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ANNIVERSARY PARTY

a queer resource for social change

With Eugene's only gay and lesbian core bar closed, where do we gather to drink, entertain and socialize? Come down to Eugene for a night of events at the Red Lion Inn. The Erika Wright Band, based in Seattle, will be joining us in celebrating one year of operations at Q Center. Enjoy food, music, dancing and raffle prizes. Bring a friend and be admitted for only \$15, single admission is \$10. All proceeds go toward improving the Q Center for the Queer and Allied Communities in Lane County and the greater part of Oregon.

Friday, June 9th, 2006
Starts at 9:00pm
The Red Lion Inn
305 Coburg Rd.
Eugene, Oregon 97401

Q Center
1309 Lincoln St.
Downtown Eugene
541-762-1046
<http://www.qcenter.org>

The Erika Wright Band opens the party at 9:00pm



music

New Blood and Longtime Beloveds

Start planning now for the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival

by Holly Pruett

Closing a raucous Saturday night show at last year's historic 30th Michigan Womyn's Music Festival, Toshi Reagon offered a word to the wise: "What really matters is being here next August for the 31st."

True to her word, Reagon will be back on the Night Stage at this year's festival, performing with her mother, the legendary Bernice Johnson Reagon, now retired from Sweet Honey in the Rock. This year's lineup—40 performances in all—features Michigan's signature combination of new blood and longtime beloveds, representing every genre, every generation and countries from across the globe.

Nothing Else Like It

As much as Michigan is a kick-ass music festival—with artists prized by the mainstream and underground alike—it is so much more. Michigan is a week that bears witness to women's creativity, competence and fierce concern in a world so often culturally dominated by corruption and cynicism.

Born in the '70s, Michigan is no relic. The roster of performance artists is always fresh, and the vibe of new generations makes each year's audience an original. But the festival's counter-cultural vision is as relevant and urgently needed today as it was 30 years ago.

That's why you'll see Melissa Ferrick returning after a six-year absence from the Michigan stage. And Vicki Randle flying in from her steady gig on *The Tonight Show*. And Gail Ann Dorsey headlining here after laying down bass with the stadium-filled Gwen Stefani tour.

Jill "I Kissed a Girl" Sobule, Jane "When I Was a Boy" Siberry, the ever-outrageous Bitch—these performers and countless others make the trek to a square mile of oak and ferns in the middle of Michigan because there is simply nothing else like it.

If you've never been, here's how it works. Buy your all-inclusive ticket and arrive early in the week to set up camp with women from around the world. Plugging in for a four-hour work shift will give you an insider's view of the women-powered systems that make the festival the largest city in two counties during its week of operation.

After two days of intensive workshops, the opening of the weeklong film festival and the initial performances on the Acoustic Stage, the festival kicks into high gear with an opening celebration Aug. 9. Each day that follows features

afternoon performances on the sun-kissed Day Stage, shows over dinner on the intimate Acoustic Stage and the lights, sound and magic under the stars on the Night Stage. The week draws to a close with the traditions of Drumsong Orchestra, the One World Inspirational Choir and the closing Candlelight Concert on Aug. 13.

Spotlight featuring Edie Carey, Diana Jones, Garrison Starr and divineMAGgees.

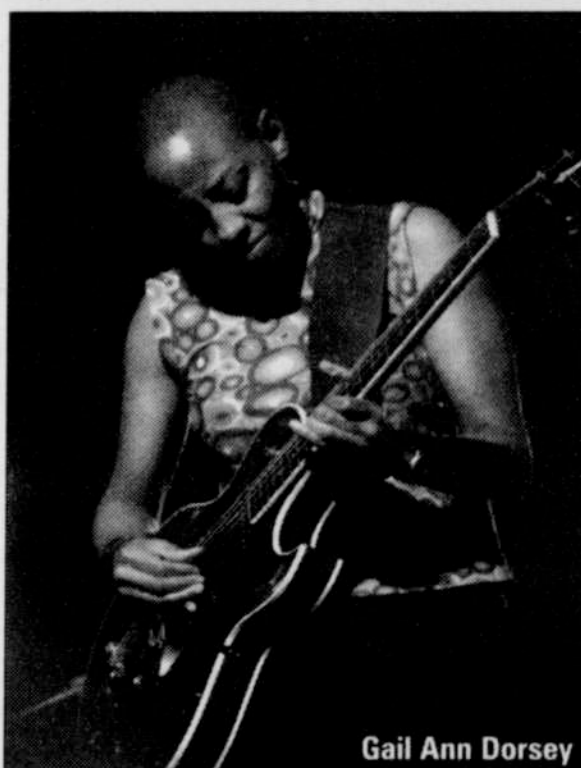
Rounding out the week: spoken word, theater, dance and irreverent comedy. Take in Staceyann Chin, co-writer and performer of the Tony-nominated *Russell Simmons Def Poetry Jam on Broadway* and *Between Lines* Dance Company.

Amy Ziff of Betty performs her new play, *Accident*, and Jeanette Buck presents her critically acclaimed play *There Are No Strangers* featuring Holly Twyford. Sunday Afternoon Comedy is back by popular demand with the always-beloved Marga Gomez, Elvira Kurt and Karen Williams.

Before, during and after, you'll choose from hundreds of workshops, sporting events, films,



Leslie and the Ly's



Gail Ann Dorsey



Marga Gomez



Staceyann Chin

This Year's Lineup

If you love to rock 'n' roll, you will love the soul-punk punch of San Francisco's Von Iva, the in-your-face energy of Sarah Bettens from international rockers K's Choice and the richly packed vocals of Australian trio Fruit.

If it's alt-country you crave, check out sets by the Ditty Bops, Kitty Rose and Po' Girl. Closing out the Saturday night show is Southern Fried Chix Lix, an all-star tribute to the genre coordinated by musical director Alyson Palmer of Betty.

Hip-hop fans will give it up for the Nuyorasian flow of Slanty Eyed Mama, the political comedic sounds of Tamil Sri Lankan artist D'Lo, the Long Island feminists Northern State and the only gem-sweater-wearing lady rapper from Iowa, Leslie and the Ly's.

If you live by the beat of the drum, you can't miss Ubaka Hill and the ShapeShifters on the Night Stage or Jambalaya's fusion of drum and dance. The power of women's songwriting will be on full display in performances by Alana Davis, Teresa Trull and Barbara Highbie, Swati and Margie Adam, along with a quartet of gifted and original artists in the Acoustic Stage's Singer-Songwriter

dances and open mikes. You can shop to your heart's content in the crafts market and connect in networking areas for women of color, women in recovery, teens and other communities. If this all sounds like too much, you can just hop a ride on a tractor-pulled surrey. Sit back and enjoy the view: thousands of women in all shapes and sizes wearing everything from tie-dye to corsets to nothing at all.

If you've been to Michigan before, you'll recognize this is a year not to miss. If you have yet to experience the mother of all women's festivals, make this the year to check it out. You'll leave understanding the promise of those four simple but compelling words: "See you in August." 10

The 31st annual MICHIGAN WOMYN'S MUSIC FESTIVAL will be held Aug. 8 to 13. The price for a full week of camping, meals, 140 performances, film festival, workshops and all programming and services is \$350-\$410 sliding scale before July 15 or \$385-\$435 thereafter. Entrance fees from Wednesday through Sunday are reduced. For details call 231-757-4766 or check www.michfest.com.

HOLLY PRUETT is a Portland freelance writer.