

Music

Queen of Hip-Hop Soul makes concert tour

CONTRIBUTED STORY
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

"Queen of Hip Hop Soul" Mary J. Blige will perform this summer in a landmark, 44-city concert tour presented by Seagram's Gin. Featuring music from Ms. Blige's latest chart-topping release, *Mary, The Mary Show* will commence with a two-day engagement at the Universal Studios Amphitheater in Los Angeles on Saturday, June 10th and Sunday, June 11th. Joining Ms. Blige on the tour will be Jagged Edge and Carl Thomas. Seagram's Gin is donating a portion of ticket sales from the tour to One Hundred Black men, Inc., a national, non-profit organization dedicated to fostering economic, educational and technological development initiatives in communities across the country.

"Seagram's Gin is pleased to join Mary J. Blige in her first national concert tour. It will be one of the most exciting of the season," says Paul A. Campbell, Manager, Global Marketing, Gin, Seagram Americas. "Mary's artistic talents are unparalleled and when one looks at her career in retrospect, it is obvious that she has grown tremendously. Her music has evolved over the gamut of the urban scene—from the midst of the hip-hop explosion to a more mature R&B sound. Through that time, she has never lost sight of her roots, but has continued to add to her sound, to fully reflect all that is good about the hip-hop/soul genre. We're delighted to bring her



Queen of Hip-Hop Soul Mary J. Blige is performing in *The Mary Show*, a three-and-a-half-month, 46-city summer concert tour presented by Seagram's Gin. A portion of the ticket sales will be donated to 100 Black Men, Inc., a national, non-profit social service organization dedicated to fostering economic and technological development initiatives in communities across the country.

innovative artistry to fans across the country while supporting the community efforts of One Hundred Black Men, Inc." Yonkers, New York-born MCA

recording artist Mary J. Blige has emerged as one of the most influential artists on the contemporary music scene. The 1996 Grammy Award

winner is an acclaimed vocalist whose third album, *Mary*, also showcases her extraordinary talents as a songwriter. The album also features collaborations with such artists as Elton John, Lauryn Hill, Chucky Thompson, Aretha Franklin, Baby Face, Eric Clapton and K-Ci Hailey.

"The making of this album was unbelievable, and definitely a highlight of my career," says Ms.

Blige. "I am thrilled to go on tour with *The Mary Show* and thank Seagram's Gin for the opportunity to share my work—seeing all of the fans and giving them a good show is what I am looking forward to over the next three-and-a-half months."

The Mary Show will feature music from *Mary* as well as highlights from the artist's professional career that began with the blockbuster album, *What's the 411?*



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Kronos Quartet. Moulton's non-narrative work for five women is his personal reflection on the scope of the more than 50 works he has

crafted over the last 25 years and what he finds important about his body of work. Program Y of the "American

Choreographers Showcase" will be performed June 7-11 and 21-24, 2000 at 7:30 pm; and June 11, 2000 at 2 pm.

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