

# Dose and Jel get in touch with 'Themselves'

**Amy Cashman**  
THE CLACKAMAS PRINT

Musical group Themselves has put together a combination of unique sounds and creative verses which are definitely worth listening to in their 2004 album "The No Music Remixed."

They combine the old with the new by blending the power of musical instruments with the piercing sounds of digital media. With plenty of creative twists, these artists make their songs last by never keeping the beat the same for too long.

This album may be classified as hip-hop, but it strikes me as more of a mixture of alternative and house music with a hint of rap. With this blend, it should appeal to a diverse audience, those willing to get in touch with Themselves.

Some parts of this album are kind of eerie, with soft sounds and screeching noises. Other elements focus on the bass and treble. I would recommend this album to anyone who likes to hear the rhythmic impact that music can have, similar to the sweet sound Pink Floyd. In fact, one might think of this album as a mixture of Pink Floyd and Insane Clown Posse.

Formally known as Them, the

group Themselves is a combination of Doseone's vocals and Jel's beats. Doseone is described as a "rolly polly gummy lyrical gymnastic genius" by Gnoosic.com, but the beat blended into the words so well that I'm not sure if I agree or disagree with that comment. It was difficult at times to pick out what he was saying, but from what I can tell, he is a gifted rapper and his lyrics come out swift and clean. Listen to this CD a second time and be prepared to be taken to another level of music.

This group seems to know Themselves well enough to take hip-hop to another level. Portland hip-hop is a mixture of different sounds that come from different areas. Themselves seems to fit that mold. They are definitely talented and I recommend this album for anyone willing to venture a little farther into the world of hip-hop.

After listening to this CD, check out the band's other albums, as well as albums by similar artists Deep Puddle Dynamics, Clouddead, Greenthink and the Anticon Crew.

Themselves is performing at Dante's, located on West Burnside right next to the Burnside Bridge on Feb. 14. For more information, visit Dante's website at [www.danteslive.com](http://www.danteslive.com).



INTERNET PHOTO

Themselves (Jel left, and Doseone right) take hip-hop to the limit with their latest contribution to society "The No Music Of Aiffs: The No Music Remixed."

# Spanish-speaking troupe strikes American fancy

**Isaiah Creel**  
A & E EDITOR

Teatro Milagro's production of "mipueblo.biz" in the McLoughlin Auditorium last Wednesday was a cross-culture



INTERNET PHOTO

Sister Dolores (Dañel Malán) teaches Saturdina (Maya Malán-Gonzalez).

collision of past, present and future that is guaranteed to open new avenues of thought among its audience.

"Mipueblo.biz," written by Dañel Malán and directed by Karin Magaldi, is a story recounting the history of the Incas as told by Maestro Agripino (played by Omar Vargas). While walking through the countryside, Agripino happens upon a missionary on the run from revolutionaries. Sister Dolores (Malán) is going through a spiritual crisis after the death of her friend and fellow missionary. She seeks answers from Maestro Agripino, and desires greatly to learn his shamanic ways.

Maestro Agripino, however, is not alone during that fateful stroll. With him is Chavelo (Ricardo Delgado), a local farmer and apprentice of sorts to Agripino. Chavelo is wary of Sister Dolores and her magic box (what she calls a "laptop"), claiming, "She'll suck out our fat and take us to

a place she calls Heaven!"

While Chavelo is making his distrust known, a young townswoman named Saturdina (Maya Malán-González) comes along just in time to defend Sister Dolores and her futuristic technology. Back and forth, Saturdina and Chavelo argue until Maestro Agripino finally allows Sister Dolores to remain there in the village.

While there in the village, Sister Dolores teaches Saturdina the joys of crocheting and the wonder that is the Internet, while Maestro Agripino teaches Sister Dolores (and the audience) the history of the Incas.

The dialogue of this play was set up in sort of a Spanish-English, English-Spanish style. The first few lines might be in English, but the next would be in Spanish. While it seems that this back-and-forth style might be confusing, the actors did an excellent job of carrying the non Spanish-speaking audience along for the ride.

Although dramatic, the dia-

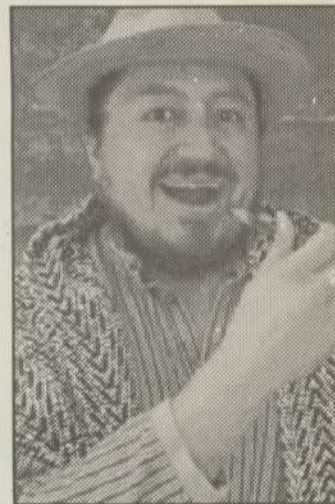
logue was not too intense or too deep, and there were a number of laughs to be had (although there were likely more laughs that I didn't get due to my lack of Spanish fluency.) The execution of the lines was very good and, despite a couple of stumbles, their overall acting was enough to captivate the audience.

Throughout the main story, Agripino recounts a number of folk stories from native Incan ancestry, and in effect, there are quite a few plays crossing different historical points of interest within the one central story.

The use of masks to recount these stories added another level of imagery to the standard one-act format.

Giving the ever-growing Hispanic population of the United States, it becomes increasingly important for those already living in America to become not only tolerant of these new editions to the population, but appreciative of it. "Mipueblo.biz" is the kind of

play that really gives the viewers an opportunity to experience an aspect of the Hispano-American tradition apart from Taco Bell, and the chance to dispel some long-held preconceptions.



INTERNET PHOTO

Maestro Agripino (Omar Vargas) invites the audience into his imagination.

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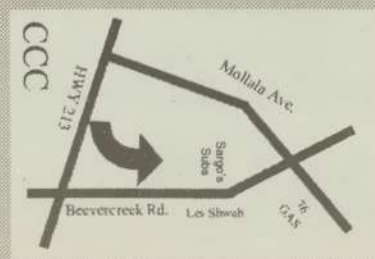
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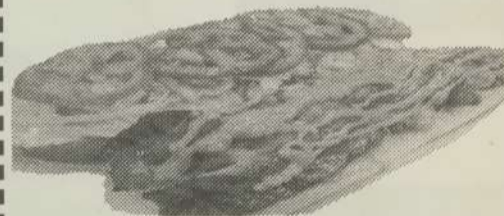
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