

Labi Siffre
Keynote Speaker

L

abi Siffre, is best known in the U.S. as the singer/songwriter of the anthem (*Something Inside*) *So Strong*, an award winning hit song written for the black community of apartheid South Africa and for all victims of injustice. "The song was inspired by my life as a gay man as much as by my life as a black man." In the U.K. Labi Siffre is one of the most well known out gay black men, and is recognised as an outstanding poet and performance artist, as well as a human rights activist. Born in London and now living with his partner of



thirty four years in Wales, Labi comes to Portland in co-operation with San Francisco Pride. His performance piece, "A Day in the Knife" is based on work from his third book, *Monument* (Xavier Books). It portrays in song and spoken word a journey from child to adult in which brutality and ignorance are overcome by courage, hope, and eventually, love.

NOTICE: Labi Siffre has cancelled his June 1998 trip to the US, including both Portland and San Francisco Pride Celebrations, due to a paralyzing stroke suffered by his partner of 34 years, Peter Lloyd. Pride Northwest will attempt to find other community representatives to fill the various times Labi was scheduled to speak. On behalf of the Portland and Oregon community Pride Northwest extends to both Peter and Labi our deep concern and sincere hopes for a speedy recovery.



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