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Blood Pressure Clinic
 A public Hypertension (blood pressure) Screening clinic is scheduled Thursday, January 15, 1987, from 1:30-3 p.m. at Meridian Park Hospital, Tualatin. The clinic, staffed by hospital nurses and auxiliary volunteers, will be held in the first floor cafeteria conference rooms. There is no charge, and no appointment is necessary. For more information, call 692-2656.

For Backs Only
 "Here's to Your Back" is the title of a senior community health education program to be offered Thursday, February 12, 12:30 p.m. at the Sherwood Senior Center. Presented by Pat Quintana, Physical Therapist on staff at Meridian Park Hospital, the presentation is part of the hospital's "Healthwise for Seniors" education program series. There is no charge. The program is coordinated by E. Ricky Appleman, R.N., MPH Community Development and Consulting Services, who also oversees hospital's ongoing health screenings at Washington County senior centers in Tigard, Sherwood, Durham/Tualatin. For information about the program or health screening, contact the senior center or community department at the Tualatin hospital.

Act One



Storefront Theatre presents "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom", directed by John Zagone. Pictured: Al Jamison—"Cutler" and Nyewusi Askari—"Slow Drag". Now playing Thurs., Fri., Sat., 8:00 p.m. thru January 24, 1987. Photo by Steve Warner

Ma Rainey's Black Bottom

The curtain closes. First there is a stunned silence, then scattered and, finally, thunderous applause. Why, you may ask? "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom" is more than a play, more than a story. It's history, it's reality, it's phenomenal. I state this for more than one reason and from more than one point of view. This story takes place in 1927 in a Chicago recording studio with a recording engineer who "knows how to deal with those people" and the owner of the record company who knows that black artists like Ma Rainey and company are his only hope of saving his already sagging business. The real story is that in 1927 the American recording industry was in deep trouble and many of the smaller labels folded, never to be heard of again. A few of the larger and more open-minded companies decided to record the music that was the rage of the jet set in the roaring twenties. There was quite a bit of controversy surrounding the new music and the move was a definite last resort. You see, the only place you could hear this music live was in Bowdy Houses (illicit houses of prostitution and drinking) where no self-respecting citizen should have been seen but a majority could be found.

The music was a mixture of deep southern blues and an uptempo and gutsy music now known as ragtime, written and performed by black artists who, for the most part, were uneducated and uninformed in the areas pertaining to their livelihood. In 1927, while these artists could be signed and recorded for a few hundred dollars (if that), the record industry soared to a phenomenal \$53 million dollars in record sales. Coincidentally, black artists once again saved the industry in the early 1980s. Michael Jackson and Prince pumped millions upon millions back into the industry that was dying on its feet. Both of them are sharp business men and got and are getting their just desserts. But, as I mentioned earlier, in 1927 blacks got recognition, like Louis Armstrong, Billie Holiday, W.C. Handy and others, but most died poor and frustrated individuals.

"Ma Rainey's Black Bottom" captures the joy, the pain, the frustration and the lifestyle of these colorful individuals and makes you feel, and I mean feel, what it must have been like and is like in today's world.

Some have had the gall to write that this portrayal is just about the old days and old situations, but as long as there is racism and exploitation, "Ma Rainey" will live and breathe fire ongoing the false realities of those who wish to live in a non-existent world.

A play like "Ma Rainey" couldn't live as it does at the Storefront Theatre without a cast to do it justice and bring it to life. I will state the names and characters portrayed at the end of this article, but understand that, like football or any sport, the teams may have stars, but in order to win, it takes team effort; and this play is a winner. I especially enjoyed Nyewusi Askari who plays "Slow Drag" and Rick Jones who plays Levee as well as co-directs, also learning to play the trumpet just for this part.

All in all, "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom" is something that you have to see. My words cannot express or do justice to something that can make you laugh, cry, be angry, and most of all make you think. Please don't miss it!

Held Over 'til Jan. 24th

Directed by John Zagone; Assistant Director, Rick Jones; Musical Director, Teddy Deane.

Cast (in order of appearance): Jerry Siefert or Earle Taylor as "Sturdyvant"; David LoVine as "Irvin"; Al Jamison as "Cutler"; Anthony P. Armstrong as "Toledo"; Nyewusi Askari as "Slow Drag"; Rick Jones as "Levee"; Sheila Dale as "Ma Rainey"; Wanda Walden as "Dussie Mae"; Kenneth Dembo as "Sylvester"; and John Robert Brown as the "Police-man".

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- Hobbit S.E. 39th & Hoigate, 771-0742
Fri.-Sat., Mel Brown Quintet
- Key Largo 31N.W. 1st Ave., 223-9919
Thurs., Charles Neville & Flambeax;
Fri.-Sat., Calvin Walker; Sun., Cool 'R
- Last Hurrah 555 S.W. Alder, 224-1336
Fri.-Sat., Dan Reed Network; Sun., Hypertension
- Jazz Quarry 1111 S.W. Jefferson, 222-7422
Fri.-Sat., Richie Cole
- O'Callahan's 11650 S.W. Canyon, 626-2223
Cool 'R
- Remo's 1425 N.W. Glisan, 221-1150
Sun., Jam W/ Ron Steen
- Royal Esquire 1708 N.E. Alberta, 287-5145
Fri.-Sat., Billy Larkin & Co. W/ Dr. Rock
- Rusty Pelican 4630 S.W. Macadam, 222-4630
Tues.-Sat., Ducat
- Shanghai Lounge 0309 S.W. Montgomery, 220-1865
Sun., Dan Reed Network
- Starry Night 8 N.W. 6th, 227-0071
Sat., Robert Cray in Concert
- Third Ave. Club 309 S.W. 3rd, 222-9180
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