

# Arts ENTERTAINMENT

The Portland Observer

## Getting Ready To Roll



Vintage Trolley conductors, including three of the original motormen from the 1940s, celebrate the Portland trolley's history and its sponsors. The trolley's free weekend service began this month and resumes daily service in June.

## GreenHeart Partners Produces Its First Classic:

**"Spoon River Anthology: A Theatrical Resurrection"; Opens April 7**

An ensemble of eight actors plays multiple roles in Leigh Clark's original adaptation of "Spoon River Anthology," the popular 1915 verse novel by Edgar Lee Masters celebrated for its depth of characterization and beautiful language.

Although the characters in "Spoon River" are deceased, and their stories come from a bygone era, their anguish and observations parallel all human experience. To adapt "Spoon River" to the stage, Clark underlaid the production with music and added connective dialogue. Unlike the traditional stage adaptation of "Spoon River," Clark's version emphasizes a theme in which many characters go through a healing process after death.

Set somewhere on the cosmic astroplane - sort of a cross between a big front porch and "Waiting for Godot" - the characters ponder intensely and relive their burdens and mistakes. Ultimately, theater-goers gain a sense of hope as each soul grapples with his or her unresolved conflicts - especially when one character exits the stage after finally achieving a form of enlightenment.

"Spoon River Anthology: A theatrical Resurrection" opens 8 p.m. Friday, April 7, and continues 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays through April 29 at Theatre on the Park, 904 S.W. Main St., Portland. (226-6544)

Leigh Clark directs. Cast members include Alima (cq.), Leigh Clark, Chip Heinrich, Vanessa Keller, Jay Patrick, Jennifer Subrin, Steven Bailey and Brian Ward.

Alima, Vanessa Keller, Jennifer Subrin, Steven Bailey and Brian Ward also appeared in GreenHeart partners' recent production of "Hatbox: Under the Big Top - A Circus Cabaret."

Leigh Clark, producer and founder of GreenHeart partners, the resident company at Theatre on the Park, won the Manhattan Association of Cabarets Award in 1988 after her widely praised "Hatbox: Night-

club in One Act" had become the longest-running cabaret in town.

Jazz pianist Brian Ward co-wrote the music with Leigh Clark and serves as musical director.

Jay Patrick, resident director and technical advisor at Theatre on the Park, has acted in and directed regional productions for 16 years. In 1994 he won the Kennedy Centre Collegiate Theatre Festival Award for Meritorious Achievement in Directing.

## ALVIN AILEY

American Dance Theater

Judith Jamison, Artistic Director

"Unforgettable"

Houston Chronicle



SCHNITZER HALL

MARCH 24 • 8:00 PM

All Seats Reserved

\$10-36.50

All Ticket Subject to Service Charge + User Fee

FASTIXX 224-TIXX KXL 750 AM

Sponsored in part by Phillip Morris

## Alvin Ailey In Portland March 24



Don Bellamy, Renee Robinson and Nash Thomas in Alvin Ailey's Revelations Photo by Jack Mitchell

After a two year absence, the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater comes to Portland's Schnitzer Hall 8 PM, March 24.

Under the direction of former Ailey star Judith Jamison, the 40 member company will be performing their most requested and most famous piece, "Revelations". Considered to be Mr. Ailey's masterpiece it is "Ailey's timeless tribute to

humanity, faith and survival."

Additionally, they will present a new work by Judith Jamison and playwright Anna Deavere Smith entitled "Hymn." "Hymn" presents the history of the Ailey company and the Ailey esthetic. Clive Barnes calls it "the most thrilling piece of dance-theater I have seen all year."

The third piece on the program

is "Winter in Lisbon" by Billy Wilson. Set to Dizzy Gillespie's music, "Winter" is an on stage party featuring "flying wedges, mid-air splits and other stuff guaranteed to bring on gasps of disbelief"

NOTABLE QUOTES:

"The Ailey troupe is back. And that is cause for whooping, hollering, stomping, whistling, and howling like wolves - just a few of the ways the opening - night audience of nearly 3,000 reacted Thursday at the Fox Theater these splendid artists do things with their flexible, fluid, magnificent bodies that athletes would blanch at"

-The Atlanta Journal

"Revelations brought the program to a joyous close. A smooth translation of the black religious heritage into mainstream modern dance, the infectious suite of spirituals, song-sermons, gospel songs and holy blues is so beautifully crafted and sincerely expressed that it never fails to deliver its uplifting message."

-The Cleveland Plain Dealer

"The most thrilling piece of dance-theater I have seen all year. Beautifully performed with power reverence and love. Hymn is an absolutely astonishing work"

-Clive Barnes, New York Post

Tickets are available thru Fastixx or by phone at 224-8499. Prices range from \$12.50 to \$40.

Benefit: A limited number of tickets for special performance seating and an after show reception with the dancers to benefit The Urban League of Portland are available thru FASTIXX or the Urban League. \$75.

## "WHO YA WIT"

TOUR STARRING

# BERNIE MAC

AS SEEN ON HBO'S "DEF COMEDY JAM" AND IN "HOUSE PARTY 3" AND "ABOVE THE RIM"



APRIL 2

AT THE PORTLAND CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS  
TICKETS ON SALE AT THE PCPA BOX OFFICE  
& ALL FASTIXX OUTLETS  
224-8499

SHOWTIME 8 PM

## THEODORE BIKEL

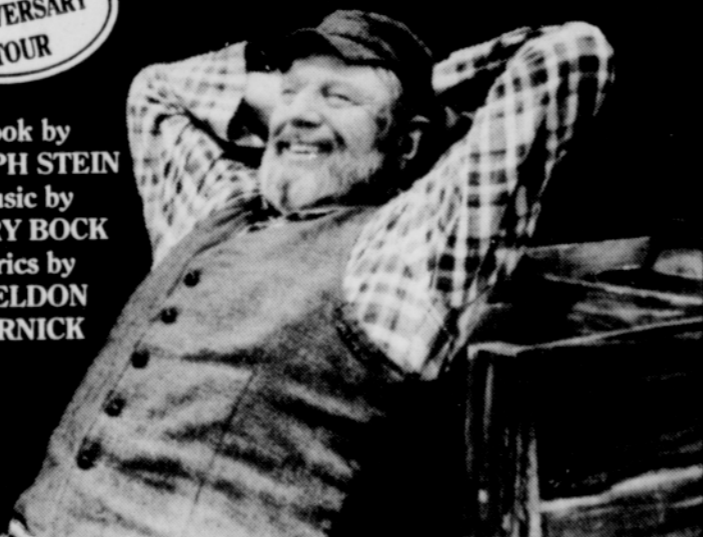
starring in

## FIDDLER ON THE ROOF

Based on Sholem Aleichem stories by Special Permission of ARNOLD PERL

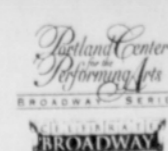
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Music by JERRY BOCK  
Lyrics by SHELDON HARNICK



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