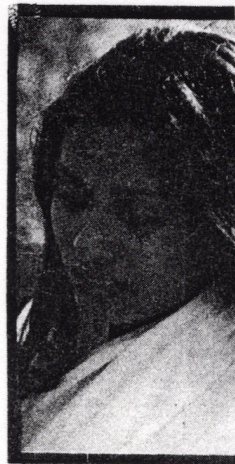


8 DAYS A WEEK

A selective guide
to Bay Area
events by
Sara Catania

28
friday

MO' BETTER JAZZ If you saw them at their recent Zellerbach show, you owe it to yourself to check out the **Branford Marsalis Quartet** in a subdued club setting. If you missed them, and call yourself a self-respecting jazz fan, there's no excuse for not seeing this fast-rising quartet live. The unmistakable mix of



Islander Irene Pappas contemplates feminist isolation: See Fri/4.

Branford's impeccable blowing, Jeff 'tatin Watt's unbeatable drumming, Billy Child's plying piano playing, and Robert Hurst's driving bass guarantees a memorable evening. Tonight through Sun/30, 8:30 and 11 pm, Kimball's East, 5800 Shellmound, Emeryville. \$20. 658-2555.

SAMBA! Join the folks at Studio Brasil for their monthly celebration featuring a Brazilian dance recital, complimentary buffet, and a dance

party with music by **Samba Escola Nova de Samba Batera**. Proceeds go toward Carnaval '91. 8 pm, Studio Brasil, 50 Brady (at Market), SF. \$8. 863-8291.

BALLADS AND LEGENDS tracing African American heritage embodied in the legendary figure of John Henry come to life in **Natural Man**, a portrayal of the superhuman powers necessary to overcome the suffering and oppression endured on Southern Rail-

ways' chain gangs. Plays Thurs.-Sat. at 8 pm, with Sat. matinees at 2:30 pm, through Feb. 2. Black Repertory Group, 3201 Adeline (at Fairview), Berk. \$10. 652-2120.

ON EARTH DAY THEY ATE DIRT And the audience did, too. What will funky-rocking **World Entertainment War** do to herald the new year? Find out for yourself, as WEW struts its stuff with The Fabulous Bud E. Luv. 10 pm, Paradise

Jean Sutterfield's feminist revenge on the airwaves in **Born in Flames**: See Wed/2.

Lounge, 1501 Folsom, SF. \$5. 861-6906.

'A YEAR TO DISMEMBER' School Board-elect supercomedian **Tom Ammirato** waxes comical in his end-of-the-year one-man holiday routine. Don't miss his parting jabs at the political scene in an election year most of us would be glad to forget. Tonight through Sun/30 at 8 pm, with an additional show Mon/31 at 11 pm, Eureka Theatre Company, 2730 16th St., SF. \$12; \$15 New Year's Eve (half-price tickets available for Mission residents). 558-9898.

WE'RE OFF TO SEE THE WIZARD Munchkins can be big when the screen is, too. Don't miss your chance to see this bizarre slice of Americana on a screen bigger than the one in your living room. **The Wizard of Oz** plays at 11 am and 2:30 pm, Lawrence Hall of Science, Centennial Dr. (above UC Berkeley campus), Berk. \$3.50. 642-5133.

29
saturday

MUSICALLY MANIFESTED MIRACLE It's hard to believe, but it's been a year since Intersection for the Arts moved to Valencia Street, and high time for a celebration. M-1 Alternative and Soma Holiday provide the music, local designers provide the art, and you provide the ambience for this **Miracle on Valencia Street**. 9 pm, Intersection For the Arts, 446 Valencia (between 15th and 16th Sts.), SF. \$5. 626-2787.

FROM NTOZ New Orleans' **Rebirth Brass Band**, the little darlings of the Mardi Gras music scene, and Zimbabwe's **Bhundu Boys**, blending traditional Mbira with the more modern sound of Jit, join forces in

SCARY MONSTERS One last chance for a good scare in '90 is yours for the taking at **Monster Movie Night**. The key words here are low budget on this night of fear-filled cheap thrills, featuring *Robot Monster*, *Ultraman* and *Johnny Sokko and His Flying Robot*. 7:30 pm, Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez (at 23rd St.), SF. \$2.50-\$3.50. 282-2317.

GO APE Funk it up with **Primus** (formerly, and tellingly, called *Primates*) in all their Cro-Magnon glory, in a setting infinitely more intimate than their usual choice of venues. Get there early for the avant-garde rap of Beatnig Michael Franti. 10 pm, Nightbreak, 1821 Haight, SF. \$10. 221-9008. (Also Sun/30.)

IF JOKES COULD KILL In a Northern California exclusive, the U.K.'s **Killing Joke** brings its fire-spewing rock to San Francisco for a night of confrontational, beat-driven philosophy. Joke fans are sure to be rewarded with live interpretations of cuts from the recently released *Extremities*, *Dirt* and *Various Repressed Emotions*. 8 and 11 pm, I-Beam, 1748 Haight, SF. \$14 advance; \$16 door. 668-6023.

MO' BETTER JAZZ See Fri/28.
'A YEAR TO DISMEMBER' See Fri/28.

BALLADS AND LEGENDS See Fri/28.

30
sunday

SALUBRIOUS SINGATHON Meditate, reflect and feel the curative vibes while Bobby McFerrin and his Voicestra lead **"Singing for Your Life,"** a 24-hour continuous healing happening at Grace Cathedral. Hundreds of Bay Area vocalists chant, sing and convey the healing spirit, including Linda Tillery, Rhiannon, Molly Holm and Roger Beard. While the music fills your soul, an all-night cafe in downstairs Gresham Hall sustains your body. Donations go to Grace Cathedral Pastoral Ministries. 6 pm today through 6 pm Monday, Grace Cathedral, California and Taylor, SF. Free. 776-6611.

FIYO ON THE BAYOU The Neville



echo CHAMBER

By Kurt Wolff

EVER SEE the 1957 George Sidney film *Pal Joey*? In it, Sinatra plays a singer who comes to San Francisco looking to open his own club, which he calls *Chez Joey*. Unfortunately, from a 1990 perspective, the plot's a bit dated; the demise of the supper club in America is a fact that became all too apparent when the Fairmont closed its Venetian Room last year.

There are some around here, though, who feel the supper club shouldn't go down the tubes that easily. Local lounge-music aficionado Joe Sehee, better known as *Joey Cheezhee*, is one of them. With the help of many friends, he's creating his own *Chez Joey* for seven nights this January down at the On Broadway Theater in North Beach — the same North Beach whose nightlife reputation, back in the '50s, was made with supper clubs, not strip joints. (It's also the same On Broadway whose stage helped build San Francisco's punk rock reputation in the early '80s — though lately it's been housing an eclectic mix, from the now-bankrupt *La Cage aux Folles* to the popular *play East*.)

Joey's been working rooms in San Francisco nightclubs like the DNA and the Paradise for a couple of years now with his band, the *Velveeta Underground* (who may be undergoing a name change soon; the folks at Kraft are not amused); they even played a gig last spring in Vegas. Much of the band's material at the *Chez Joey* gigs will be original, written by VU sax player Larry Gallagher, though Cheezhee and company are best known for butchering songs made into standards by pop stars from Sinatra to the Grateful Dead. It's familiar, but it's not. It's serious, but it's a laugh. What makes it work, though — and perhaps what makes every great lounge singer's act work — is that Joey and the band know it's a schtick; they're laughing right along with you. If the music doesn't clue you in, Joey's gold-glitter rollerblades sure will.

"There's isn't any 'lounge genre,'" Joey explained recently over a Christmas ale at Vesuvio's. Lounge music can be any style of music from anywhere on the globe — the only discerning "quality" is that "you've killed all of it," he says, smiling but also serious. Joey's had an itch to sing this stuff ever since high school, where he spent many evenings listening to his mentor, Bob Chambers, owner of Bob and Rob's in Detroit, sing

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