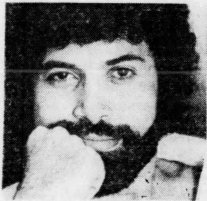


Monday nights are now more musical at Grendel's



Monty Alexander will play piano as part of the jazz series.

By Francis Davis
Special to *The Inquirer*

The Wednesday night jazz series at Curtains Theater is history, but as the saying goes: One door never closes without another being opened.

This week, Sun Ra opened a Monday night jazz series at Grendel's Lair Cabaret, 500 South St. Coming attractions include Dizzy Gillespie, Art Blakey and Dr. John. The attraction Monday is Monty Alexander, a splashy pianist whom some people liken to Erroll Garner and Oscar Peterson. That might be going a little

Jazz

too far, but at his best Alexander offers a pleasant reminder of the period in the late '50s when piano trios dominated the jazz best-seller charts. Shows are at 8 and 10 p.m., and tickets cost \$12.50. For more information, call 923-5560.

Trombonist Al Grey — one of the last of the plunger-mute specialists, and a cagey improviser whose solos combine elements of swing and bop

— is this weekend's attraction at Jewel's, 679 N. Broad St. Shows are at 9:30 and 11 p.m. and 12:30 a.m. tonight and tomorrow and at 8:30 and 10:30 p.m. Sunday. Tickets cost \$8 for tonight and Saturday, \$7 on Sunday. For more information, call 236-1396.

If the producers of this summer's Mellon Jazz Festival are serious about spotlighting local talent, let's hope someone puts them in touch with vibraphonist Khan Jamal, whose 1985 release *Dark Warrior* (SteepleChase) showed up on several year-end 10-best lists around the country. Jamal performs tomorrow at Upstairs, above the Natural Foods

Eatery at 1345 Locust St. Sets start around 10 p.m., and tickets cost \$7. Call 546-1555 for more information.

Tenor saxophonist Middie Middleton — another worthy local — performs a free concert on Sunday at 2:30 p.m. at the Walt Whitman Center for the Arts and Humanities. Call 609-966-1976 for more information.

Also on Sunday, organist Jimmy McGriff plays three shows (at 3, 5:30 and 8 p.m.) at Ambrosia, 16th and Claymont Streets in Wilmington. Tickets cost \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. Call 302-654-2229 for more information.