THE PORTLAND OBSERVER • JUNE 1, 1994

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Black Music Month Arrested Development Zap Mama: Coming To Portland Heads Back To Their Roots

D.C., the Paradise in Detroit, the Royal in Baltimore - that thrived from the 20s through the civil rights era. Speech, chief writer and rapper for the Grammy-winning band Arrested Development, uses the term "chitlin' circuit" in reference to the smaller, funkier venues that have always catered to black music, especially throughout the rural South.

Gearing up for the release of the follow-up album, Zingalamaduni, to their multiplatinum debut, 3 Years, 5 Months, and 2 Days in the Life of..., Arrested Development mences in Atlanta and con-"chitlin circuit" concert and promotional tour. A.D.'s chitlin' tour itinerary is more far-reaching than the chitlin" tours once done by legendary delta blues singers and jazz acts of the past, but the idea is the same.

Some historians refer to roots with the people," Speech "the chitlin' circuit" as the said. "This tour is not as glitzy handful of world-famous black or glamorous as a formal arena vaudeville theaters - the show. It's grittier, more down-Apollo in New York, the Re- to-earth, more old school." He gal in Chicago, the Howard in adds that the tour is a "rebirth" for Arrested Development who, before they were signed, used to play "little backwoods clubs" throughout southern Georgia and northern Florida, bringing hip-hop to many of these places for the first time.

As committed as ever to political activism in everyday life, Arrested Development has arranged to have Greenpeace and Amnesty International giving out information at all of their dates. And, as before, A.D. will be displaying works by local African American artists in every city. The tour comare undertaking a nine city cludes in San Francisco. An extensive summer tour will be announced in the near future.

Zingalamaduni, Arrested Development's second studio effort, will be in stores on June 14. The first single from the new album, "Ease My Mind" "We're staying true to our has just been released.

women singers led by Marie Daulne. Shortly before Marie's birth in Zaire to a Belgian father and a Zairean mother, there was a political revolt which forced the Belgians to leave the country. Marie's father was killed in the ensuing riots but her mother managed to escape with three children to the safety of the pygmies, the neighbors of her own tribe the Bantou. The pygmies are feared by other tribes because of their supernatural powers, mysticism and spiritualism. There, Marie was born, without medical attention, in the forest.

After Marie left home, she decided to make music her profession and studied polyphony in Arab, Asian and African contexts. She felt that since the African tradition is oral and transmits emotion, she needed to experience this dimension firsthand; Marie set out to re-meet the pygmies. When she arrived, they regarded her differently from the other women who had come to study and film, because she could sing like them.

Although her mother had carefully taught her children some Bantou traditions, she feared them becoming too African and considered Marie's songs "savage" and uncivilized. At the same time, the Belgian side of her family supporter her cultural studies. As Marie started developing her new group, she realized that since she herself had not spent much time in

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· FRIENDS OF THE ZOO · THE GRAND WAZOO · F7 WAZOO St. Johns Music To benefit the renovation of the Asian Elephant Exhibit. fm102 GRAND Cathedral Park in the St. Johns District of North Portland SENTS will be the site for a series of "RETURN OF SWING" concerts this summer, thanks to THE local companies and individual **TOUR** 199 sponsors. Portland Parks and **Recreation and Friends of Ca-**

Zap Mama is a group of five Africa, the music could never be fully adding more elaborate instruments, original and natural gets taken for African: "My music is a mix -- like like so many of their Europeanized a way, Marie compares herself to Americans, a new breed of people who have forgotten some of their roots and traditions.

world: Zap Mama offers an a cappella journey, reminding us that we all

granted. Although based in Brussels, me." To zap means to switch chan- contemporaries, Zap Mama subtract the home of techno, Zap Man's instrunels or, as intended here, cultures. In instruments. These are women of the ments are their vocal chords and bodies.

Their live shows are compelling and fun, thanks to their sense of humake the same sounds they use mor, their vibrant personalities and (breathing, exhaling) but as mecha- their collective experience within the-Zap Mama are going back to the nization continues -- in Africa as well atre and dance. Live Zap Mama add a roots, the human voice. Instead of as in Western countries -- everything whole new dimension to the experience.



thedral Park Neighborhood Association say over \$8,000 has already been raised.

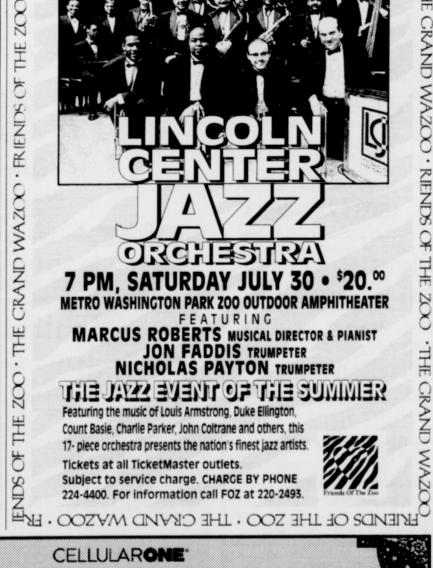
Series Planned

The series, which include concerts July 10 and July 24, will conclude with the 5th Annual Blue Heron Music Festival on July 31. Major sponsors of the series include the Metro Central **Enhancement Fund and Brown**ing-Ferris Industries of Oregon.

Association Chair Ted White, in announcing the series, credited the grant as particularly important because it provided much of the music for the festival, new electric circuits and drinking fountains for the park.

"We have received word that parks and recreation is going to match some of the park improvement money, as well," White said.

The largest contribution from an individual came from John Dipasquale, manager of the St. Johns Branch of U.S. Bank. Persons and companies interested in contributing to the series are asked to contact Blue **Heron Treasurer Sandra Wyatt** at 735-4771.





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