



PHOTO BY IRENE YOUNG

Dianne Davidson

Dianne Davidson slates Portland stop

She's been compared to the likes of Diane Schuur and Linda Ronstadt, and she has recorded with artists ranging from B.B. King to Barry Manilow. But try to classify rather than compare Olivia artist Dianne Davidson and you will have more trouble. Davidson is a singer, songwriter, musician, producer-performer who says she does not care if you classify her as blues, rock, country, folk, or "field and stream." Davidson's trademark is not singing within a particular genre, but rather an ability to sing from the heart with shattering intensity.

Breaking All The Rules, Davidson's first album on Olivia's Second Wave label might not break all the rules, but it certainly bends a few. Her husky vocals on Willie Dixon's "Built for Comfort" to her sensitive interpretation of Jennifer Warnes' "Song of Bernadette" to her own gospel-drenched original, "Heaven Bound" show this Tennessee woman's boundless talent.

This month, Davidson will be visiting an old friend, Donna Luckett, who will also be pro-

ducing Davidson's album-touting concert on March 31 at Northwest Service Center.

"Well this is a real thrill for me," said Luckett, "Because I was just dearly in love with this woman at the tender age of 11. We were at 4-H camp and I followed her everywhere carrying her guitar case for her. I like to say I was Dianne's first groupie."

Luckett kept track of Davidson through a mutual friend.

"And I said to her one day, 'Where's Dianne Davidson these days?' And my friend said, 'Well, she's on the women's music circuit.' I just laughed and knew I'd been right on twenty-three years ago."

When Olivia needed a producer for Davidson's Portland concert, she told them about Luckett. Olivia contacted Luckett and hence, the work began.

"I love producing events. Most of the work I've done to date has been for benefits — so this isn't a new experience for me, but it is a different angle — but I always get so much help and encouragement that I'd be a fool not to do this."

Tickets for Dianne Davidson are available at A Woman's Place Bookstore.

— K.C. de Gutes

Portland playwright wows LA

Los Angeles production of Portland playwright Michael S. Reed's *seven sundays* has received accolades from critics, and nominations and awards from Los Angeles area press.

seven sundays, first produced in Portland in 1986, tells the story of a relationship which develops between a gay man with AIDS and a "pal" who visits him in the final weeks of his life.

Reed's play received seven Dramalogue awards, including outstanding achievement in acting, direction, production, and playwriting. *seven sundays* won nomination for best play of 1988 from the *LA Weekly*. More than 700 new plays were produced in Los Angeles last year and *seven sundays* was one of three to be nominated for best play. It has been also nominated in this category by *The Dispatch*, a gay newspaper in Los Angeles.

New productions of *seven sundays* will be mounted in San Francisco and Long Beach this month. The San Francisco production will be at Grace Cathedral.

While he is finishing a new play, Reed will take a break from writing his column "Tribal Drum," which has appeared in *Just Out* for almost two years. We wish him well.

— Jay Brown

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