



# ENTERTAINMENT



## MT HOOD FESTIVALS NAMES FOUR GROUPS TO PLAY FESTIVALS STAGE

Four bands have been named to play on the Festival Stage at the 1989 Mt. Hood Festival of Jazz, giving jazz fans uninterrupted music during the Saturday and Sunday days of the August 4-6 event. Paul Kreider, Festival of Jazz Foundation President, made the announcement.

Each of the four groups signed to play the eighth annual Festival, led by Don Alberts, Rob Thomas, Steve Christofferson and Jefferey Dawkins, has established strong jazz and blues credits in the Pacific Northwest with regional or national exposure.

The Don Alberts Quartet plays noon-1:00 p.m. Saturday, August 5, followed at the dinner hour by the Rob Thomas Quartet. The Steve Christofferson Quintet with Nancy King plays noon-1:00 p.m. Sunday, August 6, followed at the dinner break by Back Porch Blues.

The Festival Stage is the performing area set up midway in the stadium. It comes to life an hour prior to the start of the Festival and again at the dinner hour both days. The stage has traditionally been set aside to expose the crowd to the best in local jazz.

Alberts, who came to the Portland area after serving as house pianist at a popular San Francisco jazz club, is a pianist/composer with a new recording, "Local Hero." The LP has garnered positive reviews in Portland and Seattle.

Rob Thomas leads a four-piece that plays major jazz clubs and regional festivals. Thomas, a bass player of national stature, plays violin in this quartet.

Christofferson is a pianist with a wide audience gained from several years of club and festival engagements. He and vocalist Nancy King have worked together on much of his jazz activity. She recently toured the East with internationally-acclaimed Oregon.

Back Porch Blues, a quartet led by Jeffrey Dawkins, is a crowd-pleasing acoustic blues band with a repertoire of classic blues tunes and a performance style that's resulted in much positive response from performers and critics alike.

All acts have been signed to the 1989 Festival, including the Friday Night Event, August 4, spotlighting the Pointer Sisters in an 8:00 p.m. concert.

The Saturday, August 5, schedule: Festival Big Band, guitarist Kevin Eubanks, Mel Brown Sextet, Yellowjackets, (dinner break), saxophonist Frank Morgan, guitarist/harmonica player Toots Thielemans, saxophonist Branford Marsalis and singer Lou Rawls.

The Sunday, August 6, schedule: Festival Vocal Ensemble, saxophonist Paquito D'Rivera, trumpeter Red Rodney, guitarist Earl Klugh, (dinner break), Monty Alexander's Triple Treat, the Count Basie Orchestra and singer Diane Schuur.

Sponsors of the Mt. Hood Festival of Jazz are the Gresham Area Chamber of Commerce and Mt. Hood Community College Foundation. Corporate sponsors are Maletis Beverage/Seagram's Coolers, Portland Bottling/7 Up, KINK-FM 102, KGW-TV 8, G.I. Joe's and Portland, Area Volvo Dealers.

Ticket information is available at the Festival office, 666-3810, and at G.I. Joe's Ticketmaster box offices statewide.

## COCA-COLA USA ANNOUNCES "SHOWTIME AT THE APOLLO" SWEEPSTAKES

Five grand prize winners from around the country will have the opportunity to get their act together and take it on the road through the Coca-Cola classic "Showtime at the Apollo" Sweepstakes.

Each top prize winner will receive a trip to New York City for three days and two nights, round-trip air transportation for two, hotel accommodations and \$200 spending money.

"The Apollo is the single most important landmark to the achievement of African-Americans in music in this country and abroad," said Chuck Morrison, vice president, Black and Hispanic Consumer marketing, Coca-Cola USA.

"We are delighted to provide the opportunity for lucky consumers to visit New York City and enjoy the Apollo, a place where audiences make the stars and create the legends," he said.

Coca-Cola is the exclusive soft drink sponsor of the Apollo theater.

While in New York, winners will attend a taping of "Amateur Night" or "It's Showtime at the Apollo," at the world famous Apollo theater, located in the historic Harlem district.

Secondary prizes for sweepstakes winners include Olympus camcorders, Sanyo portable CD/cassettes and radios and Seiko CD players.

To enter, contestants fill out entry blanks located at Coca-Cola classic displays in local stores or place their name, address, age and telephone number on a 3 x 5 index card and mail to "Showtime at the Apollo" Sweepstakes, P.O. Box 51966, Knoxville, TN 37950.

All entries must be received by August 1, 1989. No purchase is necessary to enter the contest.

## BROADWAY BOUND REPORT

by Garland Lee Thompson

### ACTRESS/SINGER, BRENDA PHILLIPS WINS HER FIRST "WILLIES" AWARD

As Black actress and singer, Brenda Phillips, who just won a Willamette Week "Willie" award (Monday, June 26, 1989), told me backstage opening night of her latest stage production, "Long Time Since Yesterday" (now playing at the IFCC Theatre June 23 - July 16), "I have been nominated several times for the Portland Willamette Week's annual "Willies" award, but I never expect to win one.

The reason she gave for her feelings is based on the fact that in the eleven years of the presentation of the Willies awards, only one Black actor has ever won one, Rick Jones, and no Black woman had ever won one, to her knowledge. It is further noted that in the Willies nomination and selection process, no Blacks or minorities are represented on the committee responsible for the awards (Julie Bookman of the Vancouver, Washington, Columbian, Bob Hicks of the Oregonian, Bob Jackson of Oregon Public Broadcasting, Dennis Koga of Willamette Week, Frank Nelson of Linfield College, Helene Nelson of the McMinnville News-Register, Jonathan Nicholas of the Oregonian, Pauline Peotter of Portland State University, Roger Porter of Reed College, Sharon Whitney of KBOO-FM, and Bob Sitton of the Willamette Week. Note: There are two Black weekly newspapers in the City of Portland, but the Willamette Week has gone out of the State of Oregon and City Of Portland to choose members of the award selection committee, which is very interesting. This

writer at the Portland Observer was approached by Bob Sitton a year ago, but nothing came of it since) AN INTERESTING ASPECT: "THE COLORED MUSEUM" Another interesting aspect of this 11th Annual Willies awards presentation and regarding Ms. Phillips (who won this year as the Best Actress in a Musical for this 1988-89 Portland area theatre season), is that she was nominated for her performance in the IFCC hit production of "The Colored Museum."

In "The Colored Museum," in which she was excellent, she had, however, only one short solo song in the opening scene or "exhibit," and one ensemble singing number in the entire show! Phillips, who is enjoying one of her longest continuous hit theatre seasons (1988-89), carried much greater and more difficult singing assignments in two other earlier shows in the current season. First, she appeared in the musical revue, "A...My Name is Alice," at the Portland Repertory and last summer '88, she "blew the audience away" with her big blues singing solos and duets, as "Mamie," in the summer '88 theatre production and Oregon premiere of Langston Hughes' classic Black musical, "Simply Heavenly," at Portland State University.

She was not nominated for, nor were these two shows were nominated for recognition awards, despite the fact that these shows were both

musicals in the correct sense and not just a comedy satire with some music and one solo number featuring noted jazz singer, Shirley Nanette, as a "take off" on the late Black singing star, Josephine Baker. Shirley Nanette didn't get any "play" either, by the "Willies" people (She's only been one of the leading female jazz vocalist for the past several years in Portland).

So, the question that comes up is: Did Brenda Phillips really receive this year's Willies award for her rather limited singing duties in "The Colored Museum" (in which she was excellent), or was this year's award given for her "accumulated and

combined series of performances in a hold range and body of works over the entire season or perhaps, her years of exciting performances in the local theatre scene? And since the Black director, Al Jamison, and the IFCC production of "The Colored Museum," was also nominated for Willies awards, was it "time to finally recognize, at least one Black Theatre piece with a Willies in Portland?"

### AN UNMISTAKABLY SUCCESSFUL SEASON

Yes, perhaps, after such an unmistakably successful season that has gone from "Simply Heavenly," "Zooman and the Sign" (the Storefront Theatre at the Winningstad Theatre), "The Colored Museum" (the IFCC Theatre to the Winningstad space) and to the current running of Black woman playwright, P.J. Gibson's play? "Let the church say amen," and like the title of that play, produced by the PassinArts Theatre Company, it's been a "Long Time Since Yesterday," and the coming of the Willies and "the coming of the glory" to Northeast Portland! "Let the church say, amen" again and write on!

### JUST FOR THE RECORD

Just for the record, "Hicksville-Sitton Town," the Black Theatre movement in New York developed its own Black Theatre Recognition awards, "the AUDELCO" award, in the seventies, and it continues today in 1989, when "the downtown" New York Village Voice newspaper's Obies awards, finally recognized a Black Theatre "uptown," above West 96th Street in Harlem, the Frank Silvera Writers' Workshop.

As the founder of that Black and woman's playwrights' theatre in 1973, which has won AUDELCO awards every year since 1976 to 1985, it was just as interesting to myself, for the Frank Silvera Writers' Workshop to finally win, after sixteen years, a special 1989 Obie and \$500.00 cash award "for continuous service to develop new emerging playwrights and their craft" (how nice and neat).

### THE JACKIE ROBINSON OF PORTLAND THEATRE

Howsoever, "congrats" to "the Jackie Robinson" of Portland area theatre, Ms. Brenda Phillips, and the Black Theatre of Portland, Oregon, for its greatest season to date. Write on, to all of us in the coming 1989-90 and the conclusion of the decade and beginning of the nineties! (Note: It is rumored that another "Black" actress may have won a little Willies award, but she maybe "passing," so only "her hairdresser" and her momma knows for sure. But the shadow do! Write on


### Public Service Announcement

June 26, 1989  
Attention: Public Service Director/Calendar Coordinator  
Subject: **FREE LUNCHTIME CONCERTS FEATURING OREGON'S FINEST JAZZ MUSICIANS AT THE E.M. WAITE MEMORIAL FOUNDATION.** (West end of the Capitol Building, Salem)  
CONTACT: Eric Fishman, Metropolitan Events 232-7820  
Cathy Millar, Cellular One 243-3333


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