

## TARIKA DROPS TROPICAL SOUNDS AT WOW HALL

By Tonya Alanez  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Local guitar soloist Paul Prince will kick-off an evening of international sounds tonight at the WOW Hall. Tarika, a quintet from Madagascar, headlines the show.

Prince recalls recently tuning into KLCC's "Tropical Beat" — a Friday evening program featuring world music — while driving his car. A song came on the air with a compelling and distinct sound which tempted Prince to call the station and ask who it was.

It was Tarika.

"It stood out in the set," Prince said. Specifically the arrangement, the melodies and "the overall high level of interaction among the musicians."

Prince first encountered Tarika at the 1998 Seattle-area WOMAD Festival where he was performing with "the Lion of Zimbabwe" Thomas Mapfumo. He describes Tarika's sound as "a unique blend of influences: African, Polynesian, Filipino and more. It's very unique and bright. It has a lot of depth to it."

The band plays primarily original music written and arranged by lead singer and songwriter Hanitra (interestingly pronounced Ansch) Rasoanaivo. She sings,

dances and plays percussion along with her sister Noro. In addition to guitar and bass, the group's unique sound is supported by a variety of traditional

and jeju voatavo (gour dulcimer).

"I write songs that are in my head," Rasoanaivo said. "It may depend on all different inspirations, circumstances and sit-

traditions, ceremonies, gender questions, women's roles, etc. I talk about quite a lot."

The band's latest CD entitled "D," stands for dihy, which simply means dance in the Malagasy language. An appropriate title considering this CD "is a compilation of all different sorts of dance music from Madagascar," where every one of the island's 18 tribes has its own unique style of dance.

Rasoanaivo objects to the notion of Madagascar music and culture resulting from outside influences.

"Madagascar is one country that doesn't have outside influences," Rasoanaivo said, stating that her island home is completely cut off from the rest of the world. And although the first settlers, some 2,000 years ago, were from Southeast Asia and Indonesia, soon joined by Arab traders, Indian traders and African slaves, she believes that the culture has developed more as a transformation and an amalgamation.

"The word 'influence' annoys me," she said. "To me, when you have been influenced you had something and somebody else's thing has covered your thing, i.e. person, identities, cultures, traditions, etc. We all evolve, things develop."

"It's almost like a parallel life, rather than one is dead and the other lives, and that is why I don't like the word influence."

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Malagasy instruments including the valiha (bamboo zither), kabosy (small Malagasy guitar)

and things that hit me hard I write about. There are millions of messages in my music: everyday life, people's attitudes towards situations,

## 'Schoolhouse' performance makes fun of learning

■ The live revival of the animated lessons is a hit with the youngsters at the Mad Duckling Theatre

By Rebecca Newell  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Saturday morning cartoon-watching children of the 1970s and 1980s are familiar with the educational classic, "Schoolhouse Rock," which would air between cartoons. And now, Mad Duckling Theatre is bringing the tradition back to the current generation of youngsters.

"Schoolhouse Rock Live" sets the scene with a young teacher on the morning of her first day of school. Her imagination is personified into five parts of her personality — romantic, goofy, sweet, cool and mature — which emerge to give her some pointers to make it through the day.

"Schoolhouse Rock Live" is the second of two interactive musical comedies aimed at children and families to be performed this summer by the University's Mad Duckling Theatre. The show opened Tuesday and will contin-

ue through Saturday, and then play again August 1-5. Shows take place at the amphitheater outside Robinson Theatre.

The performance is created in a manner most appealing to children, complete with singing, dancing and audience interaction. The play is not only fun to watch, it's fun to perform, actor Lindy Anderson said.

"There is always something going on — dancing, singing, a lot of eye candy," she said. Besides the "eye candy," the play teaches basic elements of grammar and arithmetic.

The catchy musical — based on the "Schoolhouse Rock" animated shorts broadcast on ABC from 1973 to 1985 — was written by the original cast members of the Emmy Award-winning series.

"We wanted something high energy. This has a great revival

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Azle Malinao-Alvarez Emerald

The cast of "Schoolhouse Rock" comes alive with a lesson on grammar. (from left to right) Sarah Turnquist, Giovanni Bliss, Jocelyn Fultz, Amanda Dumler, Jon Sharpy, Lindy Anderson.