

what's HAPPENING

Guide to Local Arts, Entertainment & Events



free

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Bye Bye Birdie
now on stage
at LCC Theatre.
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O. J. EKEMODE and the Nigerian All Stars



O. J. EkeMODE is a man who's been making his name in the music world. He says he loves the music that beats in his heart, whether it's jazz, high life or something else. It's all to do with African rhythms. "Spicing up the pot with jazz, soul, gospel and reggae made a truly international flavor to the music of EkeMODE and the Nigerian All Stars."

Starting as a young man at age 13 in Lagos, EkeMODE first took to congas. He started to be taught theophone by the first band leader he worked with and soon continued on his own. Listening to records of jazz greats John Coltrane, Charlie Parker and Sonny Rollins.

By 1964 he'd formed his own band

and began recording. In 1972 he toured Europe and in 1974 arrived in America.

It wasn't until 1985 that he returned to Nigeria and put together an all-Nigerian line-up of 18 musicians and brought them back to the U.S. as the "All Stars."

He feels they're appreciated in this country not just for their music, but for "... the dancing, our talking to the audience, their appreciating the culture, and wanting to learn. This is a spiritual healing kind of music."

Throughout his years in the Bay Area, O.J. has taught many young musicians. "Here people are more

and more appreciative of African music than in Nigeria. They love the music, the dancing, the talking to the audience, and the spiritual healing kind of music."

The Nigerian All Stars will perform at the LCC Theatre, 1000 Broadway, Eugene, Oregon, on Friday, February 4, 1987, at 8:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$10.00, \$15.00, and \$20.00. Call 253-1234 for more information.

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