

EXPO 86

Jazz: But just a sample for Expo

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Music Critic

In the middle of all the music and dance and theatre presented in conjunction with Expo, you'd think there would be room for a little jazz.

There is, in fact, but only a little.

Jazz at the Plaza presents 10 Thursday evenings beginning May 8 and featuring, in order: VEJI, Skywalk, Fred Stride and the Westcoast Jazz Orchestra, Paul Horn, Phil Dwyer Quintet and Paul Plimley Octet, Dave Quarin and Gettin' Off Easy, Fraser MacPherson Quartet, P.J. Perry, Lloyd Arntzen Classic Jazz Band and Hasselbach, and Badazzjazz.

Most of the rest of what there is is crammed into a mad week of music, June 23-29, scattered through 20 locations

on and off the Expo site.

"This is a festival the like of which no one has ever seen before," says Ken Pickering of the Coastal Jazz and Blues Association and one of the producers of the festival. Imperial Tobacco sponsorship makes it the du Maurier International Jazz Festival.

Main venues for the festival are the Expo Theatre and the Amphitheatre and Inner Stage at the Canada Pavilion on site, and the New York Theatre on Commercial Drive, the Robson Square Cinema and the West-ern Front off site.

The heavy hitters confirmed are Miles Davis (June 27) and Wynton Marsalis (June 28). Marsalis is scheduled to appear with Dollar Brand and Ekaya (this concert is already sold out but Brand and Ekaya

will be in concert at the New York Theatre June 27).

Opening for Davis is Willem Breuker's Kollektief from Holland and there are still tickets available for this one.

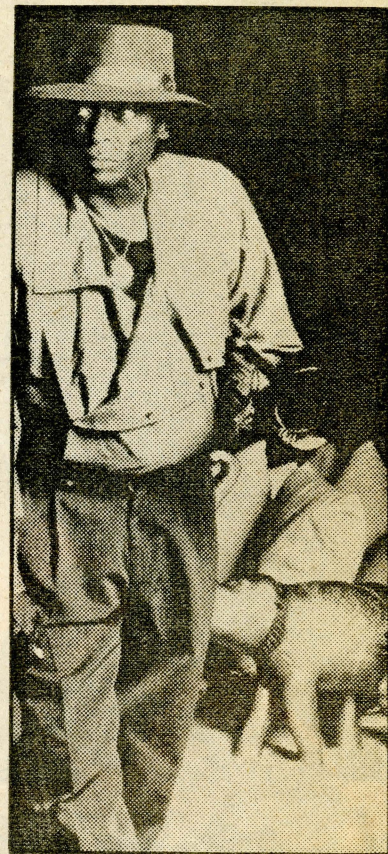
June 26 and 29 haven't been confirmed yet, but plans are for a blues bill on one and Latin jazz for the other.

Other performers Pickering says to look for include Karen Young and Michel Donato, a voice and bass duo from Montreal; Wondeur Brass, a women's jazz-rock experimental band also from Montreal; Salome Bey; Kenny Wheeler with Hugh Fraser; and from

Toronto, the Bill Smith Ensemble, the Pat LaBarbara Quartet and the Peter Leitch Quartet.

Skywalk and UZEB both play at 86th Street, the largest of the three on-site clubs; Waves will also feature jazz during festival week.

The on-site entertainment is free with your entry onto the grounds, with the exception of the four concerts scheduled for the Expo Theatre (tickets are \$15 from VTC/CBO). Off-site events will probably have a \$10 to \$15 ticket price, says Pickering, but series packages will be available probably in mid-May.



MILES DAVIS