



ENTERTAINMENT NETWORK
Joe "Bean" Keller, Entertainment Editor

Food for Thought

Welcome into 1986 Portland and the artistic community. As we enter into this new year our artistic community should be aware of the area on which we need to concentrate. The support we have to give to each other as artists is very important, we need to share more information with our public, begin to think with a more professional attitude, broaden our outlooks and begin to think on one accord. These are only a few things that are necessary for us to do as a whole, that will help give us the strength we need to build a solid artistic base in Portland. So as you enter into this new year, remember you should feel stronger about the things you're doing. Food for thought.

Musician Gathering

This past Monday, Dec. 30, I had an opportunity to attend the first Annual Musicians Gathering, which was presented by Valet Productions. Valet Productions is one of Portland's newest entertainment agencies.

The Musicians Gathering's purpose was to bring together a number of Portland's musicians to exchange conversation, information, ideas. The evening fell a little short of its intended goal but was an overall success. Appearances were made by Ron Steen, Calvin Walker, Nathaniel Phillips (Cool'R), Jack Charles, Dee Wiggins (Velvet), Mary Lou Anderson, Roselyn Johnson, Richard GVreer & Ronnie Harrison (CleanCut), Gary Fontane (NuShooz), and a variety of other musicians and friends.

Valet Productions, I'm sure, will be a name to look forward to hearing from in the near future. The company proprietor is Michael Bryant.



Anthony P. Armstrong as Lester Young and Julianne R. Johnson as Miss Lady in the IFCC Theatre production of *The Resurrection of Lady Lester*.

The Resurrection of Lady Lester at IFCC

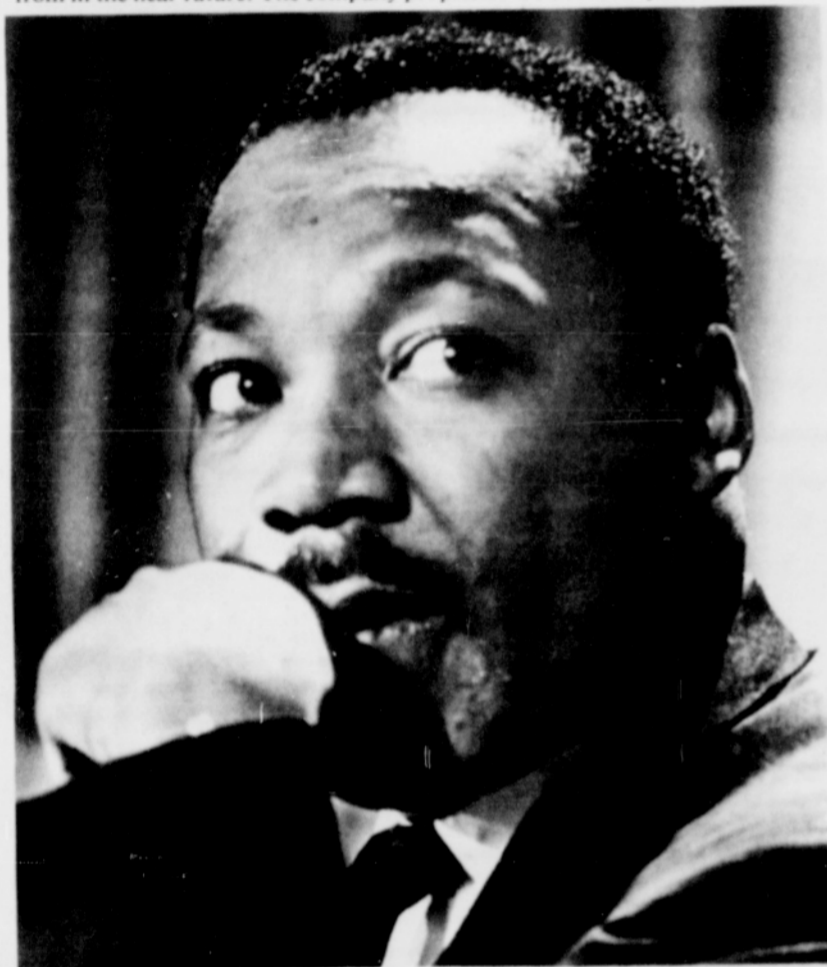
In recognition of Black History Month, and also of Oregon Artsweek during February, the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center (IFCC) Theatre presents the West Coast premiere of *The Resurrection of Lady Lester*, a play about jazz musician Lester Young. Opening night is Thursday, Jan. 16, at 8 p.m., at the IFCC.

Written by Black playwright OyamO and first produced at Yale Repertory Theatre in 1981, *The Resurrection of Lady Lester* is subtitled "A Poetic Mood Song Based on the Legend of Lester Young." It is a provocative play, suffused with the great tenor saxophonist's special music and poetry, following the story of his life in fragmented, flashback style, always returning to his last day in a cheap New York hotel in 1959.

An onstage jazz combo accompanies the action of the play, as seven actors create a multitude of characters "summoned" from Lester's imagination and memory. Like interwoven melodies, we experience his childhood, his one-nighters, his women (including the one he nicknamed "Lady Day"), his rise to the top of his art, and his death. The *New Yorker* critic wrote that "it is often funny and sometimes sad, and every scene works. OyamO is a compelling dramatic writer."

The IFCC production, directed by Michael Grant, features Anthony P. Armstrong as Lester Young, Julianne R. Johnson as Lady Day, and Steve Lee, Joanna Malandrucolo, Rickie Anthony Peters, Brenda Phillips, Walter Shane, and Don Williams as various musicians, friends and oppressors. Musical direction is by Janice Scroggins, with original music from the Yale Rep production composed by Dwight Andrews. Scene design is by Jose Eduardo Gonzalez, costumes by Wanda Walden, and lighting by Colly Burgwin. The producer is Gary O'Brien and stage manager is Terry J. Nelson.

The Resurrection of Lady Lester will play Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m., and Sunday at 2 p.m., Jan. 16 through Feb. 22. Tickets are \$8 on Thursday and Sunday, \$9 on Friday and Saturday. Reservations are strongly advised; call the IFCC at 243-7930 between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday. The IFCC is located at 5340 N. Interstate Ave., on Tri-Met Bus Routes 5 and 71. The theatre is wheelchair accessible.



King Day Celebration

On Monday, Jan. 20, the United States will celebrate the first annual national legalized holiday commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday. In recognizing the importance of the day, Portland, Oregon will take part in the national holiday celebration.

Sunday, Jan. 19 is the date scheduled for Portland's first annual King Day Celebration. This year's celebration will be held at the Red Lion Inn (Lloyd Center). The evening will contain a number of Portland's finest R&B and Jazz musical and vocal groups, such as Velvet, The Strawberry Gamblers, Clean-Cut, and Ron Steen, just to name a few. Also, throughout the evening there will be guest speakers, King portrayals and readings along with a special appearance by the Martin Luther King Jr. Early Childhood Center Choir.

The purpose of this event is to bring to the public's awareness the importance of this national holiday and to acknowledge the struggle and fight King went through to bring equality to all mankind.

Proceeds from this event will go towards a life-size bronze statue of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. that will be placed at the Martin Luther King Jr. Early Childhood Center at N.E. 7th and Alberta.

Donations for the celebration will be \$10.00, tax-deductible. For tickets and more information, call 288-1662. Sponsored by the Martin Luther King Commemorative Committee and produced by B.E.A.N.

Read next week's *Portland Observer* and other media publications for more details.

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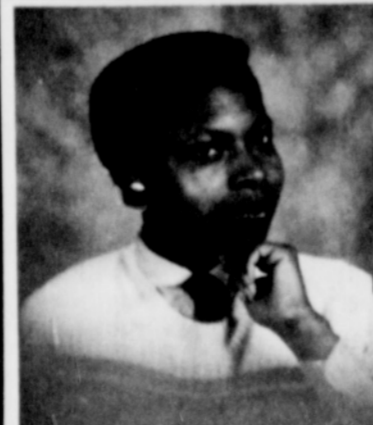


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