



ENTERTAINMENT



Mt. Hood Jazz Festival Announces Complete 1990 Lineup



JOHNNY GRIFFIN

Saxophonist Johnny Griffin, conga drummer Mongo Santamaria, pianist Ray Bryant, bassist Leroy Vinnegar and the duo of Tuck and Patti have been signed to round out the 1990 Mt. Hood Festival of Jazz, according to

an announcement by Paul Kreider, Festival of Jazz Foundation President. The Festival is Aug. 3-5 outdoors at Mt. Hood Community College.

The five jazz artists join the ninth annual Jazz Festival lineup that already includes Mel Torme, Tony Bennett, the Terry Gibbs Dream Band, Larry Carlton, Stanley Jordan, Al Hirt, Michael Franks and the Harper Brothers. Singer Anita Baker headlines the popular Friday Night Event this year.

Santamaria has long been at the top of the heap when it comes to conga drummers. He left Cuba for the U.S. in 1948 and soon was working with Latin bandleaders Tito Puente and Cal Tjader before forming his own band.

Bryant was born in the ripe jazz atmosphere of Philadelphia, where he began playing piano at 6, subsequently learning jazz from listening to Art Tatum, Teddy Wilson, Count Basie and others.

Chicago native Griffin has resided in Europe for the past 25 years but makes an annual visit to the United States to tour. A standout improvisational talent and known for his speed and technical prowess, Griffin brings a solid bebop style to the Festival.

He learned bebop via Bud Powell and Red Garland while gathering steam on his own distinctive style of piano jazz.

Bassist Vinnegar, who leads a quartet, has long been in the company of elite jazz musicians. His first claim to fame came in the '50s, when he joined Andre Previn and Shelley Manne to record the best-selling "My Fair Lady" jazz album and went on to become one of the leading bassists in jazz.

Tuck and Patti play in the contemporary framework of jazz.

Additional information may be obtained from the Mt. Hood Festival of Jazz office by phoning 503-666-3810.

"Stories About The Old Days" To Receive West Coast Premiere

Oregon Stage Company, Washington County's professional theatre, will present the West Coast Premiere of *Stories About The Old Days* by Bill Harris, May 12-June 3 at the Forum Theatre, 17705 NW Springville Road (on the Rock Creek campus of Portland Community College).

Originally produced at New York's Henry Street Settlement (where the renowned "For Colored Girls . . ." also originated), *Stories About The Old Days* is a comic drama about the friendship that gradually develops between two retired people who meet in a rundown Detroit church. Clayborn is a former blues singer who has recently become the church custodian in exchange for a place to sleep; Ivy is a soloist in the church choir who is both appalled and intrigued by this newcomer. Clayborn likes to sing a little blues while he sweeps, and Ivy feels that type of music belongs in a back alley, not in a house of God. Clayborn roots for the hometown Detroit Tigers; Ivy prefers the more powerful New York Yankees (it's 1970). Through a series of conversations, stories, arguments and a few games of checkers, the two progress from mutual animosity to a deeper understanding and appreciation of each other.



Oregon Stage Company's production of *Stories About The Old Days* features two of Portland's top actors, Brenda Phillips and Anthony P. Armstrong. Brenda won last season's award for Best Actress in a Musical for *The Colored Museum*, and has also been in *A Raisin In The Sun*, *A . . . My Name Is Alice*, *The Little Foxes* and *Little Shop of Horrors*. Anthony recently played Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in *The Meeting*, and also appeared in *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, *Short Eyes*, *Woza Albert!* and the video *Welcome*

To The Neighborhood. Together, Brenda and Anthony were in *The Resurrection Of Lady Lester*, *Zooman And The Sign* and *Wine In The Wilderness*.

Oregon Stage Company Artistic Director Gary O'Brien will direct *Stories About The Old Days*. Scene design is by Mark Loring, costumes by Wanda Walden, and lighting by Kobe Enright.

Stories About The Old Days will have three low-priced previews, Saturday May 12 at 8:00 p.m., Sunday May 13 at 7:00 p.m., and Tuesday May 15 at 8:00 p.m. Preview tickets are \$10. Regular performances begin Wednesday May 16 and continue through Sunday June 3. Curtain times are 8 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday nights, 7 p.m. Sunday nights, and there are two Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. May 27 and June 3. Please note: the only performance on Saturday June 2 will be a 2 p.m. matinee (no evening show). Tickets for all regular performances are \$15, except Friday and Saturday nights which are \$16. There is also a \$2 discount for students, seniors and groups of 20 or more. To purchase tickets for *Stories About The Old Days*, call the Ticket Office at 690-7328, or come by during the hours of 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday at the Forum Theatre, PCC-Rock Creek.

Parchman Farm Continues To Boast Six Nights of Jazz Each Week

Jazz is King at the Parchman Farm and judging from the energy and excitement generated every Monday night at the weekly jam session, this is one thing everyone likes.

Proprietor Rob Andersen and jam-session pianist Gordon Lee will celebrate all that jazz when the popular lounge swings into a festive mode on Monday, May 21. The Farm celebrates the first anniversary of the Monday Night Jam with the first-ever Jammie awards.

Music is the backbone of the Parchman Farm six nights a week, with the Marianne Mayfield Quarter doing yeoman duty every Friday and Saturday night. The quartet, focusing on Mayfield's swinging vocals, has a lock on weekends, and now is in its third year.

The May calendar at the Farm features the duo of Andre St. James and Larry Natwick, a popular jazz twosome that keeps on getting better while drawing good Tuesday crowds.

Le Jazz Hot, the duo of guitarist Turtle Vandemarr and bassist Tom Miller, continues to intrigue Wednesday night listeners with a varied offering of '30s swing and jazz.

Thursday nights are the province of pianist Darin Clendinin, whose trio features bassist Dan Presley and drummer Kurt Deutscher. Jazz listeners are finding Clendinin's presence on the Portland jazz scene one of the distinct highlights of Portland's increasingly creative jazz scene.

The Parchman Farm offers live music six nights a week and recorded jazz from a wide selection of compact discs (CD) during all other open hours. The club, at 1204 SE Clay, one block south of Hawthorne Boulevard, boasts a full-service restaurant and bar.

"227" Star Toukie Smith Steps Into the Spotlight

Stepping from the shadow of her late brother, fashion designer Willi Smith, top model-turned-actress Toukie Smith finally arrives, to find prime time show business success, reports the May Ebony.

Certainly no stranger to celebrity status and scrutiny, Ms. Smith, 35, who has enjoyed high visibility careers in modeling, catering and now acting, talks about growing up with her better-known brother, and explains how she dealt with the tragedy of recently losing her

mother, brother and baby. "I felt a total sense of loss. I mean, how could I not?" Ms. Smith said. "You have to take every tragedy, every obstacle, and turn it around and make it positive," she adds.

A longtime companion of actor Robert DeNiro, Ms. Smith elects to keep the details of their much publicized private lives private. "Do you know how to spell it?" she asked. "P-R-I-V-A-T-E, and that's with a capital P."

The 12 Most Exciting Black Men

With their combined qualities of talent, power and magnetic appeal, Ebony's "12 Most Exciting Black Men" possess the special ability to arouse, motivate, thrill and inspire, reports the May Ebony.

Whether it be their dazzling good looks, personal charisma or their in-

tense passion for their work, these Black men, representing the fields of politics, entertainment, sports and the military, have the essentials to catch many a woman's attention, and hold it. The allure of celebrities including talk show host Arsenio Hall, and actors Denzel Washington and Blair Underwood, of-

ten arouse emotional responses from women.

Others included among the most exciting Black men are the Rev. Jesse Jackson, NBA basketball star Michael Jordan and actors Eddie Murphy, Billy Dee Williams and Morgan Freeman.



Behind The Scenes / Behind The Scenes / Behind The Scenes / Behind The Scenes / Behind The Scenes / Behind The Scenes

by Lisa Collins

All In the Same Gang: The site was Nickerson Gardens, one of the deadliest projects in the United States, wrecked by poverty, gang shootings and drug abuse. The crowd included M.C. Hammer, N.W.A., Tone Loc, the Fresh Prince, JJ Fad, Body & Soul, Mi'chell Le, and Eazy-E. The reason? The taping of a music video "We're All In The Same Gang", a collaborative effort on the part of west coast rappers to call a halt to gang violence. (Ice-T and Young M.C. were taping their parts later). The video was the brainchild of Crips co-founder Mike Conception, "I was just tired of seeing 90% of our youth turn around and kill one another," said Conception, who has formed his own record label, Conception, who has done hard time and was left a paraplegic after being shot. The bottom line for Conception is love. "To show some unity and love for one another and to show that we want to try to alleviate some of the stuff that's going on today." The song calls for an ending to gang violence, at the very least a nationwide peace truce beginning Friday, July 13, 1990. The song and video are scheduled for release from Warner Brothers on May 15. Proceeds will go to an employment and referral service

for Watts residents. Ironically, word was that some of the rappers and production crew weren't so sure of their safety, but security was tight. And while Denise "Dee" Barnes, one half of the group Body & Soul, and hostess of the syndicated TV show Pump It Up (featuring the lifestyles as well as videos of hip-hop music celebrities and enjoying a great deal of success in cities like Los Angeles and New York) says she's been at some parties where gang violence has erupted, through the New York native knows little firsthand of LA street gangs. "For us, it's all about unity, and that's what our group, Body & Soul, is trying to promote." "It's very real," said Tone-Loc, looking right at home as he signed autographs in a T-shirt and jeans. "Everybody thinks that back East is so rough and tough, and that Los Angeles is all Hollywood and stars, but as quiet as it's kept, this is one of the most dangerous places to live right now." An LA native, Tone-Loc was one of the first rappers to embrace the idea. "This is real important to me, because I am an ex-gang member, so I can identify. I was a scrapper—a little hard head, but today I'm giving a positive image. I'm trying to say you can overcome all of

this." As to his own future plans? "Music is just a stepping stone. I don't plan on being rapper more than another year and a half. I'm into real estate. One thing about it, they may think it's all a rap but I do have an education and I know what to do with my money when I make it."

Will Smith, aka "The Fresh Prince", (of D.J. Jazzy Jeff & The Fresh Prince fame) was perhaps most out of place. In fact, the East Coast-based rapper was drafted into the video after having dropped by to show his support. Smith was in Los Angeles to tape a pilot for a TV show, entitled "The Prince of Belair", based on the exploits of a kid from the projects of Philadelphia who moves in with a family from Belair. Those already cast in the pilot are Denise Nicolas and veteran comedian Don Rickles.

Short Takes: As Eddie Murphy finishes up productions on "Another 48 Hours", rumors are flying as to his leaving Paramount. Word is he's been grumping about the terms—a measly \$9 million (plus 15% percentage) for some time now. He calls it the worst deal in Hollywood. (Sorry Eddie, you'll get no sympathy here)

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