

The SHORT LIST

MUSIC

"BOB MARLEY DAY": Reggae's once and future superduperstar, who would have turned 50 this year, is recalled eloquently in archivist Roger Steffen's impressive and ever-expanding video tribute. Marley's legacy extends to the exuberant real-time reggae, dancehall, and DJ stylings of Sugar Minott, the Mighty Diamonds, Sister Carol, Worl-a-Girl, and the City Heat Band. February 6, Irving Plaza, 17 Irving Place, at 15th Street, 777-6800. (Gehr)

FAILING KANSAS: "There's a race of men that don't fit in," chants Mikel Rouse, seeking the explanation for the four brutal murders detailed by Truman Capote in *In Cold Blood*. Rouse's solo opera, complexly rhythmic yet satisfyingly hummable, develops a technique he invented called "counterpoetry," in which he overdubs up to five versions of his voice, speaking the libretto in ever-changing counterpoint. Here's a first major gig for one of the most original talents in that ever-neglected generation now in their thirties. (See feature in the music section.) February 2 through 4 at 8, the Kitchen, 512 West 19th Street, 255-5793. (Gann)

AHMAD JAMAL/ROY HARGROVE: This promises to be an irresistible show. Jamal's latest CD, *I Remember Duke, Hoagy & Strayhorn* (Telarc), is his best in years, a potent reminder of how completely he can subvert the expectations we bring to familiar tunes; Hargrove's quintet will provide buoyantly aggressive contrast, led by a trumpet player whose work, especially on records, has been uneven but who, when completely relaxed, can singe the air. Through February 5, Blue Note, 131 West 3rd Street, 475-8592. (Giddins)