

# THE ENTERTAINMENT SEEN



Storefront Theatre presents NW Premiere of GREEK by Steven Berkoff. Pictured from left: Ted Roisum, Keith Scales, Dee Dee Van Zyl, Vana O'Brien. February 1 - March 7. Call 224-4001.

## Northwest Premiere of GREEK at Storefront Theatre

Storefront Theatre continues its 1986-87 season with the Northwest Premiere of Steven Berkoff's play GREEK, opening Sunday, February 1 at 7:00 p.m., and playing through March 7.

GREEK plays Sundays at 7:00, Mondays and Tuesdays at 8:00 for two weeks (February 1-10), then switches to Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8:00 the last three weeks (February 19 - March 7). There is also one Sunday matinee at 2:00, February 22. Tickets are \$12 regular, \$10 students and seniors; please call 224-4001 for advance reservations.

## Anniversary/Homecoming

Allen Temple C.M.E. Church will celebrate its 38th Anniversary/Homecoming, February 5th - 8th at Allen Temple Church, 4236 N.E. 8th Ave. The theme for this year's celebration is "God's Family of Faith Moving Forward". Thursday and Friday evening at 7:00 p.m. will be a "Praise Time".

Thursday evening at 7:30 p.m. will be the opening program. Rev. Joyce Smith, Associate Minister at Community A.M.E. Zion Church in Vancouver, WA, will be the guest speaker.

Friday evening at 7:30 p.m. will be a music fest featuring Allen Temple's Ensemble Choir, the Maranatha Church choir, the Sermonettes, the Bethel A.M.E. Inspirational Choir, Anise Hall, Goldby Irby and Calvin Allinon.

The culminating program will be Sunday during the 11:00 morning worship service. An anniversary fellowship tea will follow the morning service.

## Ladybug Theater Presents Rapunzel

Can a witch keep a young beauty in a tower with no problems at all? Find out when the Ladybug does our own version of "Rapunzel", January 31st through March 15th, Saturdays at 11 and Sundays at 2, at the Multnomah Art Center, 7688 S.W. Capitol Hwy.

The young lady lets down her hair but so does everybody else. The witch tried very hard to keep away the well-meaning young prince and his bumbling knight but to no avail. The knight's grandmother also gets into the act when she forms a jug band out of the kids in the audience. Come and let your hair down at the Ladybug.

Admission is \$3.00 per person. Call 232-2346 for reservations.

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## Act One

### The Untouchable Krew Portland's Fastest Rising Stars

The name of the style is "Hip-Hop": music with crashing handclaps; pulsating bass lines; thumping, booming beats; accented with sharp rhythmic, poetic lines known as "rapp"; covering subjects from fast food to drug death.

America became aware of the art of Hip-Hop in 1979 when the Sugarhill Gang took the country by storm with the phenomenal "Rapper's Delight". That's when America became aware, but on the east coast a d.j. wasn't a d.j. unless he knew what we called "party rhymes" inserted in any and every instrumental break (these are the days before "12 inches" and instrumental versions) in fast-dance songs. To my recollection, we started this about 1973, but according to my mom and grandmother, it comes from the old "hambone", popular in slavery days and brought over from the mother country.

I've given you this brief history so those moms and dads out there who call this art form "noise" can have a little more respect and understanding.

Now, for the experts who say that this is a dying art and that it's on its way out, I beg to differ. It's not only here to stay, it's getting bigger. Especially when there are groups around like Whodini, The Fat Boys, Run/DMC and Portland's own Untouchable Krew.



THE BOOGIE BOYS

The Untouchable Krew, consisting of Grandjammer DLB (Larry Bell), Mellow B.J. (Brian Jones), and Master Rapp (James McClendon), are not new to the stage or performing. The group itself is about three years old and all have been on or around the stage for the better part of their lives. This not only includes music, but dramatics as well.

They have performed at Key Largo with Calvin Walker, at The Last Hurrah, and at The Starry Night. They have opened for The Egyptian Lover and The Boogie Boys, whose hit single "Dealing With Life" is taking the country by storm. These are a little more than humble beginnings for a Hip-Hop group. Appearances have also been made at different parks and nightclubs in Northeast Portland, where the group says their roots are. Appearances have been scheduled in Salem, Eugene, Corvallis and Coos Bay, Oregon, and, as far as the group is concerned, the sky is the limit. In Hip-Hop terminology, they're "ready to bust anytime, anywhere".



THE UNTOUCHABLE KREW

This past weekend, I traveled to Seattle to see the group open for Capitol Record's Boogie Boys. I watched in awe as the Untouchables effortlessly entertained (and I do mean entertained) a crowd of about 2000 with witty rapp, smooth choreography, and an interaction with the crowd that had the walls rockin' and shakin'. Let me quote:

Untouchable; that's the name of the crew  
And we're goin' to give you something fresh, something new,  
something that you will like that you will say is cool;  
And we'll have your butt rockin' 'til the cut is through.

or

You're a slave to the rock; look what it's done to you;  
Buyin' crack from the dealers on the avenue;  
You lie to your friends; you steal from your mother;  
Got life in one hand and a pipe in the other.

or

Now if you've tried this dance and a problem arose;  
Well, listen up and let us tell you just how it goes;  
See you bend at the knees, push off with your feet;  
And then you come back down in time with the beat.

And if then that won't work, try this approach:  
Jump back and act like you've seen a roach;  
Then you lift your foot and slam it down;  
That's the stomp; the hottest new dance in town.

As you see, versatility is the key to the success of the Untouchable Krew, not only in subject matter, but instrumentation and musicianship, too. Most Hip-Hop groups use turntables and drum machines, but the Untouchables, in addition to the norm, use synthesizers, percussion and stage props. In the near future, a bass guitar and drum set will be added to their already dynamic shows.

Leader Larry Bell started playing bass 10 years ago and has since mastered the instrument and added keyboards to his repertoire. Brian Jones and James McClendon are brothers and have been writing for the last five years developing a one-of-a-kind style. Brian plays keyboards and drums, and trades places with Larry during performances. Brian currently attends Mr. Hood Community College and studies with reknown percussionist Bruce Smith. James takes on the responsibilities of stage production and choreography, and, even though all are collectively involved in everything, delegation of responsibilities is what keeps the group even tempered and totally professional.

The offers keep rolling in and the Untouchables keep rolling on, and, in my estimation, they are the next group from Portland headed towards national success.

I hope that next time they appear, you go and enjoy the magic that makes them Portland's fastest rising stars.

Word of the Week: meritorious—deserving of prize or praise.  
Color of the Week: cranberry

## ABOUT TOWN

- Bee G's . . . . . 5700 N.E. Union, 281-1176  
Michael Holiday & Co.
- The Hobbit . . . . . S.E. 39th & Holgate, 771-0742  
Fri.-Sat., Mel Brown Quintet
- Key Largo . . . . . 31 N.W. 1st, 223-9919  
Fri.-Sat., Crazy 8's; Sun., Calvin Walker
- Last Hurrah . . . . . 555 S.W. Alder, 224-1336  
Thurs.-Sun., Cool 'R
- O'Callahan's . . . . . 11650 S.W. Canyon, 626-2223  
Mon., Cool 'R
- Original Richard's . . . . . 4534 S.E. McLoughlin, 230-4845  
Thurs.-Sat., LeRoy Vinnegar & Co.
- 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.; Sun., Jam w/ Mel Brown
- Salty's . . . . . foot of S.E. Marion, 239-8900  
Wed.-Thurs., Cool 'R
- Shanghai Lounge . . . . . 0309 S.W. Montgomery, 220-1865  
Sun., Tom Grant Band
- Third Ave. Club . . . . . 309 S.W. 3rd, 222-9180  
Thurs.-Sat., Ron Steen Quartet  
featuring Ralph Black

## Red Cross CPR Classes Scheduled

Red Cross will sponsor two CPR classes: Emanuel Hospital, 2801 N. Gatenbein, Saturday, February 21, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; 284-7090 to preregister; and David Douglas High School, 1400 S.E. 130th, Wednesday, February 18 & 25, 6 to 10 p.m.; 760-7700 to preregister.

Participants will earn Red Cross certification upon completion of the class. All participants must pre-register and pre-pay. A \$15 registration fee is required.

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