

Profile of a Zen Master with AIDS

Hand 2 Mouth Theatre will be giving a performance on the true life story of Zen Master Tommy "Issan" Dorsey. The play, entitled "The Posture Queen," will be shown from Aug. 10 through Sept. 2.

From Tommy "Issan" Dorsey's hot days as a cute young sailor among the well-muscled men of the US Navy, to an impressive stint as a gorgeous female impersonator,

Tommy Dee experienced a descent into drug and alcohol addiction traveling across small town America with the Drag Revue "Party of Four". "The Posture Queen" continues with Tommy's psychedelic introduction to Zen Buddhism and a slow, long ascent up the ranks of enlightenment. In his final years Tommy turned his Zen compassion towards the AIDS epidemic,

converting the Hartford Zen Center into one of America's first AIDS hospices and fighting desperately to give victims a death with dignity. Tommy's final triumph occurred as he approached his death by AIDS. Ordained as an Abbot, the highest honor for a Westerner, Tommy died as one of the most respected and adored Zen teachers in the country.

As a relative newcomer to Portland, Hand 2 Mouth Theatre will capture the width and breadth of this modern day saint's remarkable story. The Hand 2 Mouth Theater arrives from several years spent making cutting edge work, and doing theater with youth in Poland, Romania and Macedonia. Hand 2 Mouth incorporates movement, imagery and sound into

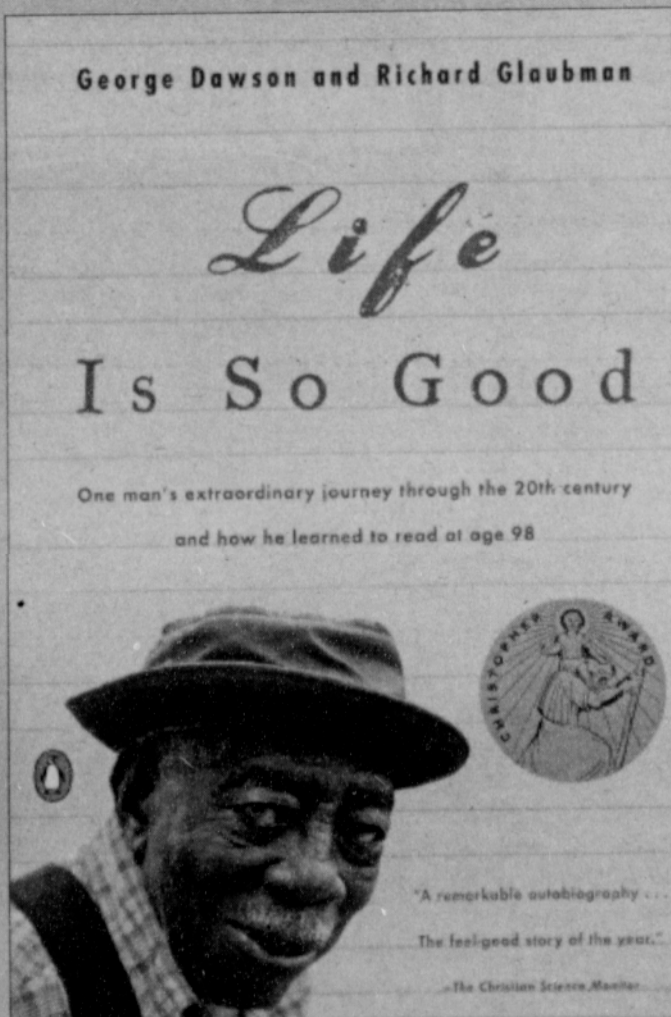
their performances in an innovative, highly evocative and poetic manner.

The Hand 2 Mouth Theatre is located at the Rose City Ballroom, 700 N.E. Dekum and Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. A benefit for the Cascade AIDS Project will be given on opening night, Aug. 10. For more information and to make reservations, call 503/283-3311.

History According to a 103-Year Old

By **GEORGE DAWSON AND RICHARD GLAUBMAN**
A PENGUIN BOOK; 2001

In this remarkable book, George Dawson, a 103-year-old slave's grandson who learned to read at age 98, reflects on his life and offers valuable lessons in living and a fresh, firsthand view of America during the twentieth century. Richard Glaubman captures Dawson's irresistible voice and view of the world, offering insights into human-



ity, history, hardships, and happiness. From segregation and civil rights, to the wars and the presidents, to defining moments in history, George Dawson's description and assessment of the last century inspire readers with the message that - through it all - has sustained him: "Life is so good. I do believe it's getting better."

The Hammer is Back!

Rap Artist M.C. Hammer's Mission for God

M.C. Hammer's on a mission to revive the positive aspects of rap and clean it up a bit. He is focused on God, his family and his new ventures. Hammer will return to Portland on Aug. 26 to give a talk and sing at the 11 a.m. Sunday service at the New Beginnings Christian Center, located at 7600 N.E. Glisan St. Arrive as early as 8:30 a.m. to insure seating. This is a free event. Childcare is provided for kids 6-years-old and younger. For more information, call 503/256-6050 or go online to www.newbeginnings.org.

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