

ENTERTAINMENT

MILIRA



from a voice coach -- I'm projecting more from my diaphragm. And the producers I worked with brought me to a certain level, then let me go free and just explore my capabilities," says Milira.

She wrote and produced the thoughtful closing cut, "Love Always, Milira," herself. "That track weaves in both scatting and reggae toasting as it delivers sweet sentiments to a far-away boyfriend. It's one facet of a complex concept. The album is all about love, the different things people experience in relationships," says Milira. "It's also about passion, quality and experience."

Coming from a musical family -- her mom and aunt were members of Jackie Wilson's backup singers, The Wilsonettes -- Milira became exposed to singing at an early age. "I used to walk past my sister's room, hear Nancy Wilson or Sarah Vaughan, and say, 'Boy! They're tremendous,'" recalls Milira. She once dreamed of singing like those jazz legends. That's before she was practicing scatting around her Queens, NY home or singing to the faithful at her mom's Baptist church. "I try to always grow and never become complacent," says Milira.

From listening to jazz and soul records, Milira further defined herself musically. When she started entering high school talent contests, people said, "That girl that can sing!" recall Milira (the name is a conjunction of Millie and

Ira, her two grandmothers). She took steps towards the limelight when she entered The Apollo Theatre's Amateur Night contest; she became a two-time winner at age 17.

That triumph led to Milira securing a recording contract with Apollo Theatre Records. She became its first artist, releasing an album that Black Radio Exclusive (BRE) hailed as "a voyage into listening pleasure, reminiscent of past r&b greats insofar as musical content and flavor." Essence called Milira "a dynamo we'll be seeing and hearing lots from in years to come." Then produced by Donald "Dee" Bowden, MILIRA presented the singer scampers over the bombastic edge.

On MILIRA Back Again!!! the 21-year-old singer finds utterly new ways to make her signature tone (husky, strident, felt) simmer slow or burn incandescent. The first single "One Man Woman," begins softly before whipping up a feverish froth. "Put your arms around me and tell me I'm your woman," she demands before expounding on the monogamy theme in "If You Really Love Her." She commands, "You and me and she could never be!"

MILIRA Back Again!!! is a gorgeous bouquet plucked from an ever-evolving singer's garden of nourishing style and sass. It's another triumph of Motown, known originally as Hitsville, USA.

"With this record, I'm emerging as a more versatile and disciplined performer," declares Milira. She has stronger production behind her and even stronger pipes. Surrounded by widespread acclaim for her powerful debut album, MILIRA, the singer has achieved a most difficult task: she has grown by leaps and bounds when critics and fans thought she had already arrived.

Higher knowledge of her voice informs every note on MILIRA. Back Again!!! As it wide-tracks over rich ballads, supple neo-soul hip hop and jazz-infused testifying, the album showcases vocals arranged by the singer to make maximum emotional sense. "I benefited

The Cutting Edge GENEVA'S 30th Anniversary



Congratulations to Geneva of Geneva's Shear Perfection

Sunday Geneva celebrated her 30th Anniversary in the hair business at the Red Lyon in Vancouver, Washington. It was a Gala affair, featuring a Hair Fashion Show that included various hair salons throughout the city of Portland; Geneva's Shear Perfection, Broadway Hairweavers, Dean's Beauty - Barber Shop, Ebony Choice, Hair El'gance, Golden's House of Style, Wave's Beauty Salon, Purple Palace Salon, and Love-Lee-Ladies Beauty Salon. The show was put on in grand style with a buffet style dinner and music from the Calvin Walker Band.

Music, Culture, Physics, And Books For Kids At Blue Lake Park

Hop with Portland's newest rappers; explore the physics of mass and motion; select a good book; and experience authentic American Indian performances at upcoming "Especially for Kids" programs at Blue Lake Park. This exciting series for kids runs Wednesday afternoons, from 2 to 3 p.m. through August 26th. Admission is just \$2 per car. On July 22nd the nationally acclaimed rap music group Krowd Kontrol will charge the audience with their original tunes, groovin, rhythms, and solid dancing.

The following week, on July 29, OMSI presents physics for kids in Motion Commotion. This program makes the science of movement fun as Isaac Newton's three laws of the nature of mass and motion are explored! Kids learn about inertia, forces, actions and reactions as they investigate type of movement produced when many forces are applied at once.

Also on July 29, Multnomah county Book Mobile will roll into the park with books for kids of all ages -- pick favorite topics! Mystery, friendship, nature,

crafts and more will be within arms reach. Remember to bring your library card.

Observe the customs and traditions, and learn the lore of our indigenous peoples in Native American Performance on August 5th. This American Indian group performs ceremonial dancing, drumming, songs, and storytelling from the Northwest Coast and Sioux legends.

Plan to spend a wonderful summer day at Blue Lake Park. Bike and paddle boat rentals, the swim beach, food concessions, wetlands walk, and playground areas are just a few of the activities available to visitors at this 180 acre park.

Blue Lake Park is located on Northeast 223rd Avenue, between Marine Drive and Sandy Boulevard. Take I-84 east to 181st Avenue (Gresham/Fairview Exit 13). Head north to Sandy Blvd, turn east and follow signs to the park. For more information call Multnomah County Park Services Division at 248-5050. Sorry, pets are not allowed.

DIVE INTO THE FUTURE



Tomorrow's world needs people with high-tech job skills, and the ability to provide leadership in a high-tech work environment. In the Navy, young men and women are learning those skills today. With high-tech training and job opportunities, the Navy can provide an opportunity to get a head-start on the future. Find out more from your local Navy recruiter.

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Fairgrounds To Sell Tickets In Advance

Beginning Monday, July 13, the public will be able to purchase tickets for 1992 Oregon State Fair in advance and at a discount, by dialing: (503) 1-800-643-2597.

Callers may order tickets by phone Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5 p.m., until Wednesday, August 19. After August 19, tickets must be purchased at G.I. Joe's TicketMaster outlets. Tickets may also be purchased at G.I. Joe's TicketMaster counter on a walk-up basis until August 26.

Tickets by phone will cost \$5 for adults (regularly \$6), and \$1 for children under 13. No season passes will be sold by phone. To order, callers must use either Mastercard or Visa.

Advance sale tickets sold by the Fair are available only by phone order. These advance tickets are not available through the State Fair Office. Those interested in purchasing tickets should use the "1-800" number listed above. The toll-free number works in both Washington and Oregon.

PORTLAND OBSERVER
"The Eyes and Ears of the Community"
Office: (503) 288-0033
Fax #: (503) 288-0015

PSU's Summer Rep Theater Presents "Uncommon Women"

Beth Harper and Pat Gratton head a talent cast of students and Portland actors in Wendy Wasserstein's play of female discovery, "Uncommon Women and Others." Harper, a graduate of Portland State's theater program, is a Drammy Award winning actress and founder of the Training Ground Actors Studio and The Oregon One Act Festival. Gratton is well known for her work in television, radio and films and in theater around the Portland area, in Seattle, Washington and Bonn, Germany.

"Uncommon Women" is the second of this year's PSU Summer Repertory Theater productions. Its creator, Wendy Wasserstein, won the 1989 Pulitzer prize in drama for "The Heidi Chronicles."

"Uncommon Women" plays Thursday through Saturday, July 30 through August 22, at 8 p.m. in PSU's Lincoln Performance Hall. Tickets are \$8.50 general; \$7 for senior adults, non-PSU students, and PSU faculty/staff; and \$5 for PSU students. Tickets for the preview performance on Wednesday, July 29, at 8 p.m., and the Sunday matinee, August 9 at 2 p.m. are \$7 general; \$6 for senior adults, non-PSU students, and PSU faculty/staff; and \$5 for PSU students. Tickets will be available in Lincoln Hall one hour before the performance. They may be purchased in advance through the Ticket Office at the corner of SW 5th and Broadway, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 725-3307.

Wasserstein's play follows a group of women during their last year at a prestigious women's college. It provides a funny, perceptive look into their lives, loves, aspirations and the events that shape them.

Alan Hemingway is guest director for the PSU production. His work in theater and dance has taken him to several parts of the country, including New York's Lincoln Center and Circle in the Square. His honors include an award for excellence in theatre from the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

"I wanted to do this play because its issues are timely," says Hemingway. "It's about choices, and choices for women today seem to be shrinking rather than expanding."

Lighting design is by Drammy award winner Jeff Forbes. Scenery design is by John Gerth. Costumes are designed by Margaret Heatherington and Sara Andrews-Collier.

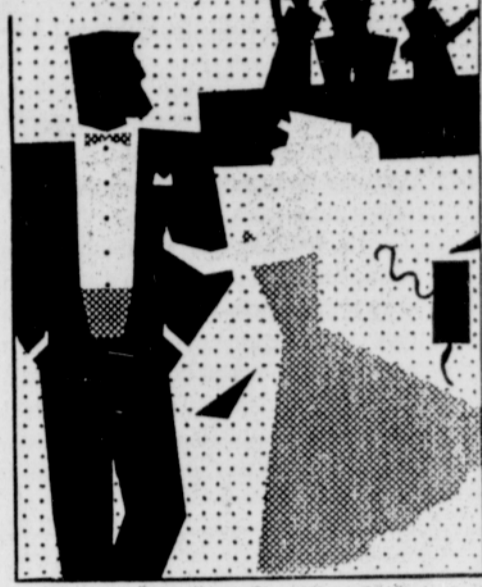
For more information regarding Summer Repertory Theater and the theater arts program at PSU contact the department at 725-4612.

Women Artist To Meet

The Oregon Chapter of the Women's Caucus for Art will hold its monthly meeting on Sunday, July 26, 1992, at 5 p.m. at the Downtown YMCA, 1111 SW 10th Avenue in Portland, in Conference Room 2 on the main floor. The organization, which meets on the fourth Sunday of each month, is a networking group which promotes the political and financial parity of women artists.

The program for the July meeting will be presented by Lois Marie Lewis, Poet and storyteller. Lewis is a high school dropout who returned to school 17 years later and obtained a B.A. in Business Administration. She has been a Math Teacher, has a black belt in Tae Kwon Do, and is founder and poet-in-residence of Poet*Tree in Portland.

July Video Blues Fest



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July 19th
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Woodland Park Hospital Continues Health Information/Referral Phone Line

Because of recent changes, Woodland Park Hospital would like to remind citizens of the Portland-Metro area that 24-NURSE is still available to take health related telephone calls. 24-NURSE is staffed by emergency nurses available 24 hours a day to answer health related questions, refer callers to their nearest emergency room or to

contact 911 in case of a severe emergency. 24-NURSE is also available to assist callers in obtaining a personal physician or specialist.

24-NURSE is a free, community service provided by Woodland Park Hospital. It was established in 1985 and handles over 50,000 calls per year.

**MUSIC
MILLENNIUM**

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