Arts

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## The Portland Observer

## ENTERTAINMENT Group Dishes Up Politically Charged Humor **Buckwheat Zydeco**



Singing comedians Summer Angels, Some are Not, are dishing up political and social " humor with "It's Their Party and We'll Cry If We Want To," . through Saturday at the Northwest Service Center.

## Kenny Neal Celebrates New Release In Portland

Guitarist/vocalist/harmonica player Kenny Neal will bring his searing brand of red hot blues to Portland. He'll be featuring songs from his new alligator album, 100000 Moon (AI 4825). Concert information is as follows; Saturday, June 17th Key Largo 31 N. W. First St. Portland



**Film Presented On East** 



Buckwheat Zydeco

"My music started out as family entertainment." Stanley "Buckwheat" Dural, Jr. says, "and it gives a feelin' that the whole family can enjoy one thing at the same time. That' what I see when I'm on stage. lookin' out to the audience -- everybody havin' a good time at the same time

That said, Buckwheat Zydeco comes forth with his rockin' est record to date -- Five Card Stud, his first album of new music its nearly three years, reaffirming his position as one of the great contemporary musical artists. The ebullient Louisiana squeezebox boogie that highlighted such previous Island efforts as the Grammy-nominated On A Night Like

This, Taking It Home, and Where There's Smoke There's Fire is still in heady supply, but singer-accordionist-keyboardist Buckwheat spices his flavorful musical gumbo with rock 'n' roll, country, R&B, and even gospel seasonings here.

Five Card Stud was produced by Steve Berlin of Los Lobos: the L.A. band's singer-guitarist David Hidalgo (who produced Where There's Smoke There's Fire) sits in on two numbers, the original "Make It easy On Yourself" and a spirited cover of Bruce Channel's "Hey Baby.

Country titan Willie Nelson contributes his distinctive voice and guitar to "Man With the Blues," a song

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which dates back to 1959 and was nelson's first recorded single. Says Buckwheat, "Willie's a legend. Working with him, it was just like we've known one another all our lives. He's just that type of person. It was real easy, low-key."

Another sparkling guest is Mavis Staples, star of the pop-gospel hitmakers the Staple Singers, who duets with Buckwheat on "This Train." Buckwheat says of this track, "I've never done a spiritual. It's an R&B spiritual, but it's a spiritual. I seem to take different directions every time I do a record -- take it to a different level." The album also includes "Bayou Girl," a never-before released track penned by Van morrison.

Those many directions are the product of a life spent exploring a diversity of American musical styles. Buckwheat was born in Louisiana in 1947 and began playing keyboards at the age of nine. Steeped in the heaviest styles of black music, ("I was really down deep into R&B. funk, a lot of james Brown, everything"), he backed such southern soul luminaries as Barbara Lynn and Joe Tex, and headed his own band, Buckwheat and the Hitchhikers, through the mid-'70s.

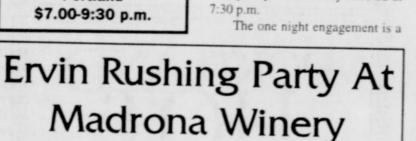
Buckwheat's choice of music led to some early conflict with his late father Stanley, Sr., who remained a devotee of Zydeco -- the rhythmic, accordion fueled dance music of the black French-speaking creoles of Southwestern Louisiana -- and was a close friend of Clifton Chenier, the late "King of Zydeco."

**Timor Atrocities** Portland's Cinema 21 theater will present the award winning documentary Death of a Nation: The Timor

Conspiracy on Thursday June 22 at

benefit for the East Timor Action Network of Portland.

The powerful film tells the brutal story of Indonesia's 1975 invasion and continuing occupation of East Timor



An exciting evening of music and entertainment will highlight a record release party for Portland artist Ervin Rushing,

The event will be held June 24 at the Madrona Hill Vineyard and Winery, 2412 N. Mississippi, beginning at 8 p.m. with performances in full swing later in the evening.

Rushing is a rhythm and blues musician who has entertained with U-Krew and opened for several national name groups. His new recording is available at One Stop Record Shop, Pearl's Music Shop and other record stores in Portland.

