. JANE" (R) "MONEY TALKS" (R) "STEEL" (PG-13) "CONSPIRACY THEORY" (R) "HOW TO BE A PLAYER" (R) "AIR BUD" (PG) "SPAWN" (PG-13) "MEN IN BLACK" (PG-13) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES	Star Theatres The World's Best Theatres Bargain Matinee Daily 11:00-1:30 Showtimes: 11:00-1:30 Now Accepting Visa & MasterCard *Denotes No Pass Engagements Star John B. ALL MEDIA 3229 Johns Rd. 585-2070 CALL FOR SATURDAY SHOWTIMES FRIEDAY THURSDAY No one under 16 admitted for PG-13 & R rated films after 6 p.m. "SPAWN" (PG-13) "AIR FORCE ONE" (R) "CONSPIRACY THEORY" (R) "PICTURE PERFECT" (PG-13) "FREE WILLY 2" (PG) "FREE WILLY 2" (PG) "FREE WILLY 2" (PG) "AIR BUD" (PG) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES	United Artists Theatres Bargain Matinee Daily for all shows starting before 6:00 PM Same day advance tickets available 21:00 NY: No V.I.P. Seating Accepted United Artists Fairbanks Fairbanks Town Center Value Pricing Available 313-583-4790 ALL TIMES FOR FRIDAYS MIDNIGHT SHOWS FRIDAY AND SATURDAY ONLY "A SMILE LIKE YOURS" (R) "MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE" (PG-13) "COPLAND" (R) "EVENT HORIZON" (R) "GOOD BUYS" (PG-13) "AIR FORCE ONE" (R) "HERCULES" (R) "PICTURE PERFECT" (PG-13) "PICTURE PERFECT" (PG-13) "FACE OFF" (R) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES	NY COP LAND (R) "NY EVENT HORIZON" (R) "CONSPIRACY THEORY" (R) "AIR FORCE ONE" (R) "MY BEST FRIEND'S WEDDING" (PG-13) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES	MM THEATRES 999 Livonia Mall Livonia Mall at 7 mile 313-476-8800 ALL SEATS \$9.95 ALL SHOWS FREE REFRESHMENTS & Popcorn FREE SHOWS DAILY FOR CHILDREN 12 & UNDER ADULTS \$9.95 THEATRE ONLY BATMAN AND ROBIN (PG-13) CON AIR (R) BUDDY (PG) LOST WORLD: JURASSIC PARK CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES	Waterford Cinema II 7501 Highland Rd. S.E. corner M-59 & Williams Lake Rd. 24 Hour Movie 11:00-1:30 \$1.25 (TWO) SHOWS DAILY "G.I. JANE" (R) LEAVE IT TO BEAVER (PG) "MONEY TALKS" (R) "STEEL" (PG-13) "COPLAND" (R) "EVENT HORIZON" (R) "CONSPIRACY THEORY" (R) "PICTURE PERFECT" (PG-13) "AIR BUD" (PG) "AIR FORCE ONE" (R) "GEORGE OF THE JUNGLE" (PG) "MEN IN BLACK" (PG-13) "SPAWN" (PG-13) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES	United Artists Inside Inland Mall 810-583-7041 "G.I. JANE" (R) "MONEY TALKS" (R) "FACE OFF" (R) "PICTURE PERFECT" (PG-13) "AIR BUD" (PG) "AIR FORCE ONE" (R) "GOOD BUYS" (PG-13) "AIR FORCE ONE" (R) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES	United Artists Inside Inland Mall 810-583-7041 "G.I. JANE" (R) "MONEY TALKS" (R) "FACE OFF" (R) "PICTURE PERFECT" (PG-13) "AIR BUD" (PG) "AIR FORCE ONE" (R) "GOOD BUYS" (PG-13) "AIR FORCE ONE" (R) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES	Torrey Cinema 35400 Plymouth Rd. 313-261-3330 All shows \$1 except shows after 6 p.m. *All shows \$1.50 7:15 every Tuesday Would you like to see the movie? Then become a "FREQUENT VIEWER!" COME IN AND FIND OUT HOW AUGUST 22-AUGUST 28 BATMAN AND ROBIN (PG-13) CON AIR (R) LOST WORLD: JURASSIC PARK OUT TO SEA (PG-13) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES	Mall At Theater II Main-11 Mile Bryant Rd. (313) 543-0100 \$3.00 (THREE) SHOWS DAILY "SHALL WE DANCE" (PG) "BOX OF MAGNETS" (R) "KISS BROWN" (PG) "DESIGNATED MOTHER" (R) "ULLEY'S GOLD" (R) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES	Rimington Theatre 211 S. Woodward Downtown Birmingham 644-3417 NP Denotes No Pass Engagements Order Movie tickets by phone Call 644-3417 and have your card ready (A 25% surcharge will apply to all telephone sales) "A SMILE LIKE YOURS" (R) "G.I. JANE" (R) "AIR BUD" (PG) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES	Star Wineshop 1136 S. Rochester Rd., Winchester 656-1160 No one under 16 admitted for PG-13 & R rated films after 6 p.m. "A SMILE LIKE YOURS" (R) "MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE" (PG-13) "COPLAND" (R) "EVENT HORIZON" (R) "GOOD BUYS" (PG-13) "AIR BUD" (PG) "PICTURE PERFECT" (PG-13) "PICTURE PERFECT" (PG-13) "FACE OFF" (R) "MEN IN BLACK" (PG-13) "SPAWN" (PG-13) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES	Showtimes: Westland L.B. 6800 Wayne Rd. 313-776-1600 Bargain Matinee Daily All Shows 11:00-1:30 Continuous Show Daily Late Shows Wed. Thurs. Fri. & Sat. LEAVE IT TO BEAVER (PG) "G.I. JANE" (R) "MONEY TALKS" (R) "STEEL" (PG-13) "CONSPIRACY THEORY" (R) "HOW TO BE A PLAYER" (R) "AIR BUD" (PG) "SPAWN" (PG-13) "MEN IN BLACK" (PG-13) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES	Showtimes: Westland L.B. 6800 Wayne Rd. 313-776-1600 Bargain Matinee Daily All Shows 11:00-1:30 Continuous Show Daily Late Shows Wed. Thurs. Fri. & Sat. LEAVE IT TO BEAVER (PG) "G.I. 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