

Asian Heritage Month

RHYTHM AND LEGEND

Portland Taiko, the Asian American drum performance ensemble, will present its family show of the spring, "Rhythm and Legend," on Friday, April 23 and Saturday, April 24 at the World Trade Center Auditorium in Portland. This year, Portland Taiko will be joined on stage by the nationally-acclaimed storytellers of San Francisco-based Eth-Noh-Tec.

"Rhythm and Legend" will be a lively performance ideal for all ages, weaving together high-energy taiko performance with the incandescent storytelling of Eth-Noh-Tec. The concert will feature engaging Asian stories and myths, exhilarating taiko compositions and arrangements, and playful interactions between performers and audience members.

Heralded as one of Portland's most electrifying performing arts groups, Portland Taiko is a sixteen-member Asian American drumming group that has delighted audiences at festivals, theaters, colleges and schools since 1994. Portland Taiko's interpretation of the Japanese artform of taiko combines sheer physicality, exuberant movement, and innovative sounds.

For thousands of years, the boom-

ing voice of the taiko, or Japanese drum, has called the community together in ceremony and celebration. The taiko was used in religious ceremonies, folk festivals and theater. The distance from which the community taiko could be heard was said

to define the boundaries of villages in ancient Japan. Portland Taiko echoes that tradition while taking Asian American music into unexplored territory with its innovative and provocative creations.

Advance tickets (\$12, \$6 chil-

dren under 12) are available at both Anzen Importers stores (736 NE MLK Jr. Blvd., Portland or 4021 SW 117th Ave., Beaverton - no service charge) and all Fred Meyer Fastix outlets (at Fred Meyer stores or charge by phone 224-8499) - subject

to service charge). Tickets at the door will be \$14, \$8 children under 12.



Nancy Wang and Robert Kikuchi-Yngojo of Eth-Noh-Tec.

Photo by Allen Nomura

My environment is important to me... That's why I listen to Afternoon Jazz on 89.1 with commuter traffic reports...it's the right thing to do

Monday through Thursday 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.



KMHD 89.1
Mt. Hood Community College - Gresham

Asian-American Women Warrior Poets

Merle Woo

Merle Woo is a Chinese-Korean American, socialist-feminist, and survivor of cancer. She was thrust into mainstream activism when she was terminated from the Asian-American Studies Department at the University of California, Berkeley in 1982. Woo's dismissal was supported by one faculty member who asserted, "It is inappropriate for a lesbian to represent Asian-American Studies." Woo soon found herself in the media spotlight when she filed suit, charging four separate areas of discrimination: race, sex, sexuality, and political ideology. Her radical outspokenness outraged university officials, especially when she exposed their violation of UCB's own affirmative action policies. Although the university employed a plethora of defense attorneys, Woo won an out-of-court settlement, and was reinstated in 1984.

Yellow Woman Speaks

*Shadows become real; follower become leader;
Mouse turned sorcerer -
In a red sky, a darker beast lies waiting,
Her teeth, once hidden, now unsheathed
swords.
Yellow woman, a revolutionary speaks:
"I will render our shames and praise them.*

Our beauties, our mothers:

*Those young Chinese whores on display in barracoons;
The domestics in soiled aprons;
The miners, loggers, railroad workers
Holed up in Truckee in winters.
I will create armies of their descendants.*

*I will expose the lies and ridicule
The impotence of those who have called us
Chink
Yellow-livered
Exotic
In order to abuse and exploit us.
And I will destroy them."*

*Abrasive teacher, incisive comedian,
Painted Lady, dark domestic:
Sweep minds' attics; burnish our senses;
Keep house, make love, wreak vengeance.*

Nellie Wong

Nellie Wong's exuberant poems reveal the working life of a woman, the pleasure she takes in food, music and movies, her roots in Chinese-American culture and her deep commitment to justice everywhere. They move energetically and unselfconsciously between the personal and politics. "I'm...a revolutionary feminist who works, writes and organizes in the movements for radical social change."

Imagining Lice
By NELLIE WONG
Once in a class I wrote about a beggar squatting

*On the Zocalo in Mexico City. I described the man
As picking lice from his head. And though I said
I saw the man from a distance, actually across
The street, my professor asked: "How could you see
That they were lice in his head?"*

I said I didn't know but only imagined that it was

*Lice or maggots or ticks or whatever species
Might prefer to congregate on a man's balding head.*

*Then it seemed impossible that I saw lice
On the beggar's scalp. The imagining of lice loomed
In my own head, of course. Since then I've wondered
If I should actually see things with my own eyes before
I write them down.*

The 10th annual Rainbow Coalition

INNER CITY BLUES FESTIVAL

Saturday, April 10, 1999, 6:30 - 12:30
Crystal Ballroom, 14th Avenue at West Burnside

"SWINGING THE BLUES"

Lily Wilde and Her Jumpin' Jubilee Orchestra
Norman Sylvester Band with LaRhonda Johnson,
Renato Caranto, and Sonny Hess.



Tickets: \$12.00 advance - \$15 door
Restaurant - Snack Bar - Full-Service Bar - 21 & over

Tickets at Music Millennium, Geneva's, House of Sound, Reflections, Crystal Ballroom Box Office

A benefit for the Portland Rainbow Coalition, co-sponsored by the Cascade Blues Association
CBA members receive \$1 discount



Bill Rhoades and Alan Hagar
The Jim Mesi Band with Mel Solomon
The Linda Hornbuckle Band
The Lloyd Jones Struggle
Shoehorn

