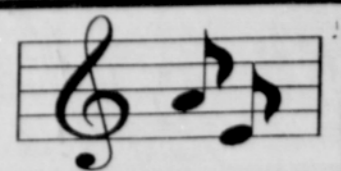




# ENTERTAINMENT



## NAJEE

### Tokyo Blue

Performing at the  
**Starry Night**

Friday, August 31, 1990

Don't miss an evening with Jazz/R&B Artist NAJEE!

Tickets will be available at: **G.I. Joes**  
**One Stop Records**

Call for Info: 282-1734



## Spike Lee's Mo' Better Than Ever With Latest Film and Book

By Angelique Sanders

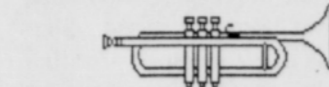
Slumped on the front porch, gentle jazz--entertainingly, not distractingly, loud--spilling from the house, ignored burning cigarette in the ashtray...that is the way to approach

into perspective; rather it enhances your understanding of how the actors tried to personify the script, their relations with one another, and how and why the crew went about effects in the ways that they did. It also, and most importantly, gives you a feel of who Spike really is. The book is no substitute for the movie (a viewer understands Spike two minutes into his first scene); it is simply a good supplement. If you have the opportunity to read it, wait until after you've seen the movie so the outcome is a surprise; otherwise, it's as frustrating as sitting

homeslice with a ditty French girlfriend. A lot of "free time" was splashed into the flick, scenes that didn't build the plot or characterization, but let the audience sit back and laugh; unnecessary subplots such as a quick listen to



**Denzel Washington as Bleek Gilliam, a trumpet player blind to the non-music world**



next to a vocal person who's seen it. The book will be released August 12.

The movie will be a flashback to Spike's past three successes only in the sense of characters and the crew: everything else about this innovative film breaks the Spike mold of films about racial injustice. This film is not as powerful in plot as it is in characterization: it's moving in that Spike has captured a true slice of Black life, something so rare to find. He is unafraid to use non-Blacks, but he realizes the need for a film that African Americans can relate to.

The movie was slow to "get going" but this time was needed to build the emotion. Characterization was practically automatic, due to the skill of Spike and his understanding of Black life. With help of flawless costuming and Spike's trademark, liberal ad libbing, the actors had no problems illustrating the characters. Everyone could laugh at and relate to the stereotypical manager/best friend/crook Giant (Spike Lee); the crooked owners of the club (which was symbolically named "Beneath the Underdog") which were human echos, neither ever saying anything of substance. Shadow (Wesley Snipes) was the saxophonist trying to steal the show, hogging anything from solo time to money to female attention. The pianist, Left-Hand Lacey (Giancarlo Esposito, whom you might remember from *Do the Right Thing*) was a whiney



**Spike Lee, as Giant, best friend and manager of Bleek's, and a compulsive gambler**

Butterbean's comedy or Spike Lee telling a ridiculous story about childhood loosened the overly taught mood. The photography was extremely experimental, but amazing: an argument scene found the camera whizzing between the arguers, rather than being shut off and on; a bicycle-riding scene found the camera bumping along as if on a bike; the confusion of a fight scene was captured by a staggering cameraman. The sound effects were similarly effective: Clarke's voice in one scene fades out to nothing in relation to music, as if representative from within Bleek's mind; chaotic, tense jazz enhanced a fight scene.

The movie might not have measured up to 1989's *Do the Right Thing* in intensity or in its effect upon society, but the methodology and quality still was terrific. It is a powerful Black film in a white market, but it will succeed because of its strength. The mostly white audience that made up my fellow viewers were all moved, demonstrating once again that quality is quality, regardless of race.

## Desert Rose Band to Rock Albany

by Angelique Sanders

The *Desert Rose Band* is a Southern Californian band that racks in the praise and acclaim everywhere they perform, its members dubbed by *Rolling Stone* some of "America's most talented-and overlooked-musicians".

With three albums and eleven singles--five of which hit number one on the country music charts--they are rising even farther to the top with the January release of their album *Pages of Life*. *Pages* is already proving its superiority: the first release off the album jetted to number two on the charts, while the second found its way to the top ten. In 1989, the *Desert Rose* band became one of the five finalists in the Country Music Awards under the category "Vocal Group of the Year". *Variety* says they are, "without doubt among the top ten rock or country bands playing today"; the *Los Angeles Times* asks their readers "is there a better country-rock band around today?"

They aren't your typical "woe is me, my love is lost" country boys...in fact, many of their songs carry an a-traditional sense of social conscience. Chris Hillman, the leader of the band and former member of The Byrds and the Flying Burrito Brothers, describes their music as "good old hillbilly rock 'n roll".

If you'd like to sample the *Desert Rose Band's* work, you can catch the tour in its Albany, Oregon stop on August 9 at Monteith River Park.

Spike Lee's latest book, *Mo' Better Blues*.

Though the book is not solely written by Spike--it is co-authored by Lisa Jones, and contains many personal accounts as perceived by co-workers--every page breathes "Spike Lee", from movie clip photos, to actors' recounts of on-set relations. The pictures--all 150 of them--similarly are of the Spike mood: self-contained, coolly reflective, symbolic. Each conveys an intense human emotion, and in the Spike tradition, that mood is generally not oblivious happiness. For example, a photograph of Denzel Washington and Cynda Williams (two members of a four-way love relationship: Washington, Williams, Joie Lee, and Washington's trumpet) embracing, shows Washington holding his trumpet symbolically between them. Another, of Washington--"Bleek Gilliam"--onstage, is not taken from the traditional vantage of directly in front of the band, but from among audience members, to heighten mood.

Do not confuse the book as an attempt to re-cap the movie and put it

A Benefit For  
**PIONEER COURTHOUSE SQUARE**  
7:30 pm **FRIDAY, AUG 17**



Henry Weinhard's  
Private Reserve  
Presents.....

## The FABULOUS THUNDERBIRDS

**MITCH RYDER**  
And The **DETROIT WHEELS**

**CURTIS SALGADO**  
And The **STILETTOS**

MEIER & FRANK

The Oregonian

1190  
KEX

Willamette  
Week

Tickets are \$18 plus service charge available at Powell's Travel Store and G.I. Joe's Ticketmaster outlets

CALL 222-7425 FOR MORE INFORMATION  
A Public Service of the Downtowner.

## ONE STOP TOP 10 SINGLES

NO	TITLE LABEL & NUMBER	ARTIST
1	Ruff Rhyme Capitol 15583	King Tee
2	Do Me MCA 24061	Bell Biv DeVoe
3	Crazy Motown 2053	The Boys
4	Treat Them... MCA 15822	Father MC
5	Innocent Capitol 44593	The Whispers
6	Make You Mine Motown 20444	M.C. Trouble
7	Jerk Out Paisley Park 4-19750	The Time
8	Vision of Love CBS 73348	Mariah Carey
9	Thieves in the Temple Paisley Park 19751	Prince
10	Please Don't Cry Motown 20514	Red Bandits

## ONE STOP RECORDS

1615 NE Killingworth  
Portland, OR  
(503) 284-2435

**KEY LARGO**  
31 NW FIRST 223-9919

**AUGUST**  
WED. 8  
**BANG NATION**  
THUR. 9  
**BROTHERS OF THE BALADI & LLOYD JONES STRUGGLE (T.V. SHOOT)**  
FRI. 10, SAT. 11  
**CURTIS SALGADO & THE STILETTOS**  
SUN. 12  
**CRAZY 8S**  
MON. 13  
**LITTLE CAESAR W/BURNING TREE**  
TUES. 14  
**PMA SHOWCASE/GENERAL MEETING**

**VOICES OF SARAFINA** follows the young South African acting troupe performing the Broadway hit "Sarafina!" The program weaves interviews with cast members with scenes from the play and images from South African townships.  
**PLAYS** on August 15 at 9:00 p.m. on PBS.

## ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

A longtime fixture on the local music scene, **CRAIG CAROTHERS**, along with his band **THE NERVE**, are on the verge of releasing a new ten-song cassette entitled "*Greenhouse FX*". The album features band members Gregg Williams, John Bunzow, and Tim Ellis, along with Carothers and a host of guest musicians.

**AMAZING GRACE** with Bill Moyers, premieres Wednesday, September 12 at 6 p.m. on PBS. It tells the story of one of the most popular songs in the English language through the experiences of people who sing, including folk singer Jean Ritchie, gospel singer Marion Williams, and the Boys Choir of Harlem.

INVITES YOU TO

WATERFRONT PARK  
AUGUST 10, 11, 12

# The Rite

A TASTE OF PORTLAND

28 Restaurants  
70 Music Acts

Oregon Wine Pavilion  
Featuring 21 Oregon Wineries

Bud Dry

FOOD SERVICES OF AMERICA  
Dairy Farmers of Oregon  
Seagram's COOLERS  
1190 KEX

Produced as a fund raiser by OREGON SPECIAL OLYMPICS