

FOCUS

Much Ado About Nothing

Portland Center Stage opens its new season with "Much Ado About Nothing," one of William Shakespeare's romantic comedies. This production is set just after World War II, with victorious soldiers returning home to Texas. The play runs through Sunday, Oct. 20 at the Newmark Theatre, located at 1111 S.W. Broadway and Main. Call 503-274-6588 or go online to www.pcs.org.



In Print



A Little Piece of Sky
Harlem Moon Broadway; 2002

The Resilient Human Spirit

In piercingly insightful prose, "A Little Piece of Sky" takes us to a Latino neighborhood in North Philadelphia where we meet Song Byrd, a young African American girl with a big imagination. The child of an adulterous affair, Song yearns to escape from her outsider status in her family and her neighborhood. When her mother is murdered, she must go to live with her father and his wife, carrying a heavy burden of guilt while struggling to figure out who she is and where she belongs. While living an existence of harsh realities and occasional beauty, she remains resilient, hopeful — and ultimately triumphant.

At The Movies

'Barbershop' Soars

Predominantly black cast breaks ground with crossover appeal



Ice Cube (as Calvin, right) cuts up while cutting hair in "Barbershop."

(AP)— While several black films have debuted at or near the top of the box-office charts over the past several years, the conventional wisdom in Hollywood has been that those numbers drop off before the movie reaches a mainstream audience. The surprising success of "Barbershop" may be changing that thinking.

The movie debuted at the No. 1 three weekends ago with \$21 million in box-office receipts, taking in about \$13 million — despite competition from new films starring Goldie Hawn, Susan Sarandon and Antonio Banderas.

Many black filmmakers and producers hope "Barbershop" will show that a movie with a predominantly black cast can have crossover appeal — even if it doesn't star Will Smith or Chris Tucker.

"I felt for a long time that there's an audience out there that's hungry and starving for great films with African-American characters, and that's not

just African-Americans looking for that," said Rick Famuyiwa, director of the upcoming romantic comedy "Brown Sugar," starring Taye Diggs and Sanaa Lathan.

"Barbershop," which opened to mostly good reviews, stars actor/rapper Ice Cube as the weary owner of a barbershop handed down to him by his father. Over the course of the film, circumstances — and a motley crew of characters played by Cedric the Entertainer, rapper Eve and others — make him realize how valuable the shop really is.

The filmmakers praise distributor MGM for not simply labeling "Barbershop" a black film and advertising it exclusively to a black audience.

Exit polls show that about two-thirds of "Barbershop's" audience in its first weekend was black. The non-black audience appears to have grown in the second weekend, said Peter Adey, president of worldwide marketing for MGM studios.



Mom and Pop Winans

On behalf of the Pacific Northwest Region, we extend this invitation for you to attend our regional prelate, Bishop Artice L. Wright's 80th birthday celebration, October 19th at 7:00 P.M. at the Portland Oregon Double Tree Hotel, 1000 Northeast Multnomah.

For your donation of \$55 you'll have the opportunity to help us celebrate this milestone in Bishop Wright's life and ministry. You will also receive a buffet style meal and enjoy our special featured guests, well known and nationally acclaimed recording artists, Mom and Pop Winans of Detroit Michigan.

For your tickets call 503 335 8772 (7—12 PM Monday—Friday) or you may pick tickets up at Hannah Bea's (3969 N.E. MLK Jr. Blvd).

Seating is limited, so please RSVP by purchasing your tickets as soon as possible.

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