

# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

The Portland Observer

## Portland Opera announces 1996-97 Opera Season

Portland Opera General Director Robert Bailey today announced the details of the Company's 1996-97 Opera Season, comprised of 22 performances of five productions. Highlights of the Company's 32nd season include the North American premiere (in its fully staged and orchestrated original form) of Reynaldo Hahn's *The Merchant of Venice* starring one of France's most notable baritones, Alain Fondary; the intriguing pairing of Leoncavallo's *Pagliacci* with a ballet and chorus performance of Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*; the season-opening production of one of opera's

most popular works, Puccini's *Madame Butterfly*; as well as a host of returning and debuting guest artists.

Announcing the season, which marks his fifteenth as General Director, Mr. Bailey commented that "it is a high point in this Company's evolution. Continuing a tradition of making a strong artistic statement with each and every production, this season will see, for the very first time, two all-new productions, thereby affording us even more complete control over the artistic presentation. Over the last few years our audience has grown in both size and sophisti-

cation, and it is a great pleasure to provide them with a season of such quality and variety.

The 1996-97 Season also marks the sixth year of the Company's successful Resident Artists program. This program continues to grow in strength and reach, drawing talented young singers from around the U.S. The Resident Artists program brings the power of opera and musical theater to schools and community centers throughout the region, reaching over 60,000 people each season while providing these young professionals a valuable training ground.

## Inner City Blues Festival

The Portland Rainbow Coalition is hosting the Seventh Annual Inner City Blues Festival on Saturday, March 16, 7 pm - midnight at Shango's Bar and Grill, 333 SW Park.

This year's event, "Northwest Blues Brothers and Sisters Together Again", stars Norman Sylvester and a rare Portland appearance by Isaac Scott; plus Paulette Davis and Sonny Hess, and former "Brown Sugar" members Lloyd Jones and Jim Mesi.

Opening the show will be African drummer Askari. Master of ceremonies will be Paul Knauls.

Joining the featured performers will be an impressive list of some of Portland's best blues artists including Muddy Award sax player, Renato Caranto, and Lenanne Sylvester, Kita Montgomery, Benny Wilson, and Frankie Redding.

Dancing and saxophone sensation Shoehorn will perform, and we will introduce vocalist La Rhonda Johnson.

Tickets are \$10.00 and may be purchased at the door and from Music Millennium, Geneva's Shear Perfection, House of Sound, Shango's, or from members of the Rainbow Coalition.

Dinner can be purchased at Shango's. Due to OLCC regulations no minors will be allowed.

Proceeds from the event will go to promote the ongoing activities of the Portland Rainbow Coalition. The event is co-sponsored by the Cascade Blues Association. CBA members will be admitted at \$1 off.

On the same evening, "Women in Blues" at the Hilton Grand Ballroom, 921 SW 6th Ave. is being sponsored by the Association of Women in Psychology as a benefit for the Portland Women's Crisis Line.

Anyone who purchases a ticket for either event can attend the other event for half price by showing a ticket stub.

Ticket holders may stay free after midnight for Shango's Hip Hop music until 5 AM.

For further information contact Bob Gross at 235-9800.

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Solitude is fine when you are at peace with yourself and have something definite to do.  
—Goethe



Tanya Wright (top, from left) Dave Chappelle, Christopher Gartin and Paula Cale play best friends in the new half hour comedy "Buddies" on ABC Wednesday at 9:30 p.m. The program also stars Richard Roundtree and Judith Ivey.

## Session For Actors In Youth Spring Break Center Stage

Taking place during the week of March 18 through 22 in the Firehouse Theatre in downtown Portland is the Portland Actors Conservatory's Spring Break Center Stage sessions for young actors.

These sessions offer an acting experience for all students interested in the art of performance. The one week-session provides

concentrated study in acting techniques, character development and the professional rehearsal process, in a format that will be fun and enriching.

The sessions are Monday through Friday, March 18 - 22, 10:00 a.m. noon: Acting Development

Monday through Friday, March 18 - 22, 1:00p.m. - 4:00p.m. On

Stage with Performances on March 22, at 4:00 p.m.

Registration begins immediately. Cost of the session is \$175.00 (compare that to day-care)

Our faculty is comprised of some of the finest acting teachers for youths the Northwest has to offer, including Beth Harper, Betsy Richard and Karen Spatleton.

## Casino Fund Raiser To Benefit Community Vision

Portland, OR -- The Mississippi Riverboat style "Casino Night" Cruise on the Willamette River, March 29, 1996 is hosted by Community Vision aboard the Sternwheeler Columbia Gorge on Friday, March 29, 1996, from 7:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. Boarding begins at 6:30 p.m. at Front and Stark Streets.

Wild Bill's Casino providing the action with Craps, Roulette, Caribbean Stud Poker and Black Jack tables. Use your skills to beat the dealers and earn chances to win a getaway at the Inn at Seventh Mountain, a Fisherman's week-end at Diamond Lake Resort, Dinner Gift Certificates at Hall Street Bar & Grill, Performing Arts Center Events Tickets, a Day of Beauty at Atelier Hardnet Salon and many more outstanding prizes.


Winners of the Maverick Look-a-Like, Biggest Western Hat and

Best Western Costume Contests will be rewarded for their creativity and a silent Auction and Balloon Sales will be featured at the annual "Casino Night" fund raiser hosted by Community Vision, a nonprofit organization providing living/vocational support for Oregonians with developmental disabilities. The festivities include a Southwest nacho snack-bar, western decor, no-host bar and espresso drinks, and Dixie Land music.



In 1616 Ben Jonson became the first playwright to prepare an edition of his own works for publication.

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3620 N. Williams Avenue

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Tickets \$5, Door Prizes

**Boogie Cat Productions Presents**  
**Blues Brothers Together Again!**  
**Norman Sylvester and Isaac Scott**  
appearing at **Cascade Tavern**  
15000 SE Mill Plain Blvd.  
Vancouver, WA  
(360) 254-0749  
Friday  
March 15, 1996  
9:15 PM - 1:30 AM

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SEVENTH ANNUAL  
**Inner City Blues Festival**  
SHANGO'S, 333 SW PARK, Saturday, March 16, 7 pm - midnight  
☆ **NW BLUES BROTHERS & SISTERS TOGETHER AGAIN** ☆  
**Norman Sylvester & Isaac Scott**  
**Paulette Davis & Sonny Hess**  
**Lloyd Jones & Jim Mesi**  
Muddy Award saxophonist Renato Caranto, Lenanne Sylvester and Kita Montgomery, Benny Wilson and Frankie Redding, introducing LaRhonda Johnson African drummer ASKARI, dancing/sax sensation SHOEHORN  
Master of Ceremonies, Paul Knauls  
\$10 admission, 21 and over. No-Host bar, Dinners for sale  
Benefit for the **PORTLAND RAINBOW COALITION**  
co-sponsor Cascade Blues Association CBA members \$1 off  
tickets available at: Music Millennium, Geneva's, House of Sound, Shango's