

In Theatre *Master Class* Profiles the Rise and Fall of a Diva

CONTRIBUTED STORY
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Artists Repertory Theatre continues its 1999-2000 season with a Tony award-winning play that explores the life and artistry of one of the 20th century's greatest talents, Maria Callas.

Inspired by a series of master classes Maria Callas conducted at Julliard toward the end of her career, *Master Class* puts the great diva at center stage again as she coaxes, prods and inspires students – “victims” she calls them – into giving the performances of their lives while revealing her own. As she slips off into memories, the audience experiences her days at La Scala, her marriage to

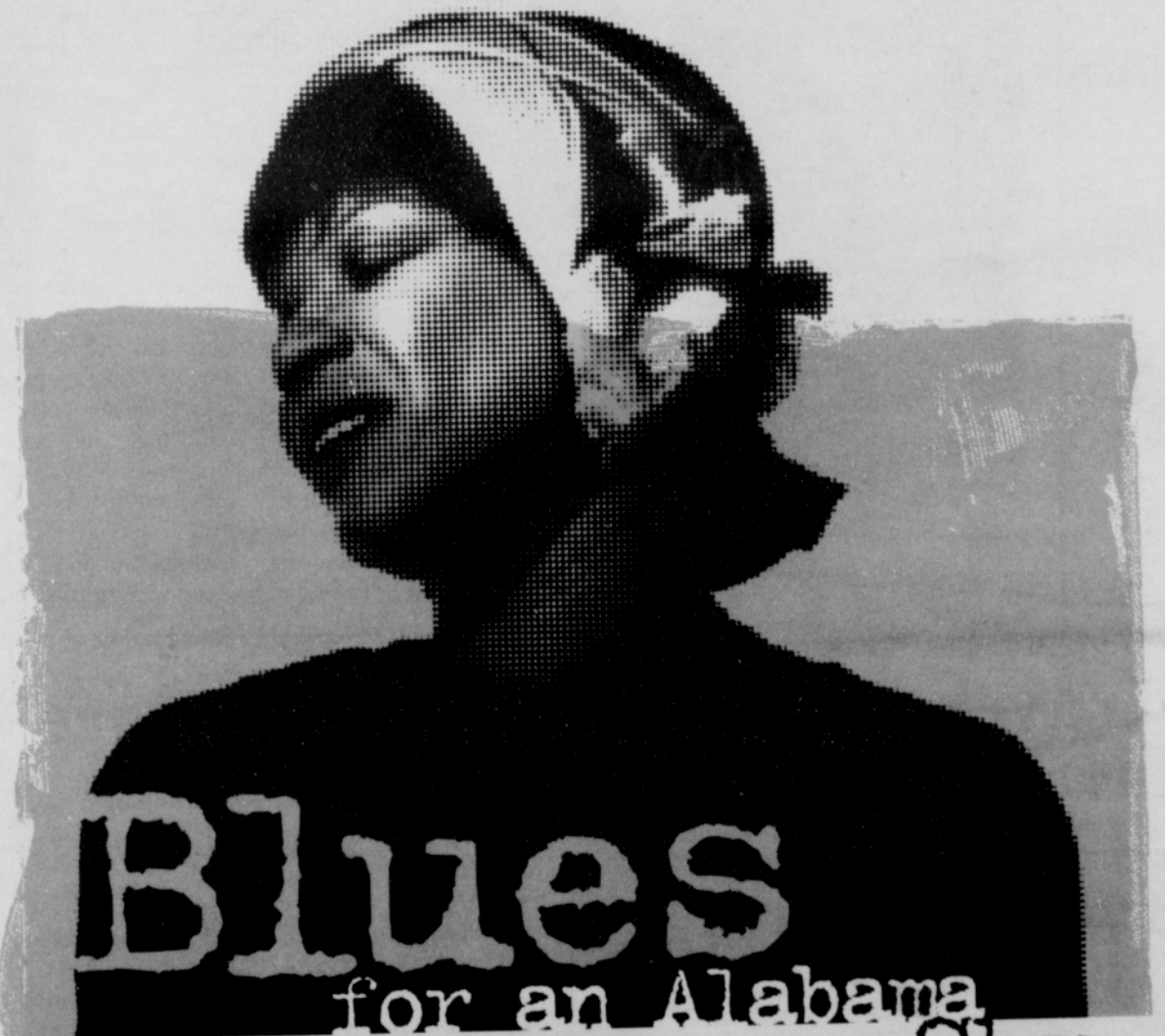
Meneghini, and her great doomed love for Aristotle Onassis. Maria Callas was the most vibrant soprano of her generation, the center of the universe. Everyone adored Callas, including Callas, whose life was opera on a grand scale. But her singing days are over and now she must live her greatest triumphs through the voices of three students in her master class. She

instructs and she revels in the exploits of her legendary career. “In addition to being a portrait of the artist,” Kretzu says, “McNally uses the play as a vehicle to explore even more complex issues such as the relationship of artists to their art and the enigma of talent – and the loss of it.” *Master Class* is a play of wit, humanity and insight that explores

the life of Maria Callas and examines the enigma of talent – and what happens to the person behind the star when the talent is gone. *Master Class*, written by Terrence McNally and directed by Jon Kretzu, runs March 14-April 23. Tickets are \$13.50 for previews, \$15 to \$25 for the regular run, and may be purchased through the A.R.T. box office, 503/241-1ART.



Steve Dahlke is the Accompanist, Luisa Sermol is Maria Callas and Megan Hook is Sharon, the Second Soprano in *Master Class*. The play is a witty, insightful and humanistic exploration of the life of Maria Callas, a legendary diva that was raised in Eastside Manhattan and has had a cult following among opera lovers.



kmhd for the love of jazz

89.1

Blues
for an Alabama Sky

by Pearl Cleage

FEBRUARY 19 – MARCH 18, 2000

Call for tickets
503.274.6588

Tickets also through
Ticketmaster 503.790.ARTS

www.pcs.org

production sponsors

WELLS FARGO

PACIFICORP FOUNDATION
PACIFIC POWER

PORTLAND
Center Stage