

# summer season

## BAMM! Explosive comedy, family fun

by Lucretia Gardner

If you like your comedy relief fast, fast, I have the perfect summer evenings show for you. BAMM is back with "An Evening of Family Entertainment." This collection of zany characters, television spoofs, and musical nonsense rolls along merrily Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights at the newly renovated BAMM! Cabaret Theatre in Northwest Portland.

If you missed them the first time around when they were cavorting at Portland Civic Theatre with "Other Channels" you are in for some surprises. BAMM is a troupe of four veteran performers who have used

the first letter in each of their last names to provide a group name that reflects the explosive fast pace of their shows.

Brian Bressler, of NBC Laugh-In fame, mobilizes a thousand expressions as he springs about the stage and screen. Gary Adams, film and video producer, impersonates television slickness so well he appears all hair and voice and truth as he sings and quips along. Michele Mariana, veteran voice stylist who did the voice of Will Vinton's "Little Prince," teases, flirts and seduces with her elegant vocal flexibility. John Morrison, whose credits include stints with American Theatre Company and Storefront Theatre,

winds his way through numerous characters with a touch of bemused whimsy.

Collectively, they have brought forth a show about family relationships both televised and real. A five-year-old enchants us while showing her Snoopy telephone, old men poignantly reminisce over checkers, we learn the real truth about the "Red Riding Hood" thing (*a la* Sixty Minutes) and Sherlock Holmes-type characters compete with their play-by-play announcer to get out the story of the family murder. The sketches are good-natured with few risks taken. On opening night there was a two-dimensional television quality to the live

sketches that may flesh out during the run of the show.

The simplicity of the set dominated on the right by a six-foot-wide video screen, and the simple costumes augmented by hats, shawls, coats, etc. as needed kept the focus on the action. The pace was fast and funny from start to finish. There are fans to keep the cool air moving, liquid refreshment, and the delicious guitar music of John Bunce as well. This is one of four shows the group will present during the summer. So if you deserve a break, get a big laugh at BAMM. Tickets are available at the usual outlets and at the door.



BAMM is back: Brian Bressler, Gary Adams, Michele Mairana and John Morrison.

(Photo: Dan Long)

## Summer Fun



Juneteenth Celebration at Bethel AME Church featured music, food and celebration.

(Photo: Eddie C. Edmondson)



Barbara McDonald of Seattle and Rich Halley (Rich Halley Quintet) share the platform at "Your Zoo and all that Jazz." Jazz programs are held each Wednesday and Thursday evening at 8:30. (Photo: Shirley A. Twigg)



Aerobic dance class at Peninsula Park continues in spite of the heat.

(Photo: Richard Brown)

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