

THE ENTERTAINMENT SEEN

Portland Observer
Entertainment Hotline

Weekend
only

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Act One

By Ken Covington



Nyewusi Askari/In Living Color

Art (art) n. making or doing things that display form, beauty and unusual perception. The preceding definition is the only way I know to introduce you to Nyewusi Askari whose name is synonymous to art. The next question you may ask me might be why? Let me explain. Most artists use or specialize in one medium like canvas, dance or song. Askari's gift allows him to produce with poetry, music, dance and people or as someone put it "In living color."

Askari's creativity stems from a diverse childhood. His parents separated when he was very young and both spent plenty of time and love with young Nyewusi. His mother settled in the backwood of Louisiana, Fraklinton to be exact and his father resided in the legendary New Orleans and with the best of these two worlds his sharp mind thrived and nourished in a reality the most of us can only read about. His mother a descendant of prominent African heritage used to tell him old folktales from across the seas along with history and song from the old country drawing parallels between the old and new ways of black people.

His father exposed him to hard work a survival and ethnics of a new society in the quick paced New Orleans a city full of folk tales, music and danger. As a young man Askari spent countless afternoons reading to Mrs. Solo (a mother of 22). She so enjoyed his reading she purchased him a book a week as long as he would continue to grace her with his smooth melodic interpretations. At the age of 13, Askari was in attendance at a Saturday night fish fry and noticed a female contender in a blow out (harmonic) contest and was so impressed he wanted to learn immediately. This female contender was the niece of the legendary Jimmy Reed. Coming from a musical family like hers not only did he get taught. He got taught well and now when he visited his father he would play with jazz and blues bands whenever and wherever they played streets, clubs, taverns, dance halls, you name it, he played it. And played himself right into a music scholarship at Grambling where he felt quite naturally into theatre arts and journalism.

Since then his talent has taken him far and wide. Along the way his work has been published in several national and local publications his "Interpretations of Black English" has been inserted into the Detroit Public School System.

Somehow Askari's travels brought him to join us here in the Rose City where he formed the Sojourner Truth Theatre to create a family of fellow artists and to test his new works of art that have continued to draw local and national acclaim. Askari now has a cultural enrichment program with the Portland Public School District educating young black and white students on black culture. This helps young whites to understand blacks and blacks to understand themselves.

This year Askari has topped his previous accomplishments with this year's Silver Poet Award presented by the World of Poetry which is a worldwide organization. Out of 1000 finalists Askari pulled out 3rd place. Not bad for an old country boy, huh? The award will be given at a ceremony in Atlanta later this year and will be presented by Maya Angelou who is a legend herself.

I'm sure that the mind of Nyewusi Askari has more for all of us to enjoy, so stay tuned and remember, support your local artist for a mind is a terrible thing to waste and art shouldn't be taken for granted. Today's creations are tomorrow's treasures.

Word of the week: Scruples — A feeling of uneasiness of what one ought to do.
Color of the week: Powder Blue (tribute to Dad)

THE MUSICAL TECHNICIANS Hot Ten Albums

Technical Trivia

Hot Ten Albums

- Q. What instrument does Quincy Jones play?
1. Sands of Time S.O.S./Tabu
 2. Control Janet Jackson/
 3. Headlines Midnite Starr/Solar
 4. Let's Talk About It Cool'R/Half n Half
 5. Stay The Controllers/MCA
 6. Winner Patti Labelle/MCA
 7. Cashflow Cashflow/Polygram
 8. High Priority Cherrelle/Tabu
 9. 52nd Street 52nd Street/MCA
 10. Parade Prince/Warner Bros.

A. Trumpet

About Town

- Bee Gs** 5700 N.E. Union, 281-1176
Fri., Sat., Benny Wilson
- Brasserie Montmartre** 626 S.W. Park Ave., 224-5552
Thurs.-Fri., The Calvin Walker Band
- Donegals** 10330 S.W. Greenburg Rd., 684-1844
Fri., Sat., The Calvin Walker Band
- The Eldorado Club** 5016 N.E. Union, 281-1176
Thurs., Just 17 Big Band
- Eli's** 424 S.W. 4th Ave., 223-4241
Wed.-Fri., RIA
- The Last Hurrah** 555 S.W. Alder St., 224-1336
Thurs., Crazy 8's
Fri.-Sat., Dan Reed Network
- Red Lion Inn (downtown)** 310 S.W. Lincoln St., 221-0450
Mon.-Sat., Blaze
- Remo's** 1424 N.W. Glisan St., 221-1150
Sun., The Ron Steen Quartet Jam Session
- Salty's** (Foot of S.E. Marion St.), 239-8900
Fri., Cool'R
Sat., Beverly Ducatt Band
- Shanghai Lounge** 0309 S.W. Montgomery St., 220-1865
Sun., Calvin Walker & The Conquerors Orchestra
- Top of the Cosmo** 1030 N.E. Union Ave., 253-8433
Mon.-Sat., Gene Diamond and Aires

Spring Into Summer Dance

Ebony Rose Ski Club presents Second Annual Spring Into Summer Dance featuring Visions. Saturday, June 14, 9:00 p.m.-2:00 a.m., Sheraton Inn Airport. Tickets: \$6 advance, \$7 at the door. Ticket outlets: Jabells Beauty Supply, 5832 NE Union, House of Sound, 3634 N. Williams.

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Artificial Heart
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I Run



HITS:
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Can Mend
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Here Tonight
Innocent
What's Missing

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MUST BE 21 YRS. OLD

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Door \$14.00

Ticket Outlets:
House of Sound
LaShay's Place
Music Millenium

For Additional Information Call 281-3136