

## Where the women songwriters are

Put the fire department on alert and let the sirens wail when Women Songwriters Ignite the Aladdin on Sept. 20. This concert of diverse musical talents is sponsored by Joshua Records and the Portland Songwriters Association, with additional support from KBOO 90.7 FM and the American Cancer Society; it will be hosted by Portland City Commissioner Gretchen Kafoury and Oregon Rep. JoAnn Bowman.

## Entertainment

In a city with one of the highest per capita populations of professional musicians in the country, this concert presents some of the best Portland has to offer. Self-proclaimed "funky folk blues diva with jazz cats facing northeast" Theresa Demarest & Good Company perform songs from her most recent releases, *Moon Rising* and *Bein' Who You Are*, and Grammy Award-nominee Janice Scroggins belts out original jazz compositions. Nationally touring folk artists Anne Weiss and Connie Cohen share the stage, and pop singer Toni Land rounds out the evening with selections from *Karaoke King*, an EP she released in June.

Ticket price is \$10 in advance (Aladdin box office 234-9694, Joshua Records 771-6893, It's My Pleasure, TicketMaster) or \$12 at the door. Show begins at 8 pm; the Aladdin Theater is located at 3017 SE Milwaukie Ave.

## Circus in wonderland

Surprises are in store for audience members at *Cirque Ingenieux*, an innovative combination of European circus tradition and modern theater. Follow a child's journey into a dreamscape of fantastic creatures and acrobatic performances woven together with a score by world-famous new age composer Kitano.

The gymnasts, actors, aerialists, dancers, contortionists and singers of *Cirque Ingenieux* take advantage of inventive costumes, designed by Emmy winner Jonathan Bixby, to portray a menagerie of characters, human and otherwise. Set designer and projectionist Jerome Sirlin has worked on past Madonna concert tours and was nominated for a Tony for his work on *Kiss of the Spider Woman*.

This unique show appears Sept. 9-14 at the Portland Civic Auditorium, 222 SW Clay St.; ticket prices are \$22.50-\$35, available from the Portland Center for the Performing Arts box office and TicketMaster. Show times are 8 pm Tuesday through Saturday and 7 pm Sunday, with weekend matinées at 2 o'clock.

## You can do that on television

Ellen DeGeneres has been nominated for best actress in a comedy series for ABC's *Ellen* and additionally as a guest actress for her portrayal of herself on HBO's *The Larry Sanders Show*. The May sweeps coming out episode of *Ellen* is in the running for several awards—best writing, directing and editing—and Laura Dern's guest appearance earned her a nomination as well. *Frasier*, a comedy with out gay actor Dan Butler, and the drama *NYPD Blue*, which has had gay and lesbian characters, were nominated for best series awards in their respective categories.

Other shows that have gay characters but which were nominated for their non-gay characters are *Spin City*, *Cybill* and *Friends*. The HBO special *Bette Midler: Diva Las Vegas* received 10 nominations, and *The X-Files*' David Duchovny—whom *Girlfriends* magazine pegged as a lesbian

icon—is up for a leading actor award.

In related news, the 1997 fall television lineup will include 30 lesbian, gay and bisexual characters. This 23 percent increase over last year's historic season includes four new characters: Bill Boctrup, the occasional secretary from *NYPD Blue* will portray a receptionist on ABC's *Total Security*. *Veronica's Closet*, an NBC show starring Kirstie Allie will feature a gay male character, both pre- and post-closet. *Ellen's* Patrick Bristow scores his own show, *Head Over Heels*, on UPN; and *413 Hope Street* on FOX will introduce Karime Prince as Melvin, a fiercely flamboyant HIV-positive black gay youth.

## A wedding of form and function

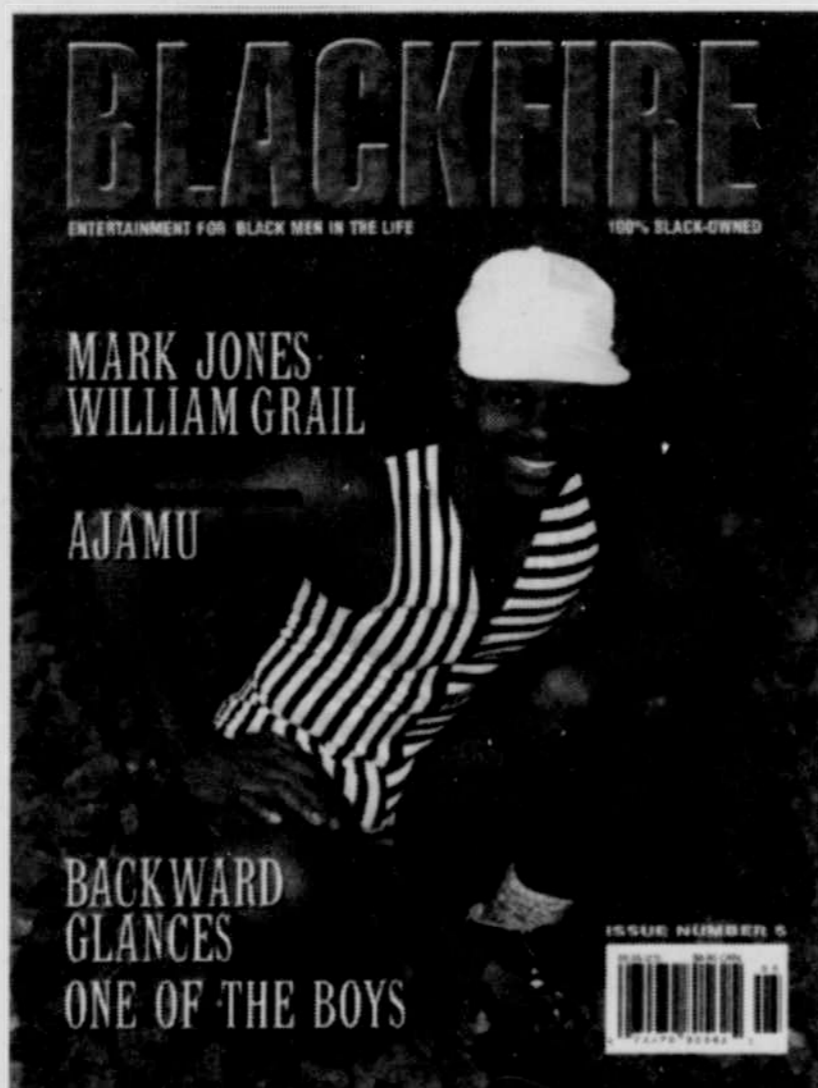
Continuously running since its New York premiere in 1985, *Tony n' Tina's Wedding* has lasted longer than most marriages. The loosely scripted play, which begins an extended Portland run on Oct. 3, relies on the comedic timing and improvisational skills of its cast, many of whom will be local Portland professionals. The play involves the audience as invited guests at an unforgettable nuptial celebration, from the surprise-filled ceremony to the catered reception.

Carrying on its tradition of providing an intimate, interactive event in a unique and entertaining setting, *Tony n' Tina's Wedding* has been adapted for Portland audiences. The show begins at the First Unitarian Church, 1011 SW 12th Ave., then moves to the Portland Art Museum's Commandery Room for the reception, which includes live music (and a conga line!), Italian cuisine and a champagne toast.

*Tony n' Tina's Wedding* runs Oct. 3 through Feb. 1, 1998, with previews Sept. 23 to Oct. 2. Tickets are \$35-\$40 for previews and \$40-\$55 for regular performances, available at the PCPA box office, the Portland Opera office and through TicketMaster.

## In the life and in the buff

*Blackfire* publishes erotic images, experiences and fantasies of black men who are "in the life."



an expression that has been used since the Harlem Renaissance to describe black gay and bisexual men. Having just released its fifth issue since 1992, *Blackfire* remains the only sexually explicit black gay magazine wholly owned by black gay men.

For information on how to obtain *Blackfire*, contact BLK Publishing Company, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912; (310) 410-0808.

Compiled by Christopher D. Cuttone



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## Women Songwriters Ignite the Aladdin








Theresa Demarest & Good Company  
Janice Scroggins  
FOLK • BLUES • JAZZ • POP • ROCK  
TICKETS \$10 (\$12 Day of Show)

Aladdin Theatre  
Saturday  
September 20th, 8PM

Tickets can be purchased at It's My Pleasure or charged through Ticketmaster at 224-4400. Get tickets without a service charge at Aladdin box office and Old Friends True Brew, 3384 SE Milwaukie, 231-0301 or Joshua Records' toll free number: 888/771-6893. Visa Welcome.

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