

# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

The Portland Observer



John Medeski, Billy Martin & Chris Wood

Pianist/organist John Medeski grew up in Florida, where he began formal musical training at age five. By his high school years, he'd worked with Jaco Pastorius and Mark Murphy, in addition to performing frequently with other local and national musical luminaries. In 1983, he studied at the New England Conservatory with Ran Blake, Leonard Shure and Bob Moses. During the mid-eighties, in addition to his for-

mal musical studies, he gained invaluable experience working as a sideman in the Boston area with performers such as Dewey Redman, Billy Higgins, Bob Mintzer and Alan Dawson, and New England blues legend Mr. Jellybelly, who first encouraged Medeski to explore the complexities and wonders of the B-3 organ. At this time he also served as pianist/organist for jazz groups the Either/Orchestra, Mandala Octet and

the Chris Hollyday Quartet. In 1991, he moved to New York City and has since worked with dozens of "downtown" musical groups and performers, including Reggie Workman, John Lurie's Lounge Lizards, John Zorn's Masada Group and Oren Bloedow. The year 1994 has seen the release of Medeski's second Gramavision album entitled Lunar Crush, an "avant-rock-jazz-hop" collaboration with virtuoso guitarist David "Fuze"

## MEDESKI, MARTIN & WOOD

Fiuczynski that was voted one of the "Best Jazz Alums of 1994" by the Village Voice. In addition to his performance on David Byrne's 1994 self-titled release, Medeski, along with musical partners Martin and Wood, also participated on arranger Ken Schaphorst's upcoming Accurate Records album, When The Moon Jumps.

Drummer/percussionist Billy Martin was born in New York City, the son of a former Radio City Rockette and a violinist with the New York City Ballet and the New York City Opera Orchestra. As a child, he studied privately with several professional drummers including Joe Morello, Michael Carvin and Latin percussion master, Frankie Malabe. In 1984 and 1985, Martin's percussion interests had turned heavily toward Caribbean, Latin and other African-based rhythms, and he dove head-first into New York's Brazilian music scene, performing with several groups, including Pe De Boi. During this time, Billy also began a long association with drummer, percussionist and composer extraordinary Bob Moses, performing on his Gramavision albums, A Visit With the Great Spirit (1984), The Story Of Moses (1987) and Time Stood Still

(1994), as well as a late-eighties European release of the duo's Drumming Birds collaborations. In 1985, Billy joined Chuck Mangione's group, gaining valuable performance experience as he toured with the group over the next three years. After moving on from Mangione's group in 1988, he situated himself in Brooklyn, quickly immersing himself in New York's burgeoning "downtown" music scene, performing, touring and recording with groups that included Samm Bennett's Chunk, the Ned Rothenberg Double Band and an important stint serving from 1991-94 as percussionist for John Lurie's Lounge Lizards. In addition to Martin's participation in Medeski, Martin & Wood, he is also a drummer for John Zorn's Masada group and a member of the John Lurie National Orchestra (a trio with saxophonist Lurie and Calvin Weston), with whom he recently toured Europe and Japan and can also be seen performing with in the upcoming major motion picture, "Blue in the Face."

While growing up in Colorado, bassist Chris Wood studied jazz and classical bass, as well as musical composition. He performed professionally in Denver while in his teens, and in 1989, moved to Boston to

study at the New England Conservatory, where he studied with Dave Holland, Geri Allen and Bob Moses. During this time, he also worked as a sideman for some of the area's top jazz talents, including Bob Moses, George Russel, Steve Kuhn, Joann Brackeen, Randy Weston, the Either/Orchestra and the Ken Schaphorst Big Band. In 1991, Chris moved to New York City, where his unique approach, versatility and wide-ranging influences made him an in-demand player on the "downtown" music scene, performing and/or touring with among others, Marc Ribot, Ned Rothenberg, John Zorn, Jack Walrath, the Jazz Passengers, Elliot Sharp, Samm Bennett's band Chunk, and Oren Bloedow. Aside from his duties with Medeski, Martin & Wood, Chris is also a member of Marc Ribot's Shrek group, with whom he also tours and records. Wood is featured on Shrek's 1994 self-titled Avant release, as well as another 1994 Avant project, Rough Assemblage's Construction And Demolition, performing works by composer Norman Yamata. He can also be heard on the Ned Rothenberg Double Band's release Real And Imagined Time (Moers Music), which will be released in January of 1995.

## Sesame Street To Perform In Portland



The muppets are set to perform in Portland.

What do you have in common with monsters, birds, honkers, grouches and counts?

You're all members of Elmo's friendship club!

Join the Muppets as they teach fun-filled lessons about friendship in Sesame Street Live's all-new stage extravaganza, "Let's Be Friends," coming to Portland Memorial Coliseum from June 29 through July 2.

Tickets are available at the Portland Memorial Coliseum and all TicketMaster outlets. Regular price tickets are \$17.50, \$12.50 and \$8. Discounts may apply for children and groups on selected performances. For further information, contact the Portland Memorial Coliseum box office at (503) 224-4400.

It all begins when Zoe and Elmo start a friendship club especially for red and orange monsters, only to find that everyone on Sesame Street wants to join. The club grows rapidly as the Muppets discover everybody has something unique to offer the group.

Join Big Bird, Snuffy and the rest of the Sesame Street Live troupe.

The performance schedule is as follows:

Thursday, June 29 at 7 p.m. Friday, June 30 at 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, July 1 at 10:30 a.m., 2 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Sunday, July 2 at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.



## Music Millennium

32nd & E. Burnside 231-8926

23rd & NW Johnson 248-0163

## Brian McKnight To Release "I Remember You"

Mercury recording artist Brian McKnight is set to release the follow-up to his 1992 self-titled gold debut. I Remember You will hit stores in August.

McKnight's debut album was a critical and commercial triumph, yielding the hit single, "One Last Cry." During this time, Brian's production work with Vanessa Williams on her Comfort Zone sessions was widely praised, while his duet with her on

"Love Is" also became a Top 5 hit.

McKnight is also much in demand in the studio. His inspired production of "U Will Know" from the film "Jason's Lyric" received critical acclaim. Boys II Men asked him to produce their Christmas album.

Included on I Remember You is the cover of Van Morrison's "Crazy Love," also found on the "Jason's Lyric" soundtrack and currently climbing the Billboard charts.

## Opening Friday June 23 - Lloyd Mall Cinemas - Exclusive! "The Glass Shield"

Directed by Charles Burnett

Starring: Michael Boatman  
Lori Petty \* Bernie Casey  
Ice Cube \* Michael Ironside



Ice Cube (left) and Michael Boatman (right) in Charles Burnett's The Glass Shield.

Ripped from headlines, "The Glass Shield" recounts the chilling journey of a young black police officer who goes from wanting to wear a uniform to waging a full blown war against the wages of prejudice, corruption and deceit within a Los Angeles Sheriff's station.

Rated PG-13/108 minutes

Free tickets are available at the House of Sounds Records Shop - 3620 N Williams and The Portland Observer News Paper - 4747 N.E. MLK.

3-Hour Cruise on The Portland Spirit!  
for  
Dee Baker's Annual  
"Virgo Birthday Bash!"

Join us on Sunday, September 24th, 1995  
at Tom McCall Waterfront Park  
Board at 1:15 P.m. and cruise until 5:00 P.m.

Music Provided by: DJ Michael D Vance/B' Jamin Inc.  
Entertainment by: Portland's Own Dennis Springer Quintet

Food \* Fashion Show \* Raffles \* Dance \* Cruise  
Roses for all Virgo's

Advance Ticket Sales - Limited Passengers!  
Cost: \$35.00  
Tickets sold at Ticket Master - "NOW"  
For more information call:  
285-3919

Sponsored and arranged by  
B'Jamin and the First Lady

CTW presents a Brand New Show!

SESAME STREET LIVE

LET'S BE FRIENDS

Portland Memorial Coliseum  
Thursday, June 29 through Sunday, July 2

THURSDAY  
June 29 • 7:00 pm  
THURSDAY EVENING IS KGW-TV FAMILY NIGHT • All Seats \$4.00 OFF!

FRIDAY  
June 30 • 10:30 am & \*7:00 pm  
FRIDAY MORNING IS KATU FAMILY MATINEE • All Seats \$7.50!

SATURDAY  
July 1 • \*10:30 am, \*2:00 pm, \*5:30 pm

SUNDAY  
July 2 • \*1:00 pm and \*4:30 pm

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!  
at the Coliseum Box Office and all G.I. Joe/Ticketmaster Centers

CHARGE BY PHONE:  
224-4400

\* Children 1-10 Save \$2 per ticket at starred performances, compliments of FOX 49 Kids' Club

Ticket Prices \$8 & \$12.50  
All Seats Reserved

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