

# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

The Portland Observer

## Laughing In The Dark



Patrice Gaines author of "Laughing In The Dark". Photo Credit: Breton Littlehales, 1994

"For so many years, I thought that the bad choices I'd made, the missteps I'd taken, set me apart from everyone else," says Patrice Gaines, author of *Laughing In The Dark: From Colored Girl to Woman of Color—A Journey from Prison to Power* (Crown Publishers, September 28, 1994). "Now, after years spent reporting on other people's lives, I see that my experiences are very similar to those of many women, regardless of their color."

Despite Patrice's middle-class upbringing and stable nuclear family, as a young woman she was lured into a life of risk-taking and crime by a desire to gain power in a white, male-dominated society. "I would see the thugs and petty criminals hanging out on the streets, doing what they wanted to do and not

answering to anyone," says Patrice. "My fascination with them was part adolescent rebellion, part a response to being a 'second-class citizen' because I was black." With her decision to ally herself with such men by loving them, Patrice set the course for a life of violence and abuse.

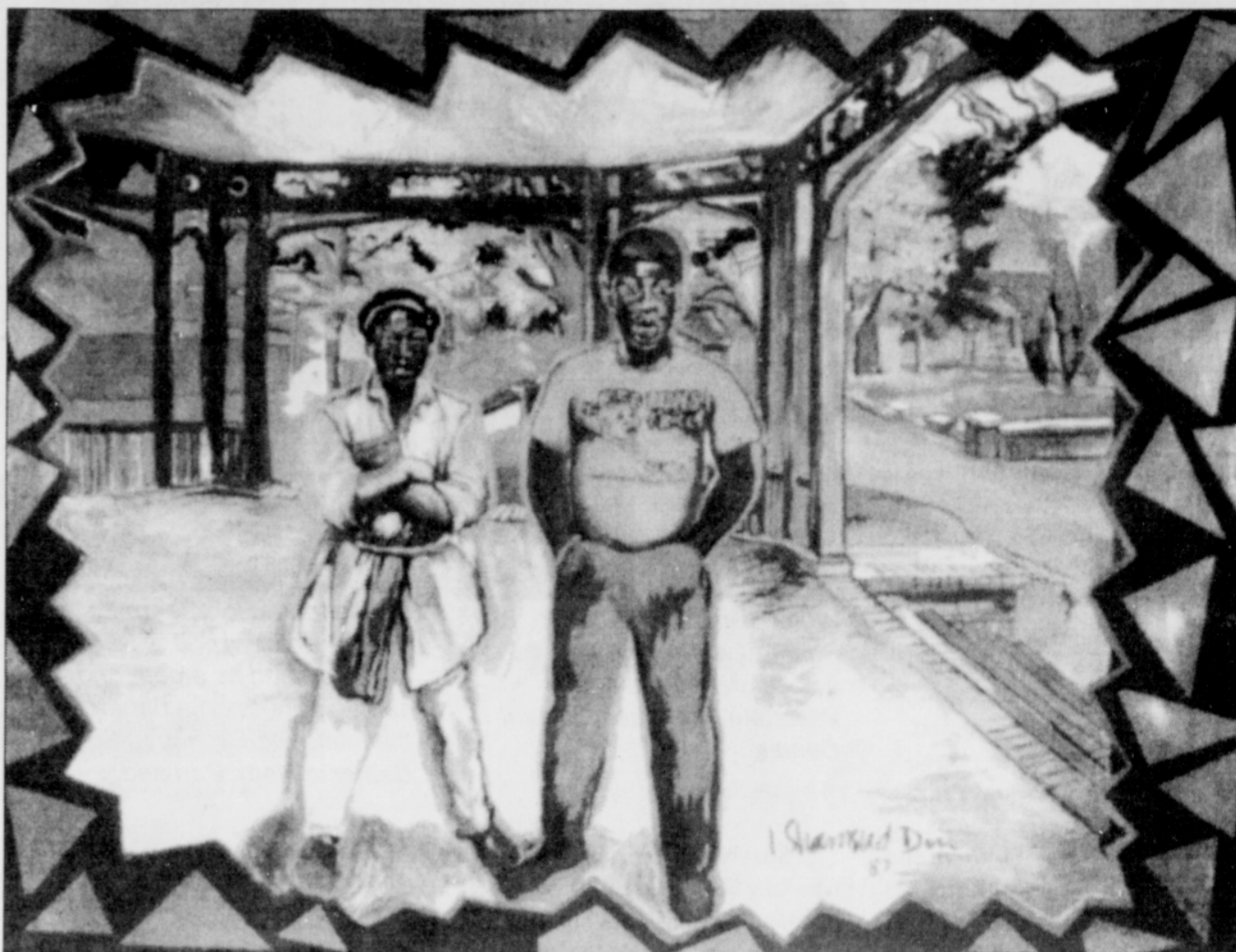
After years spent hustling and being a victim of hustlers herself, Patrice was busted for heroin possession and charged with a felony. While in jail awaiting her trial, she reached a turning point in her life. "My parents came to visit me, but my daughter, who was two, was too young to be allowed in. After they left, I looked out my tiny cell window and saw Andrea down in the street, held up on my grandfather's shoulders and waving blindly to the mommy she couldn't see," remembers Patrice. "It was a

heartbreaking moment, and I realized then that I owed her something—the least I could give her was a mother who was part of her life." Vowing to change her ways, Patrice began a rocky climb to redemption, one marked by frequent slides into her old ways.

In *Laughing In The Dark*, Patrice tells how her serendipitous entry into the world of newspaper reporting marked the birth of self-confidence and the chance for an honorable kind of power. Hired as a secretary for the *Charlotte Observer*, she was asked to write the employee newsletter, an assignment she found both difficult and invigorating. "I began trying to teach myself all I could about writing," says Patrice. "My first byline was a major victory, one that led me to where I am in my career today." Now a nine-year veteran reporter at the *Washington Post*, Patrice writes human interest stories for the *Metro* section.

"I spent so much of my life hating myself, looking for power through any number of men," says Patrice. "After years of struggling to respect myself—both as a woman and as an African-American—I have finally begun to make my way."

Patrice Gaines was born in 1949 in New Bern, North Carolina. After serving jail time in Charlotte, she got a job at the *Charlotte Observer* and began her career as a reporter. After working for two years for the now-defunct *Miami News*, she got a job at the *Washington Post*, where she has been for nine years. In 1992, Patrice won the National Association of Black Journalists' annual "Salute to Excellence" award for commentary. She has one daughter, Andrea, a graduate of Spelman College who now works for a public relations firm in Los Angeles.



## Call For Artists: Visual Chronicle Of Portland

The Visual Chronicle of Portland is a city-owned archival collection of paintings, drawings, prints and photographs depicting city life which are purchased annually. The Chronicle is an important and unique portrait not only of Portland but also of its artistic vitality and the evolving point of view of artists. Artists' portrait not only of Portland but also of its artistic vitality and the evolving point of view of artists. Artists' perceptions of life in the last decade of this century will be an important legacy for future generations, and they are encouraged to execute works specifically for submission to the Chronicle.

Based on Amsterdam's topographic Atlas, an archival art collection that spans almost four centuries, Portland's Visual Chronicle, initiated in 1984, is a rich visual document of the changing urban landscape and

life of Portland as it moves into the 21st Century. Two aspects of Amsterdam's historical Topographical Atlas that are especially appropriate to Portland's Visual Chronicle are the quality of its artistic execution and the breadth of its aesthetic perspective.

The Selection Committee is seeking artwork that is topical, contemporary and exciting and which portrays a sense of the present. The Committee has drawn up a list of topics which should serve as a guide to artists and not constrain them from approaching other subjects with which they might fulfill the selection criteria.

**Suggestions include:**

- how changes in the physical, or built, environment affect economic, social and cultural aspects of neighborhoods/communities (e.g., the

Gense Hollow neighborhood which is being affected by construction of the new MAX line and renewal and development in the neighborhoods of the Albina community).

- social issues and their impact on Portland (e.g., AIDS crisis, homelessness, labor issues)
- the lives of children in Portland
- the music scene
- parks and special events unique to Portland.

This year the committee is especially encouraging submissions of paintings, drawings, and prints although all submissions will be considered that meet the selection criteria.

Applications due in MAC office by January 10, 1995, 5:00 p.m. (this is not a postmark deadline)

For further information, call Peggy Kendellen, Public Art Project Coordinator, 503-823-4196.

## DIE HAUT



(L to R) Joschen Arbeit--guitar; Christoph Dreher--bass; Rainer Lingk--guitar; Thomas Wylder--drums

Following their stateside debut last year, Die Haut is back with another set of their expansive guitar rock. Entitled *Sweat*, it follows in the style of previous release *Head On* in that it features the band alongside a

group of some of the best singers in modern rock, led this time by influential vocalist Nick Cave. *Sweat* is Die Haut's first live recording, tracked during a pair of Dutch concert performances, and will also be

available on long-form VHS video tape, featuring some different song selections and performances from the CD.

Cave's involvement with Die Haut dates back to the European releases *Burnin' the Ice*, (1983) and '88's headless *Body in a Topless Bar*. Meanwhile, DH drummer Thomas Wylder has long been a mainstay in Cave's group the Bad Seeds, and, along with Cave, will be participating in this summer's Lollapalooza tour. Cave is joined on *Sweat* by other long-time Die Haut cohorts--Lydia Lunch, Blixa Bargeld, kid "Congo" Powers, and Anita Lane.

The Berlin-based quartet Die Haut issued their first domestically-available release, *head On*, in winter, 1993 on Triple X. The instrumental band--whose name translates to 'the Skin'--chose to flesh out their songs by enlisting the assistance of various guest vocalists. The result was an inspired collaboration between the band and a veritable who's who of left-of-the-dial rock singers, such as Sonic Youth's Kim Gordon, Gun Club's Jeffrey Lee Pierce, Debbie Harry of Blondie fame, Blixa Bargeld of Einsturzende Neubauten, the ever-busy Lydia Lunch, Kid Congo Powers (who played alongside Bargeld in Nick Cave's Bad Seeds and Pierce in the Gun Club), solo artist Anita Lane, Suicide's Alan Vega, and Cristina from New York underground sensation Boss Hog.

It proved to be a formidable Stateside introduction to a band that already had a decade-long history behind them in Europe.

## A Low Down Dirty Shame

Jive Records/Hollywood Records announce the release of their joint venture soundtrack for the new Keenen Ivory Wayans movie *A Low Down Dirty Shame* starring Keenen Ivory Wayans, Jada Pinkett, and Sally Richardson.

The soundtrack also hosts tracks from Keith Murray, Fu-Schnickens, Organized Konfusion, Smooth, UGKz, Extra Prolific, Mz. Kilo, Hi-Five, Changing Faces.



Music Millennium

32nd & E. Burnside  
231-8926

23rd & NW Johnson  
248-0163

Disney/Caravan Pictures will host four screenings and parties. Starting in Atlanta on November 9th showcasing the talent of Raja-Nee and

Silk; then it's on to Washington, D.C. on November 15th where the Fu-Schnickens will join Raja-Nee and Silk.

**THE**  
*Will Rogers*  
**FOLLIES**  
*A Life in Revue*

**WINNER of More Awards for BEST MUSICAL Than Any Show This Decade!**

**NOV. 15 - 20**  
**Portland Civic Auditorium**  
**OPENS TUESDAY!**

TICKETMASTER CHARGE-BY-PHONE  
(503) 224-4400

Group Discounts (503) 299-4095

KGM-TV dan AA