Jack Kleinsinger presents Highlights in JAZZ
In association with NYU Program Board

THURSDAY
MARCH 6th
8:00PM

Jazz LEGENDS On Film Part III

Satch • Billie • Fats
Erroll • Bird • Diz • BG
Bechet • Trane • Count
Prez • Roy • Hamp • Ella
and other great stars...

Our third edition of filmed performances from the film collection of DAVID ChERTOK

at N.Y.U. Loeb Student Center

566 LaGuardia Pl. at Washington Sq. South
tel. 598-3757

Tickets $6, Students $5
Student Balcony $4
Enclose Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope

Coming Thursday, April 10th, 8PM Living Legends: WILD BILL DAVISON/JABBO SMITH

with Dick Wellstood, Ken Davern, George DuVivier, Cliff Leeman, Natalie Lamb
MAIL ORDERS ACCEPTED NOW: $6, Students $5
Please enclose self-addressed stamped envelope
Jack Kleinsinger’s “Highlights in Jazz” series presented its third film program on March 6th, at the Loeb Student Center which was quite impressive. The major problem with jazz films, especially those that were made in the '30s and '40s, is that they are extremely racist. In fact, taking these films in their entirety, as they relate to blacks, one can find little of value. However, on this occasion I felt that Chertok’s selections were designed to educate and shed a degree of history on this form, and not provide segments from films that were conceived to portray blacks in demeaning roles. In this respect, Chertok was very articulate, as his remarks preceding each reel were informative and offered a measure of sensitivity on a very important era in jazz.

The film clips that were shown focused on many of the greatest names in the music, including Louis Armstrong, Fats Waller, Benny Goodman, Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Jimmy Lunceford, Gene Krupa, Billy Holiday, Tommy Dorsey, Billie Holiday and Barney Kessel among others, and a dance sequence that makes sense. One also viewed a young Louis Armstrong playing and singing, “I Cover the Waterfront,” with some misplaced dancers, Ellington accompanying Ella Fitzgerald on, “Don’t Get Around Much Anymore.”

Additional clips included the likes of Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie collaborating on “Hot House,” Roy Eldridge and Anita O’Day with “Let Me Off Uptown.” Billy Eckstine leading his big band with a glimpse of James Moody, Sidney Bechet performing in Paris and a televised segment showing John Coltrane. It goes without saying that I found Part III of Jazz Legends on Film quite rewarding and Dave Chertok should be commended for exercising good taste with filmed material that has racist overtones.

Jazz Spotlite News
On the Town

Jazz greats alive on film

By RICHARD M. SUDHALTER

THE BEST PART, Dave Chertok was saying, comes when the audience sees Billie Holiday or Charlie Parker or Louis Armstrong on screen for the first time, longer than life.

"You gotta hear that gasp of recognition," he said. "You'd think Louis or Billie or Bird had actually walked into the room."

And so in a way, they have. For listeners, especially young ones, brought up to know such jazz giants as names in textbooks or sounds coming off records, an appearance on film can have the same impact as the real thing.

It's especially gratifying to Chertok, who within the last decade has gained worldwide respect as a leading collector of jazz on film.

Tonight at NYU's Loeb Student Center, part of Jack Kleinsinger's Highlights in Jazz series, Chertok presents one of the movie shows for which he's now in international demand.

The program will screen a 1953 clip of Sidney Bechet, a look at Louis Armstrong's famed 1953 European tour, Fats Waller doing the Joint is Jumping.

The evening will offer highlights of Billie Holiday, Roy Eldridge and Anita O'Day with Gene Krupa, Benny Goodman, Count Basie -- and for more contemporary tastes, some John Coltrane and a rare 1952 TV shot by Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie.

Much more besides. "I figure I've got around 700 items, running anywhere from 30 seconds to two-hour shows," said Chertok, a compact, cheerful man. "You know, I still don't tire of watching them and reliving the thrill."

It's all the more sublime for a guy born in Poland in the backwash of World War I, and who grew up hungry in depression-torn America.

"I always wanted to perform, to play music," he said. "But in those days, for us, there was no chance of buying an instrument or taking music lessons."

"Now, suddenly, I feel as though I've been given a second chance, up there on stage, lecturing to hundreds, sometimes thousands of people. It's almost like being a performer."

Chertok trades regularly with other prominent collectors, both in this show and others. They're all constantly on the lookout for new material: hitherto unknown TV kinescopes, near apotheos SHORTS OF LEGENDARY JAZZMEN.

Some immortals, Jelly Roll Morton and band-leader Fletcher Henderson among them, never made it to film -- at least, as far as has been documented. "But you never know," said Chertok. "Things turn up all the time."

Sometimes the search is fruitless, time and trouble for nothing. But other times -- well, said Dave, there's that all-important audience reaction.

"It's hard to describe. But think that up there, on the screen, a human being is breathing, moving, playing -- and most of the time playing beautifully.

"As long as they're there, and people can see and hear them and know them, they'll never die for good. It's an image that endures -- and probably the closest thing we have to real immortality."

Anyone wishing to see and hear what he means can turn up tonight at 8 o'clock at Loeb Student Center, LaGuardia Place, Washington Square South. Let Billie, Fats, Louis, Trane, Bechet, Ellington, Hamp, Pres and dozens more do the rest.

Jack Kleinsinger, who has been presenting his fine "Highlights in Jazz" series for many years in New York City at New York University's Loeb Student Center, wants it known that he is hosting a jazz-oriented tour of Switzerland from April 26 to May 5.

The 10-day trip will be highlighted by a stop in Berne for the Kursaal Jazz Festival April 30 to May 4. Among the host of jazz names participating will be Lionel Hampton, Earl Hines, Jay McShann, Pee Wee Erwin and Dick Wellstood.

There will also be time for sightseeing in several cities, including Zurich, Geneva, Luzanne, Interlaken and the resort of Grindelwald. Full information is available from Andre Cheaux and Peter Beard at Swissair (Tour Department), 608 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y. 10020.