

Arts ENTERTAINMENT

The Portland Observer

Cassandra Wilson

"The whole album really is about cycles," says singer-songwriter Cassandra Wilson of New Moon Daughter, her second recording for Blue Note. "It's about the cycle of relationships, how they're into an ebb and flow, how it's up and down with the phases of the moon...the different energies that those phases represent and how the culmination of that is a fullness and death—the completion."

On New Moon Daughter, Wilson's five originals show a leap in her development as a songwriter and lyricist that adds to her growing reputation as "the most accomplished jazz vocalist of her generation" (Time magazine). As on 1993's Blue Light 'til Dawn, she also examines her musical roots while putting her own stamp on an eclectic mix of pop, folk, country and blues tunes by Hank Williams, Neil Young, Hoagy Carmichael, U2, Billie Holiday, Son House and the Monkees. Blue Light 'til Dawn, Wilson's highly acclaimed Blue Note debut, has sold in excess of 250,000 copies worldwide and led to her recognition as "Female Singer of the Year" in 1994 and 1995's Down Beat Readers Poll.

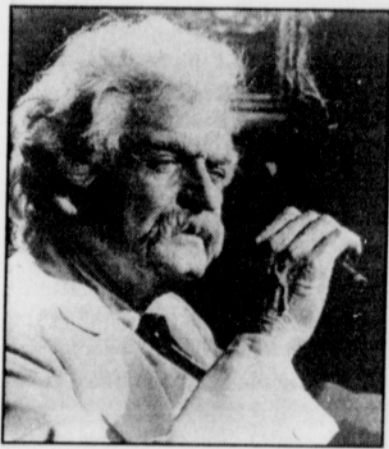
In the January 1995 issue of Down Beat, editor John Ephland wrote "Not



since Billie Holiday has a jazz singer criss-crossed the boundaries between jazz and pop with such reverence and authenticity." But perhaps producer Craig Street put it best in evaluating Wilson's talent. "It doesn't matter what Cassandra does, it all comes out sounding like Cassandra, and it all

comes out sounding like jazz. The nature of jazz to me is that it doesn't have any rules...it's about going out on a limb. And to her credit, especially being someone who was immersed in Jazz, she was willing to push to some places on this record that other people probably wouldn't push to."

Holbrook Returns To Schnitzer As Mark Twain



Hal Holbrook

scheduled at Schnitzer Concert Hall at 8 p.m. Friday, April 19.

Holbrook, who has won five Emmys, is in his 41st year of portraying Twain. He has performed soldout shows on Broadway and is acclaimed for his depiction of the legendary author in Europe, as well.

The actor returns to the Mark Twain repertoire every year, editing and changing to fit the times; this being an election year will no doubt bring out the Twain humor in that area. Holbrook has unearthed more than 12 hours of the humorist's material while continuing to find new topics for use every year. He has no set show, preferring to fashion it as he goes, ensuring each performance

to be unique.

Holbrook acted on the Burt Reynolds series, "Evening Shade," for four years, appeared with his wife, Dixie Carter, on "Designing Women," stars on the Perry Mason Mystery Movie series and was featured in the film "The Firm."

Besides movies and TV, Holbrook's talents have well-received on stage. He was Shylock in "Merchant of Venice" and Vanya in "Uncle Vanya" and played the title role in Shakespeare's "King Lear." Continuing not to be typecast, he was Willy Loman in "Death of a Salesman."

Contemporary Jazz Guitarist

Doug Smith

Doug Smith will perform selections from his new HonestJazz release - Deep Heart - a stunning collection of original compositions and unique arrangements of popular hits. Smith is a master of the steel-string finger picking style that he has created from a variety of classical, folk, country and jazz influences. The performance is free to the public on Saturday, April 13, 1996 at 2:00 p.m. Location, Borders Books & Music 708 SW 3rd Ave., Portland, OR 97204.

He (Doug Smith), explores some more inviting melodies with his intricate, finger-picking technique. Accompanied by sparse percussion and keyboards, he explores some fanciful evocations on originals, such as "Mystic Morning," and shows his Michael hedges-inspired tapping technique on "Two handed Paradox." He also turn the Moody Blues' "Nights In White Satin" into a subtle reverie and reinvents the old easy-listening tune "Ebb Tide."



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The 1996 Essence Awards, in its ninth year, is a production of Essence Television Productions, and is sponsored by AT&T, Chrysler, Clairol, JCPenney, Johnson & Johnson, Kraft Foods, the Pepsi-Cola Co., Revlon and Toyota.

The Essence Awards, which highlights the contributions of preeminent African-Americans, was first held in 1987 and has become one of the country's most highly regarded awards shows. In 1995 The Delaney Report, the international newsletter for marketing, advertising and media executives, named the Fox broadcast of the twenty-fifth anniversary Essence Awards (which aired last June 13) "Best Broadcast" in its quarterly awards.

Ed Lewis, Chairman and CEO of Essence Communications, Inc. (ECI), said, "throughout the years the Essence Awards has honored the well-known and the not-so-well-known, each and every one of them having made tremendous contributions to our community. We have been proud and honored to recognize such great achievers."

Clarence O. Smith, President of ECI, said: "The Essence Awards show is unique in that we reach a national audience of people who would otherwise not be aware of the great humanitarian efforts made by our honorees. And we take great pride in the act that other awards have tried to emulate our successful format."

Tickets to the Essence Awards are \$150, \$100, \$75 and \$35 and can be



The 1996 Essence Awards Honorees: Oseola McCarty, Ketrick Jordan, Carol & Hurt Porter Congresswoman Maxine Waters. The 1996 Essence Awards is sponsored by: AT&T, Chrysler Corporation, Clairol, JCPenney, Johnson & Johnson, Kraft Foods, Inc., Pepsi-Cola, Revlon and Toyota.

purchased at the Madison Square Garden box office or by calling TicketMaster: in New Jersey, (201)

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