

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

The Portland Observer

Omar Gets Hipper

Some singles define the vibes of a season and back in 1990, anyone sweating through the hot London summer was momentarily assuaged by an ultra-groovy track that seemed to arrive from nowhere.

"There's Nothing Like This" made a big impression on those glued to British radio during those sultry three months. In fact, its playful essence resonated all around the isle. Five years and several other hip track later, the gutsy and playful fund of Omar has only gotten hipper.

For *Pleasure*, Omar's rousing domestic debut, shows just how smart, chic and individual his music has become.

These days of course, we know who Omar Lye Fook is: One of the most distinctive and versatile artists of the day, a guy who can instantly fill the dance floor with his limber contempo soul. After a couple of stellar indie releases in Britain, records by the way that were so impressive major labels began their Omar-hunt almost immediately - the singer's esthetic has blossomed to fruition.

For *Pleasure* is instantly memorable and singular in today's music



Omar

marketplace.

Omar's ranging interests, jazz, soul and blues all get equal props in this world - create a track-by-track diversity. This isn't a hit-plus-filler

outing. For *Pleasure* is a record you'll keep spinning 'til the finale, when the killer syncopation of the title track fades into the air and your ass is tired of shaking.

Jazz Has Rich History In Portland

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a burgeoning industrial area.

The inaugural festival was an artistic triumph with jazz talents Sonny Rollins, Mel Torme and Buddy Rich.

In the ensuing years, the festival has been a balmy August weekend home to dozens of jazz and blues stars, from legends like Dizzy Gillespie, Stan

Getz and Ella Fitzgerald to newcomers like Wynton Marsalis, Joey DeFrancesca, Roy Hargrove and Diane Schuur.

One role for a jazz festival is to be a "hangout" for musicians and the Mt. Hood event complies admirably.

The first and only time trumpeter Dizzy Gillespie, saxophonist Stan Getz and pianist Dave Brubeck performed together on

the same stage was on the Mt. Hood stage.

The festival has also committed itself to education. A Mt. Hood Festival of Jazz Instrumental Workshop is back after a year's hiatus, scheduled Aug. 6-12 at Lewis and Clark College.

Sisters Are Doing It For Themselves

TLC

Crazy Sexy Cool



Their debut album sold a cool 2.5 million copies. Now the group that took the street is coming back for more.

\$8.44 \$13.99
Cassette Compact Disc

Monica

Miss Thang

Monica is a fourteen-year old singer blessed with a vocal ability most adult performers would envy. Already a veteran vocalist (she's been singing in church choirs since the age of four), Monica's debut shows the maturing of an artist twice her age.



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