

THE NEW MASTERSOUNDS PLUG & PLAY



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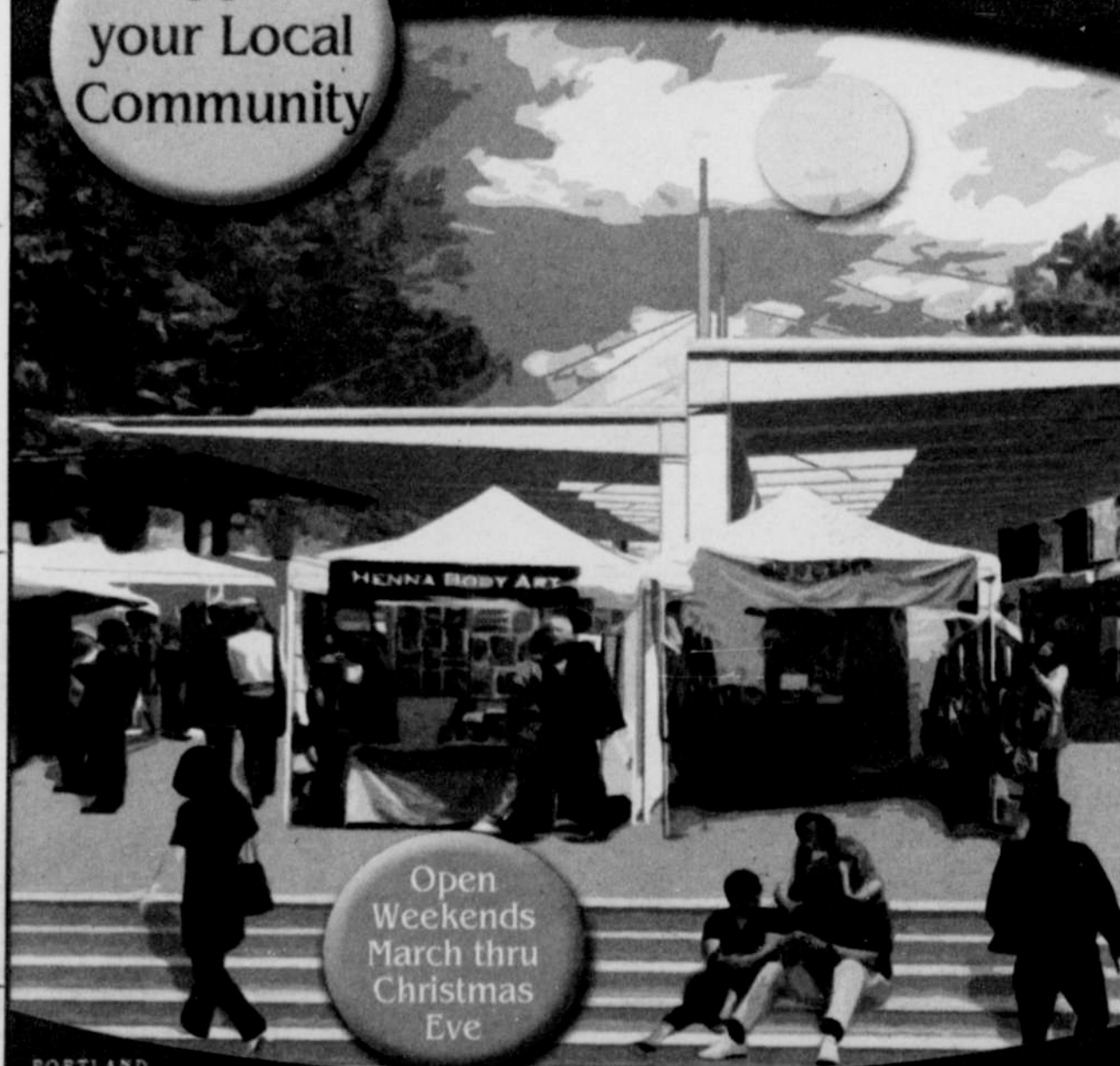
Building upon an already solid fan base, The New Mastersounds continue to attract with their notorious funk and genuine enthusiasm. 'Plug & Play' contains their trademark infectious energetic grooves, warm vintage production by guitarist Eddie Roberts, and successful forays into sub-genres like Psychedelic Afro-funk, CTI-era Jazz-Funk, Soul Jazz and classic Soul. With singer Dionne Charles on board they have found a vocalist who can do justice to the phenomenal soulfulness of the music.

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FILM

»Che

What better way to ring in the "change" theme of 2009 than with a 4 1/2-hour biopic of Che Guevara? Well, maybe. Guevara's revolutionary exploits and brutal end have been well documented cinematically through the years, from 1969's *Che!* to 2004's *The Motorcycle Diaries*. Now Steven Soderbergh weighs in with an epic version of our hunky hero and his political campaigns that should dwarf all previous efforts. Unfortunately, more is not always better. Divided into two parts, this digitally shot, visually gorgeous film begins in Cuba, with Guevara's success, and ends in Bolivia, with his failure. Along the way we get the story of his efforts to effect political change in excruciating detail. Benicio del Toro makes a fetching Guevara, but we never get inside his head. Soderbergh mixes it up with documentary, black-and-white and color footage, while varying the backdrops from urban to jungle, but this chilly film fails to capture the fanatical energy of its subject and his mission.

Opens March 13 at Cinema 21. Soderbergh will make personal appearances at screenings 7 p.m. March 13 and 1:30 and 7 p.m. March 14. **C+**

—Gary Morris

»Friday the 13th

A hockey-masked killer named Jason roams Camp Crystal Lake, killing promiscuous teens and anybody else unlucky enough to be spotted by him. If you weren't familiar with the 11 previous slasher flicks starring Jason Vorhees and an endless procession of victims, this remake of the 1980 film offers a body count of 15, a boobage count of a lot, better dialogue than all the other films com-

bined, one or two "jump scares" and a likable hero played by hunky Jared Padalecki, who never shows his boobs or much of anything else. Entertaining enough if you like gore films, but it doesn't break an iota of new ground. **B-**

—Andy Mangels

»He's Just Not That into You

Not since *The Devil Wears Prada* or *Mean Girls* has there been such a delicious confection of commercial entertainment. Based on the nonfiction title of the same name, this romantic comedy follows a series of interconnected narratives about adorably appealing people as they navigate the pitfalls and humiliations of relationships in an age where you can get rejected by seven different technologies. The token gay characters are one-dimensional, but the rest of the script, although a tad long, is funny, smart and ultimately thought-provoking. **B+**

—Floyd Sklaver

»Two Lovers

Indie filmmaker James Gray (*We Own the Night*) directed and co-wrote this romantic drama starring Joaquin Phoenix as Leonard, a bipolar man who, after a breakup and subsequent suicide attempt, moves back in with his parents. While working at his father's business, he meets two completely different women: His folks want him to marry family friend



Joaquin Phoenix (right, with Gwyneth Paltrow) showcases his remarkable talent in *Two Lovers*.

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