

On Stage

Defending the Caveman

An Affectionate Comedy About Men & Women

CONTRIBUTED STORY
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

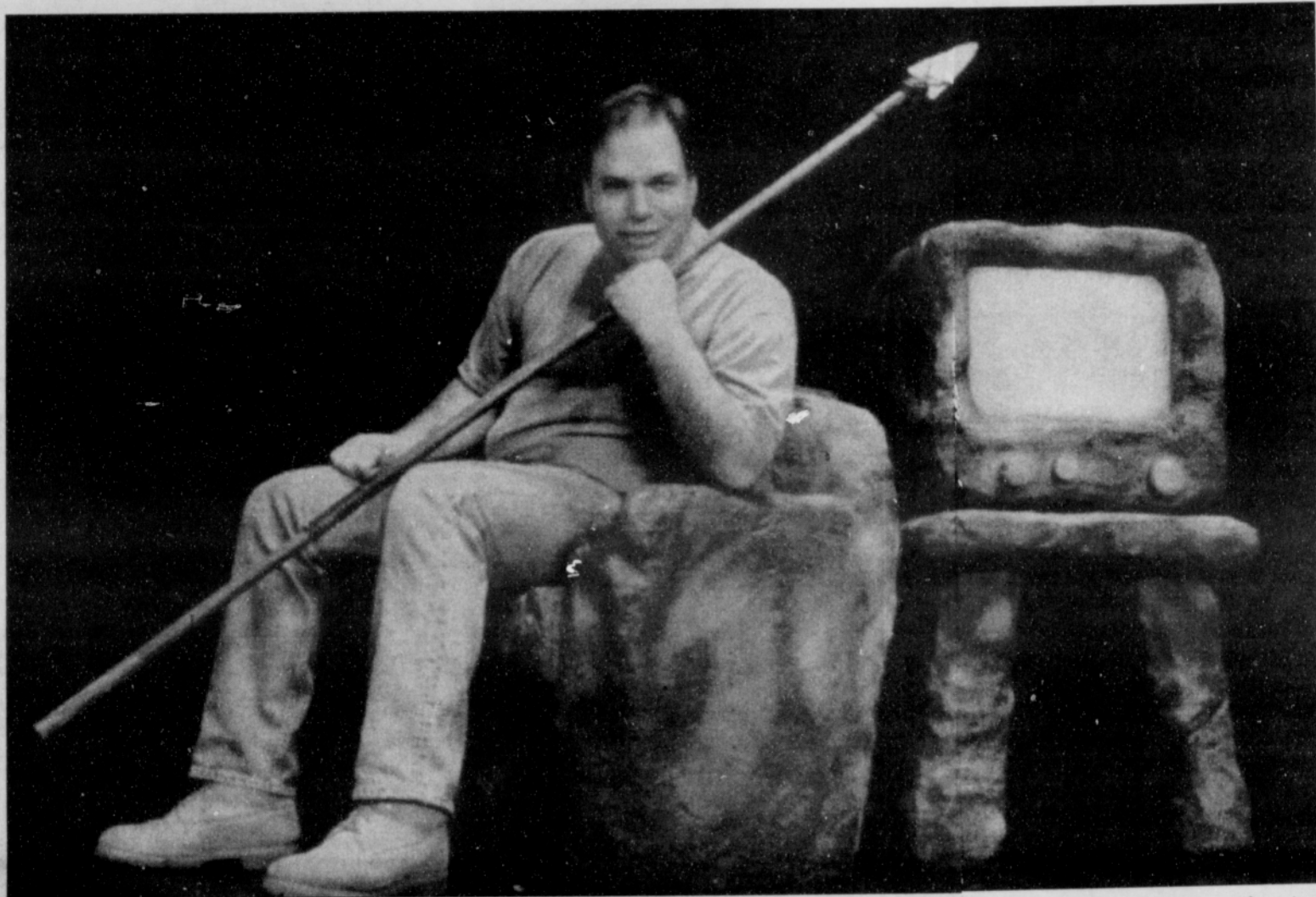
In 1997 Caveman played to sold-out houses on Broadway for more than 700 performances, making the longest-running solo play in Broadway history. Caveman has played to sold-out houses in 35 cities. In January, Portland audiences will finally get a chance to see what the rest of the country has been raving about.

It's been said that laughter is the best medicine, and this may be the best explanation for Caveman's amazing success. Becker's hilariously insightful play about the ways that the different genders struggle to relate has both sexes roaring with laughter and recognition. Lots of affectionate nudging goes on during the performance and couples are commonly seen strolling out into the night afterwards holding hands.

Rob Becker also has a loyal following in the therapy community, having been seen and recommended by thousands of psychologists and counselors. Last year, he was invited to the AAMFT Convention (American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy) in Toronto where he performed for more than 2,000 therapists.

The New York Times has called Caveman "a nationwide comic phenomenon" and now the word seems permanently attached.

Becker's *Defending The Caveman* originally opened in a dining performance space in San



Portland Opera presents *Defending The Caveman*, an outrageously funny and surprising sweet exploration of the gender gap.

Francisco in June 1991. Within a few weeks, with virtually no advertising or publicity, Caveman began playing to sell-out crowds, with many patrons already on their third and fourth visits.

Following a lengthy sold-out run in San Francisco, Caveman repeated this pattern going on to extended sold-out engagements in Dallas, Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, Chicago and on Broadway.

Performances of *Defending The Caveman* will be playing through January 29. For ticket information, call 503/790-ARTS.

Le Cirque – The Masquerade

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The New Year has come and gone, but the party hasn't even started yet! Portland Opera will show what "ringing in the New Year" is all about when it hosts the second annual masquerade ball, *Le Cirque*, on January 28, 2000.

Guests for the Opera's largest fundraising event will enter an enchanted world inhabited by colorful and spellbinding performers. Inspired by the original French *Cirque de Soleil*, the evening will include fascinating handmade

masks, illusionists, dancers and other imaginative entertainment, and the coronation of the King & Queen of The Masquerade.

A brief auction will also be held at which guests will vie for a number of fabulous items, including a shopping spree at Saks 5th Avenue and an original Bacchus statue made by world-renowned sculptor Lorenzo Ghiglieri.

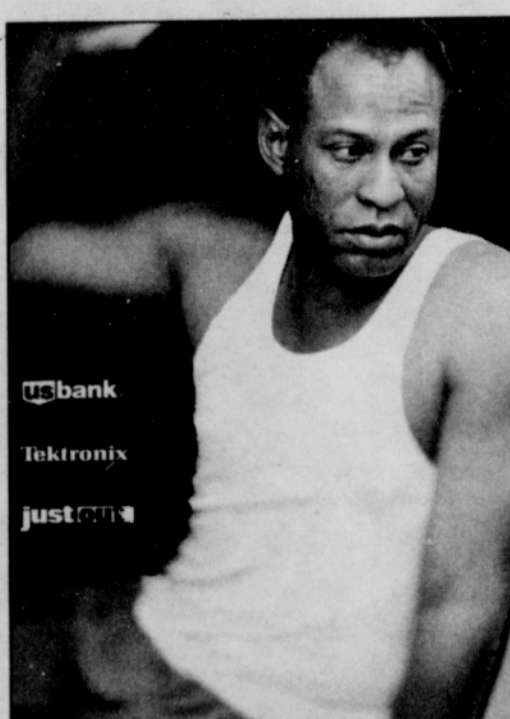
Tickets for *Le Cirque – The Masquerade* are \$150 per person and tables are available for sponsorship. To purchase tickets call 503/241-1407 or stop by the Portland Opera Box Office.

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1516 SW Alder Street www.artistsrep.org For tickets call: 503/241-1ART

"For me, Raisin is still fresh, it's still relevant. Lorraine Hansberry was a visionary."
– Spike Lee, Filmmaker