

Portland Observer **FOCUS**



Play Delves Into Psyche of an Artist

Portland Center Stage and Portland Institute for Contemporary Art presents a haunting and darkly comic journey into the psyche of an artist in "And God Created Great Whales." A gifted composer goes on a quest to complete his final masterpiece—an opera based on "Moby Dick." Desperately fighting a memory-destroying disease, Nathan relies on a tape recorder hung around his neck, each day pressing "play" and hearing yesterday's instructions to himself. Joined by mezzo-soprano Nora Cole as muse and imaginary companion, Eckert lends his roaring baritone and transcendent countertenor to each of Melville's characters.

Performances of "And God Created Great Whales" will be at the Newmark Theatre, 1111 SW. Broadway at Main, from Feb. 7-9, at 8 p.m. For more information, call Portland Center Stage at 274-6588 or PICA at 242-1419.

Imaginary companion Nora Cole stands by Rinde Eckert, who desperately struggles with a memory disease while trying to compose an opera on whales.

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE



Nikki Giovanni, is one of the most important, honored and beloved figures in American literary circles. She will be speaking at the 6th annual Clark College Women's Conference on Saturday, Feb. 9, from 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. in Gaiser Hall. For more information, call 360-992-2366.

Oregon Symphony's Youth Concerts Thursday, Feb. 7
Teaching local, sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders about composers' great moments of inspiration, the Oregon Symphony will perform enduring musical phrases of composers like Beethoven, Bach and Haydn in a Youth Concert called "Got It! Composer's Brainstorms" led by Resident Conductor Murry Sidlin on Thursday, Feb. 7, at 10 and 11:30 a.m. at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. Call 228-4294.

Grand Funk Railroad to Perform Feb. 8 & 9
At its sweat-dripping best, the legendary rock band Grand Funk emits a surging, elemental blast of hard rock heat. Now you can enjoy this hard rock explosion when Grand Funk Railroad rolls into Chinook Winds Casino on Feb. 8 & 9. The show is at 8 p.m. every night. For more information, or to obtain tickets, call 1-888-MAIN-ACT (624-6228) or Fastixx, 1-800-992-TIXX (8499).

Oregon Historical Society Through Feb. 10
There is still time for visitors to view the exhibit, "Wrapped in Tradition" at the Oregon Historical Society through Feb. 10. On display are more than 75 vibrantly colored woolen American Indian trade blankets dating from the 1880s to the 1930s, as well as 15 rarely seen glass cylinders from Chihuly's "Navajo Blanket Cylinders" series. The exhibit is at the Oregon Historical Society, 1200 S.W. Park Ave. Call 306-5198 or go online to www.ohs.org.

Chinese Garden Celebration Feb. 12 - March 3
The Portland Classical Chinese Garden welcomes the Year of the Horse with a multi-layered Chinese New Year celebration, Feb. 12-March 3. During the first week, the first 100 visitors each day during the celebration will receive a hong bao, a traditional New Year's gift. The garden is located at NW. Third and Everett.

Portland Rod & Custom Show Feb. 14 - 17
The hot rod and custom car industry will showcase the "Best of the Best" from around the world at Portland's annual Rod & Custom Show, Feb. 14-17 at the Portland Expo Center, 2060 N. Marine Drive. Call 236-0632 or go online to www.hotrodshows.com.

Chicago's Blues King Concert Friday, Feb. 15
Buddy Guy is Chicago's blues king with three Grammy awards under his belt. Eric Clapton unabashedly calls Buddy Guy his favorite blues axeman, as do a great many adoring fans worldwide. He will be performing at the Roseland Theatre on Friday, Feb. 15 at 9 p.m. for the 21 and over crowd. For tickets, call 224-8499, 800-992-8499 or go online to www.fastixx.com.

Albertina Kerr's Jazz Concert Saturday, Feb. 16
The Albertina Kerr Centers will be hosting "A Winter Night of Jazz" that will feature trumpet phenomenon Rick Braun and award-winning pianist Keiko Matsui. The concert is appropriate for any adult who enjoys jazz and wants to contribute to a good cause. The event will be on Saturday, Feb. 16, from 8-11 p.m. at the Tiffany Center, located at 14th and Morrison. Call 239-8101 or visit www.albertinakerr.org.

Lakewood Theatre Company Sunday, Feb. 17
Lakewood Theatre Company begins the new year with the opening of "Fiddler on the Roof," an exuberant and touching musical based on Sholem Aleichem stories. There will be a matinee performance at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 17. The theatre is located at 368 S. State St. in Lake Oswego. For reservations, call 635-3901.

A Concert From The Heart

A unique cross-cultural event, designed to raise funds to support local students who are majoring in the performing arts realize their dream of an artistic career, is back by popular demand.

The Third Annual Tom Grant Benefit Concert, "A Concert From The Heart," takes place at The Benson Hotel in Portland, Oregon, on February 15, 2002, from 7:00-11:00pm.

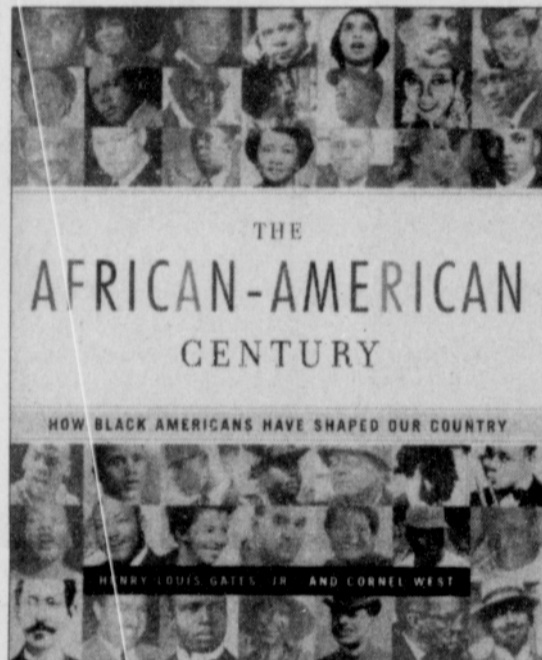
The evening will feature nationally renowned Portland jazz pianist Tom Grant accompanied by The Tom Grant Band. Tom Grant's performance will include several selections from his latest album entitled "Reprise." Tom Grant says "Jazz-enthusiasts will savor music from the heart at this special concert-come and enjoy an enchanted evening."

The evening begins with a warm welcome from gubernatorial candidate, Beverly Stein, and includes hors d'oeuvres, a no-host bar and dancing. Also featured are the critically acclaimed Jefferson Dancers from Jefferson High School.

The Northwest Chapter of the United Negro College Fund presents the event. UNCF is a non-profit organization with a history of providing financial support for college expenses to young people regardless of ethnic background who otherwise may not have an opportunity for a higher education.

Tickets are \$35 (advance) and \$40 at the door and can be obtained through FASTIXX at 503-224-TIXX (Portland) or 206-632-TIXX or on the web at www.fastixx.com. For more information call 503 223-8890.

In Print



BY HENRY LOUIS GATES, JR. AND CORNEL WEST

A TOUCHSTONE BOOK; 2002

Black Americans Who've Shaped Our Country

Without Louis Armstrong or Miles Davis, we would not have jazz. Without Toni Morrison or Ralph Ellison, we would miss some of our greatest novels. Without Dr. King or Thurgood Marshall, we would be deprived of political breakthroughs that affirm and strengthen our democracy.

Here, two of the leading African-American scholars of our day, Henry Louis Gates, Jr., and Cornel West,

show us why the twentieth century was the African-American century, as they offer their personal picks of the African-American figures who did the most to shape our world.

Lively, accessible, and illustrated throughout, "The African-American Century" is a celebration of black achievement and a tribute to the black struggle for freedom in America that will inspire readers for years to come.

At the Movies



Taking in the good life, the sled dogs relax in a dream.

SNOW DOGS

When Miami dentist Ted Brooks finds out that he's been named in a will, he travels to Alaska to claim his inheritance. Once there, however, his dreams turn to mush: he discovers he's been left a team of sled dogs. Not only do the dogs not warm up to him, but a crusty old mountain man named Thunder Jack feels as though the team rightfully belongs to him, and not Ted. As Jack bullies him into hotfooting it back to warmer climates, Ted becomes determined to learn to mush, no matter what it takes. (Genre: action, adventure, comedy; Rating: PG)

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