

**FOCUS**

**In Print**

**A Rap Artist Turned Church Pastor**

BY MASON BETHA WITH KAREN HUNTER  
POCKET BOOKS; 2001

Mason "Mase" Betha's meteoric rise

to fame is one of rap's great success stories. But just as he was poised to sign a multimillion-dollar deal with Bad Boy, Mase walked away.

Mason Betha is now a pastor, life-changing inspirational speaker, and founder of a nondenominational movement called S.A.N.E. (Saving a Nation Endangered) Ministries. Having turned his back on superstardom, he reveals in this fascinating memoir the rhyme and reason behind his choice to leave a glamorous life of extraordinary wealth and influence to become a pastor with a powerful message for America's youth. Thought-provoking and illuminating, "Revelations" is an undeniable testament to the enduring power of faith—and to the limitless possibilities in a life transformed by God's guiding hand.



**A Rap Family Get-Together**



For nearly a decade, the Dungeon Family has achieved world recognition with many chart-topping hits ranging from funk, rock, soul, hip hop and jazz.

Prodigious groups Outkast, Goodie Mob and Organized Noize have come together as Dungeon Family and put together an album packed with creativity, innovation and pure excellence. Through Arista records, Dungeon Family recently released the album "Even in Darkness." It provides catchy

hooks mixed with high-energy tear-the-club-up beats and lyrics that'll make the mind wobble-wobble.

Songs on "Even in Darkness" will continue to catch fire for many years to come as Outkast and Goodie Mob's credits indicate tremendous staying power. Dirty South tracks such as "Crooked

Booty" comes fully equipped with Parliament funkology; "Six Minutes" is a soulful, retro track; "Emergency" is the anthem that'll have people bouncing worldwide; "What Iz Rap" is an old school ode; and "Excalibur" incorporates fresh gospel sound that'll take any heathen to church.

**ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE**

**Winter Wonderland Through Jan. 1**

A sensational display of lights and animation spans the track at Portland International Raceway. Enjoy the largest drive-through light show in the Northwest right from the comfort of your own car. Traditional favorites include Santa jumping down an 84-foot ski slope, reindeer flying over your car and the vivid color of the giant poinsettia arch. Times are Sunday through Thursday, from 5 p.m. – 10 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, from 5 p.m. – 11 p.m.

**Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center Thursday, Dec. 6**

The Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center will have an exhibition of Portland area artists of African heritage for its 9<sup>th</sup> annual Kwanzaa exhibition on Dec. 6. "Kwanzaa: Celebrating the Seven Principles" will open with a First Thursday reception on Thursday, Dec. 6, from 5-8 p.m. with African drummer Tutu welcoming the public with music from the Ga tradition of Ghana. The IFCC is located at 5340 N. Interstate Ave. Call 503-823-2072.

**Jammin' 95.5's Soul Concert Friday, Dec. 7**

KXJM Jammin' 95.5 brings another great R&B show to Portland with the Holiday House of Soul at the Rose Garden Theater of the Clouds on Friday, Dec. 7. Artists scheduled to appear include Faith Evans, Ginuwine, Blaque and Case. Tickets will be on sale at the Rose Garden Box Office and all Ticketmaster outlets. Call 503-243-7595 or 800-990-0750.

**Oregon Ballet Theatre's "The Nutcracker" Dec. 7 – 23**

"The Nutcracker" – a spellbinding and enchanting ballet about fantasy, magic and childhood dreams opens Dec. 7 for 19 performances in Portland's Keller Auditorium. Tickets are available by phone at 503-2-BALLET, toll free at 1-888-9-BALLET, or through TicketMaster at 503-790-ARTS.

**Lakewood Theatre Company Dec. 8, 15 & 22**

The Lakewood Theatre Company will be presenting a child focused musical review called the Holiday Magic Breakfast Theatre. The show is an original adaptation of holiday stories and songs from different cultures. Performances are suitable for ages 3-12. The event will be held in the Community Meeting Room at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 8, 15 and 22. A continental breakfast is included. Call 503-635-3901.

**KINK's "Blue Christmas" Show Saturday, Dec. 8**

Robert Cray is one of America's few young blues artists that has jump-started the contemporary blues boom that still holds sway to this day. He will be performing along with Taj Mahal, Curtis Salgado and Josh Joplin at the Roseland Theatre on Saturday, Dec. 8 at 7 p.m. All ages welcome. Call 503-221-0288 or go online to [www.doubletee.com](http://www.doubletee.com).

**Urban Bush Women**

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PORTLANDANCES.com WILLAMETTE WEEK The Observer photo by eggie van halbeeman

**Bear in the Big Blue House**

Put some fancy wrapping paper and a bow on your favorite cheese, because Bear from "Jim Henson's Bear in the Big Blue House" and all his friends are throwing a party for their tiny friend Tutter, and you're invited! The lovable Bear is taking his show on the road for "Bear in the Big Blue House Live's "Surprise Party." The critically acclaimed show will arrive in Portland on Friday, Dec. 28 at the Keller Auditorium at Portland Center for the Performing Arts.



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- "Esteban: By Request" #118 Billboards Top 200 Aug 4, 2001
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- #7 Top Independent album Aug 4, 2001
- #4 Top Independent album Aug 4, 2001

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