Focus

SUPPLEMENT



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Deadlines for submitted material

Articles: Friday by 5P.M. Ads: Monday by Noon

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1999 The Portland Observer

Experience the Bounties of a Ghana Harvest Festival

African Music and Pageantry to Fill South Park Blocks

The Homowo Festival of African Arts, now in its 12th year, is hosted by world-renowned percussionist Obo Addy. The event is a traditional Ghanaian harvest festival of welcome and Thanksgiving. It blends African music, dance, pageantry, crafts and demonstrations.

This year, the festivities will be held on Saturday, Aug. 25 and Sunday, Aug. 26 at the South Park Blocks on the Portland State University campus between S.W. Harrison and S.W. College Streets, from 1 – 8 p.m. on both days.

Homowo literally means "mocking hunger." The Homowo Festival's ties lie with the Ga people and their migration to Ghana. The Ga traveled for many years before reaching the West Coast of Africa where they presently live. Along the way, they experienced famine, but because they helped each other, they survived. Later, when their harvest were bountiful, they held a feast at which they mocked and jeered at hunger and the hard times that had plagued them. This was the first Homowo.

A traditional Ghanaian processional led by Obo Addy and a large group of Ghanaian musicians will kick off the festivities on Saturday. Actors will assume the role of kings, queens and followers of the royal family of each of Ghana's ethnic groups as priests "bless" the festival grounds. This processional features drumming, dancing, singing and performers dressed in the traditional clothing of the five major culture groups in

An African folk art demonstration area will feature a Togolese seamstress, a Togolese cobbler, Nigerian head and body wraps, Ugandan baskets, Eritrean baskets, Ethiopian painting and Malian drawing and painting.

Henna handpainting, a traditional art used for wed-



dings and ceremonies, will be offered by appointment.

The Portland General Electric Children's Area will present face painting, beadmaking and storytelling. Children may also learn to make African rainsticks and masks.

An African marketplace will offer the sale of traditional products, and ethnic food vendors are on-site.

(Left) Women in African garb wait as the Homowo Festival's procession gets underway. At this year's event, traditional music from Nigeria, Uganda, South Africa, Ghana and the Caribbean can be heard.

Billy Reed's Music Calendar 2808 NE MLK, Jr. Blvd 503/493-8127 July 2001

Jazz Sundays (1,8,15,22,29)

Albina Jazz Ensemble 12:00 PM-3:00 PM

No Compromise w/Louis Pain, Kenny Johnson & Dan Gildea 7:30 PM-11:00 PM

Tuesdays (3,10,17,24,31)
WONE Night Excursion 8:00 PM-10:00 PM
Hip Hop, Poetry Slam, Spoken Word

Wednesdays

Happy 4th of July! (Closed)

Albina Jazz Ensemble July 11 7:30 PM-11:00 PM Maximum Flow July 18 7:30 PM-11:00 PM

Maximum Flow July 18 7:30 PM-11:00 PM
Triclopse Organ Trio July 25 7:30 PM-11:00 PM

Thursdays (5,12,19,26)
Ron Steen's Jazzberry Jam Sessiom 7:30 PM-11:00 PM
Musicians Welcome

Weekend Music & Dancing

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Friday July 6		
Sonny Hess & The Power Band	In the Bar	6:30 PM-10:00 PM
Maximum Flow	Side Room	10:00 PM-1:00 AM
Saturday July 7		
The Conglegation	In the Bar	8:30 PM-12:30 PM
Friday July 13		
Bret Malmquist Trio	In the Bar	6:30 PM-10:00 PM
Maximum Flow	Side Room	10:00 PM-1:00 AM
Saturday July 14		
Ocean 503/W LaRhonda Steel	In the Bar	8:30PM-12:30 PM
Friday July 20		
Kevin Karrick & Company	In the Bar	6:30 PM-10:00 PM
Chata Addy & Susuma	Side Room	10:00 PM-1:00 AM
Saturday July 21		
Nancy Curtin Quartet	In the Bar	8:30 PM-12:30 PM
Friday July 27		
Maximum Flow	In the Bar	6:30 PM-10:00 PM
Norman Sylvester Band	Sideroom	10:00 PM-1:00 AM
Saturday July 28		10.00111111007111
The Cannonballs w/Lioyd Allen	in the Bar	8:30 PM-12:30 PM

More Information @ www.billyreeds.com