

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

The Portland Observer

The Ebony Fashion Fair



Pamela Durant, Anesha Johnson and Joy Jackson, Ebony Fashion Fair models, showed styles from European and American designers Friday at the Oregon Convention Center.

HOW STELLA GOT HER GROOVE BACK

Terry McMillan has won the hearts of million of readers for her ability to write with honesty, insight, and humor about love, relationships, and how women can empower themselves. Through her novels *Mama*, *Disappearing Acts*, and *Waiting to Exhale*, she has emerged not only as one of the most important chroniclers of black life in the 1990s, but as one of America's hottest writers, one who has hit a nerve with her provocative thoughts on friendship, romance, and self-realization. April 29, 1996 is the national on-sale date for her new novel, *How Stella Got Her Groove Back*, a powerful story about a woman who reclaims her own life in a way that flies in the face both of

family, cultural, and community expectations, and of her own greatest fears about herself. What would it be like for a single mother in her early forties, one with a successful, high-powered job, to follow her heart and let herself fall in love with a man half her age? What would it mean to let yourself feel totally and unequivocally free, to not worry about what people think of you, to change from doing everything by the book to just doing something because it makes you feel good? These are some of the themes which Terry McMillan takes up in this exhilarating new novel. Stella Payne has a failed marriage behind her, a lot of years of hard work and self-con-

trol, driven by a determination to create a secure, nurturing home. She has a commitment to raising her young son to be a different kind of black man-- different than her absent father, and less-than-adequate husband and past lovers.

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A murder, a rape...
"The Victim"

Interstate Firehouse
Cultural Center
5340 N. Interstate Ave.
Portland, OR
May 9, 10, 11, 12
May 17, 18, 19
May 24, 25, 26, 1996
Thurs., Fri., Sat. @ 7:00 p.m.
Sundays 2:00 p.m. matinees
Admission: \$15
Seniors/Students: \$10
Special Group Rates!

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The Victim
a play by Mario DePriest

Ny'a



Ny'a is creating a buzz in the industry with her debut album *Embrace* on the Independent label, Nap Records, distributed by Atlanta-based Ichiban Records. The 20-something New Jersey native is exploding on the scene with her versatile embodiment of urban music. "I never limit myself to one market," says Ny'a. "I cover House, Hip Hop and R&B music."

The first single, "Do It," is a funky, bass-heavy track that personifies the rawness of R&B music today. "With-in the song's context of wah-wah funk guitars and muscular bass, Ny'a has plenty of room to stretch out and work some attitude a la Brandy and Mary J. Blige," says Larry Flick in *Billboard Magazine*. "I Don't Want You" is a House inspired track that "serves an attitude needed to leave almost any man covering in a corner" added Flick. Songs like "Changes," "Dream Lover" and "Only You" are potential hits that promise to become mainstream love anthems.

Ny'a is inspired by such legends as Marvin Gaye, Denise Williams, Sam Cooke, Tina Marie and Patti Labelle. In her own right, Ny'a represents the evolution that Urban Contemporary Music has taken in the last twenty years. She promises to establish herself as a serious artist who Embraces young and mature audiences alike.

Ny'a wrote all but two songs on *Embrace*.

OREGON SYMPHONY



Jazz with Jimmy and Friends

Thursday, May 9
7:00pm - 10:45pm
Toshiko Akiyoshi, conductor
James DePriest, conductor

This all-jazz marathon concert surely will be THE jazz event of the season! James DePriest has invited some of his favorite artists, including Max Roach and Leroy Vinnegar, to join him in an event not to be missed.

- Max Roach, drums
- Lew Tabackin, saxophone
- Leroy Vinnegar, bass
- Mel Brown, drums
- Geoff Lee, piano
- Dan Faehnle, guitar
- Gary Harris, tenor saxophone

TICKETS \$10 - \$35

Media support by: KMHD, The Jazz Station, Willamette Week, KOIN Channel 6

Charge Tickets 228-1353 or 1-800-228-7343 weekdays 9am - 5pm
Ticketmaster: 790-ARTS Mon.-Fri. 9am-9pm; Sat., 9am-8pm; Sun. 10am - 6pm

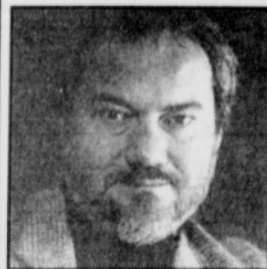
ARLENE SCHNITZER CONCERT HALL
SW BROADWAY & MAIN PORTLAND CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

The Jefferson Dancers

April 30 - May 4 • 8 PM
May 5 • 2 PM
Intermediate Theatre
Portland Center for the Performing Arts

Tickets: \$13, \$11 and \$7.
Available at all Fred Meyer Festival outlets; 224-TIXX or at the PCPA Box Office.
All tickets subject to additional service charges.

First Lady Entertainment Presents Trio of Events



Andrei Kitaev

Sunday, April 28, 1996: Jazz Pianist Andrei Kitaev debut his new CD "Vartan Jazz" Jazz with a Latin flavor or romantic classical side Andrei delivers it all, truly a world class artist... Journeys End.
\$15.00 in advance \$18.00 day of the show
Two shows 8:00 and 10:00 PM



Dorothy Moore

Friday May 3rd 8:00 PM: Former member of the popular group 'Pleasure', Dennis Springer is "On The Path" the title of Dennis's new CD he will be previewing. Dennis has played with musical greats such as Tom Grant, Jeff Lorber and is recognized by greats like Winton Marsalis and Grover Washington Jr. Dennis is Musician of the Month through the Oregon Jazz Society and is definitely do, to become one. Don't miss this great opportunity to be the first to listen to Dennis in full effect on Friday May 3rd. Accompanying Dennis will be local greats Ron Steen and Andre St James.

Saturday June 22nd 8:00 PM: Dorothy Moore kickoff Juneteenth Celebration. \$15.00 advance \$18.00 day of the show. You may remember Dorothy's sweet single *Misty Blue*, *With Pen In Hand*, *Funny How Time Slips Away*. The sweetheart of Rhythm and Blues has maintained a consistent and well deserved place on the charts with eleven (11) LP releases to her credit that has spun nearly twice that number in hit singles. Don't miss the opportunity to be a part of these great events coming soon at Annie Pearl's Restaurant & Lounge 320 SE 2nd Street Entrance.



Dennis Springer

Tickets are on sale at G.I. Joes Ticketmaster or charge by phone (503) 224-4400. For more information call (503) 460-9030 Dee Baker.