

ON SCREEN



Köln 75
Ido Fluk (Zeitgeist)
by Terrell K. Holmes

Fifty years ago, an ambitious teenager named Vera Brandes arranged a concert featuring jazz pianist Keith Jarrett in a completely improvised solo performance. That concert became a musical landmark that produced one of the biggest selling jazz records of all time. The film *Köln 75* is a biopic about Brandes' life and the circumstances surrounding the creation of a classic, written and directed by Ido Fluk. The film opens on a dour note: at her 50th birthday party her father calls her his biggest disappointment. A quick flashback to 1973: Brandes, a jazz-loving 16-year-old, meets saxophonist and future club owner Ronnie Scott. He hires Brandes to book his tour, which jump starts her career as a concert promoter and eventually leads to Jarrett's show and *The Köln Concert*.

Brandes (Mala Emde) deftly juggles high school with her jazz life. Her circle includes her contentious but

eventually collaborative brother Jan (Enno Trebs) and her eccentric BFF Isa (Shirin Lilly Eissa). Her fractured relationship with her father (an ominous Ulrich Tukur), casts the only shadows. At one point she shares an awkward dance with him and not long after he has slapped her over a newspaper article. Journalist Michael Watts (Michael Chernus) conveys a frayed-at-the-edges bearing that conceals a clever duplicity and ambition. He provides insights into several of the film's key elements such as the chorus of fourth wall commentators in *The Big Short*. John Magaro bears a passing resemblance to Jarrett, capturing his intensity by giving the impression of something percolating beneath the surface of his skin, yet also expressing vulnerability. Emde is engaging as Brandes and shows impressive range: throughout *Köln 75*, Brandes battles sexism, skepticism and self-doubt, yet always manages to remain steadfast and strong.

Jarrett has always had an ambivalent relationship with his most popular album; he never wanted the concert to be recorded in the first place. Since Jarrett was neither involved in the film nor endorsed it, not a single note of *The Köln Concert* is heard in the film. That said, *Köln 75* is at turns funny and poignant, tragic and ultimately triumphant, even if the viewers don't get the payoff of hearing any of the classic music. What's important is that Brandes went on to have a successful life. *The Köln Concert* endures, and so does Vera Brandes — her father be damned.

For more info visit zeitgeistfilms.com/film/koeln-75. *Köln 75* opens at the Community Theater (Catskill, NY) Dec. 12.



Live at Slugs' Volume I & II
Music Inc (Strata-East)
Musa: Ancestral Streams
Stanley Cowell (Strata-East)
by Tom Greenland

This month, which marks the five-year death anniversary of Stanley Cowell (1941-2020), is a prime time to revisit two of the pianist's most memorable contributions to the jazz canon: a live quartet date with trumpeter Charles Tolliver's Music Inc., *Live at Slugs' Volume I & II* (1970), and his seminal solo album *Musa: Ancestral Streams* (1973). Both have been recently reissued on Strata-East (in partnership with Mack Avenue), the label cofounded by Cowell and Tolliver in 1971.

For those who haven't heard it, *Musa: Ancestral Streams* should come as a revelation. A time capsule perfectly preserving the zeitgeist of the early '70s, it reveals a 32-year-old musician, conservatory trained, equally inspired by Art Tatum (a family friend) and Cecil Taylor, determined to take his art and his business into his own hands. And what hands he had! His conservatory-honed compositional and technical skills are here enlisted to express the funky gospel groove of "Abscretions"; the dreamy, inward curling melodic strands of "Equipoise"; the shifting 5- and 6-beat accents of "Prayer for Peace" and the distinctive "quick-release" cluster chords and dramatic contrary motion of "Emil Danenberg". And that's just

new jersey performing arts center

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christmas with

cece winans

featuring angie winans & debbie winans

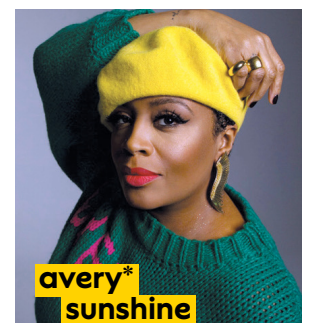
dec 19 & 20



ms. pat
Fri, Dec 19 @ 7 & 9:30PM
Cut loose with the outrageously unfiltered comedian **Ms. Pat** (BET's *The Ms. Pat Show*, *Ms. Pat Settles It*, *The Patdown*).



blind boys of alabama
Christmas Show
Sun, Dec 21 @ 3PM
The GRAMMY®-winning gospel legends **Blind Boys of Alabama** perform Christmas classics in this uplifting holiday show.



avery* sunshine
Fri, Jan 16 @ 8PM
When GRAMMY® winner **Avery*Sunshine** sings, everybody glows. You'll fall in love with her radiant voice and R&B/neo-soul originals.



sommor
Sat, Jan 24 @ 7 & 9:45PM
With a winning combination of class and sass, **Sommor** reigns as the undisputed "Queen of Comedy."



drumline live
Sun, Feb 8 @ 7PM
Feel the incredible rhythms of **DRUMLine Live**, a synchronized stage show based on the HBCU marching band tradition.



alvin ailey american dance theater
Fri, May 8 @ 8PM
Sat, May 9 @ 8PM
Sun, May 10 @ 3PM
Feel the joy and elation of African American culture with **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater**, a highlight of our season.



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