Focus

When Crocodiles Ruled

OMSI Exhibit Through Jan. 5

What was life on Earth like in the years between the dinosaur extinction and the rise of humans? Visitors can find out from now until Jan. 5, as the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry presents "When Crocodiles Ruled," a fascinating exhibit that chronicles some of the 60 million years of time between dinosaurs and humans. OMSI is open Tuesdays through Sundays, from 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. The museum is located at 1945 S.E. Water. Call 503-797-4000.

The Jefferson Dancers combine many styles of dance to the delight of audiences.

Dancing to the Top

The nationally acclaimed Jefferson Dancers, under the artistic directorship of former Jefferson Dancer Steve Gonzales, perform at Portland State University's Lincoln Performance Hall during 8 p.m. performances on Thursday, Dec. 12, Friday, Dec. 13 and Saturday, Dec. 14.

The group, composed of 23 multi-ethnic dancers aged 14 to 18 from Portland's Jefferson Performing and Visual Arts Magnet High School, have toured internationally and performed at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. Many former dancers have been accepted into the nation's top dance schools and most prestigious companies.

Combining elements of all dance styles – modern, tap, ballet, jazz, African, ethnic and musical theater – the dancers will perform new pieces by some of the world's top choreographers.

Gonzales' 'Primitive' is a full-company modern and African combination piece set against throbbing jungle beats and a wailing electronic score. He will also premier a new piece inspired by the gods and goddesses of ancient Egypt entitled 'The Eye of RA.'

Former principal dancer of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Sarah Slipper, will showcase a new piece called 'After the Shake.'

Los Angeles based choreographer Erin Elliot has set a new piece entitled 'Dream?' that will be performed by the company entirely under black light and leading tap choreographer Josh Hilberman will set a tap piece for the company.

Jefferson alumnus Durante Lambert and Kristen Brayson have choreographed two other pieces in the African, Jazz and Modern Dance styles. Current Jefferson Dancer Thomas Yale will perform a Hip-Hop Tap solo.

Tickets are available at the PSU Box Office, at Ticketmaster outlets or by calling 503-224-4400.

Entertainment Guide

Norman Sylvester Band

The northwest rhythm and blues band will host a wild night for their record release party at Billy Reed's Restaurant, 2808 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, Thursday, Dec. 12 from 7:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. The new cd, "A Family Affair" will feature musicians Janice Scroggins, Rob Shoemaker, Ashbolt Stewart, Peter Moss, Steve Cannon, Lenanne Sylvester, LaRhonda Steele and Renato Caranto. Admission is free.

Students Premier Hip Hop Film

The Guild Theater at 829 S.W. 9th Ave. at Taylor will show two advance screenings of this award winning documentary film "Freestyle" shot over the course of seven years by a collective of students, DJ's and filmmakers. The film takes viewers through the dimensions of hip-hop as an art form through its examination of performances by Mos Def, Freestyle Fellowship, Lord Finesse, Supernatural, MC Juice, The Roots, The Last Poets, Planet Asia and many more. As it traces the story of a group of underground hop-hop MC's from the 80's to the present, Freestyle provides an authentic look into the life, music and culture of hip-hop in America. Filmmakers will be on hand for questions after the screening with an open microphone to follow. Show times are Friday, Dec. 13 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 14 at 9 p.m.

Yuletide Celebration Opens Saturday

Celebrate the holiday season with a Broadway-style music, theatre and dance presentation with the Oregon Symphony's Yuletide Celebration, a Bank of America Pops family concert. Guest conductor Alastair Willis will lead the symphony and on-stage talent will include Broadway star Judy McLane, tap dancers from the Jefferson Performing and Visual Arts Magnet School, juggler Matt Henry, renowned tap dancer Stephanie Cadman and a chorus line of tap dancing Santas. Performances at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert hall are scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 14 at 8 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 15 at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m., and Monday and Tuesday at 8 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at all Ticketmaster outlets or by calling 503-790-ARTS.

Peace Choral Concert Sunday

With over 100 women singing with Celtic spirit, the Aurora Chorus will present its annual alternative holiday concert about peace and goodwill. This year, the Murray Irish Dancers will be featured during two performances at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 15 at Parkrose High School, 12003 N.E. Shaver. Tickets are available at Annie Bloom Books, In Other Words and Reflections Coffee and Books.

Dick Bogle Soul Jazz

Dick Bogle presents Sunday's Soul Jazz at the Gallery at the Alberta Arts Pavilion, located at 2315 N.E. Alberta St. This week's event features Rob Scheps on tenor saxophone, James Sanders on the organ and Akbar De Priest on drums and guitar. Theentertainment takes place from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 15. There is an $8 cover charge with food and drinks availabl.e. For more information, call 503-282-7700.

'The Joy of Christmas' Free Concert

The Timothy Greenidge Family and Friends band will perform a free concert at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 15 at the New Hope Community Church, 11731 S.E. Stevens Rd. Attendees are asked to bring a canned item for the blessing barrel. For more information, call 503-659-LOVE.

The King and the Fool

The Portland Revels present the Christmas Revels joined by the Portland Brass Quintet and Seattle's early music ensemble Jouissance in this year's performance of The King and the Fool. Featuring an impressive cast of about 70 children, teens and adults, the story of The King and the Fool involves a king who is conquered by a dark knight who is defeated by a fool. Show times at the Scottish Rite Theatre at Southwest 15th and Morrison are Friday, Dec. 13 at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 14 at 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 15 at 1:30 p.m. For tickets, call 503-274-4654.

The Night Cool Nutz Stole X-mas

Come celebrate the holidays with Jus Family Records at Berbati's Pan at 231 S.W. Ankeny on Wednesday, Dec. 18 at 9 p.m. Music will be provided by DJ's Chill and Cool Nutz and the evening will feature a special preview of new Jus Family material from Bosko, Maniac Lok, Brotha Luv, Phranchise, Bleek and Cool Nutz. There will be a free champagne toast for all in attendance.

Holiday Magic Breakfast Theatre

The Lakewood Theatre Company will present this original adaptation of holiday stories attendees enjoy a holiday continental breakfast though Dec. 21. Young audience members can interact with the cast while they eat. Holiday Magic Breakfast Theatre is performed Saturday mornings at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. in the community meeting room at the Lakewood Center for the Arts, 368 S. State St. in Lake Oswego. Tickets are $8 by calling 503-635-3901.

SantaLand Dairies and A Christmas Memory

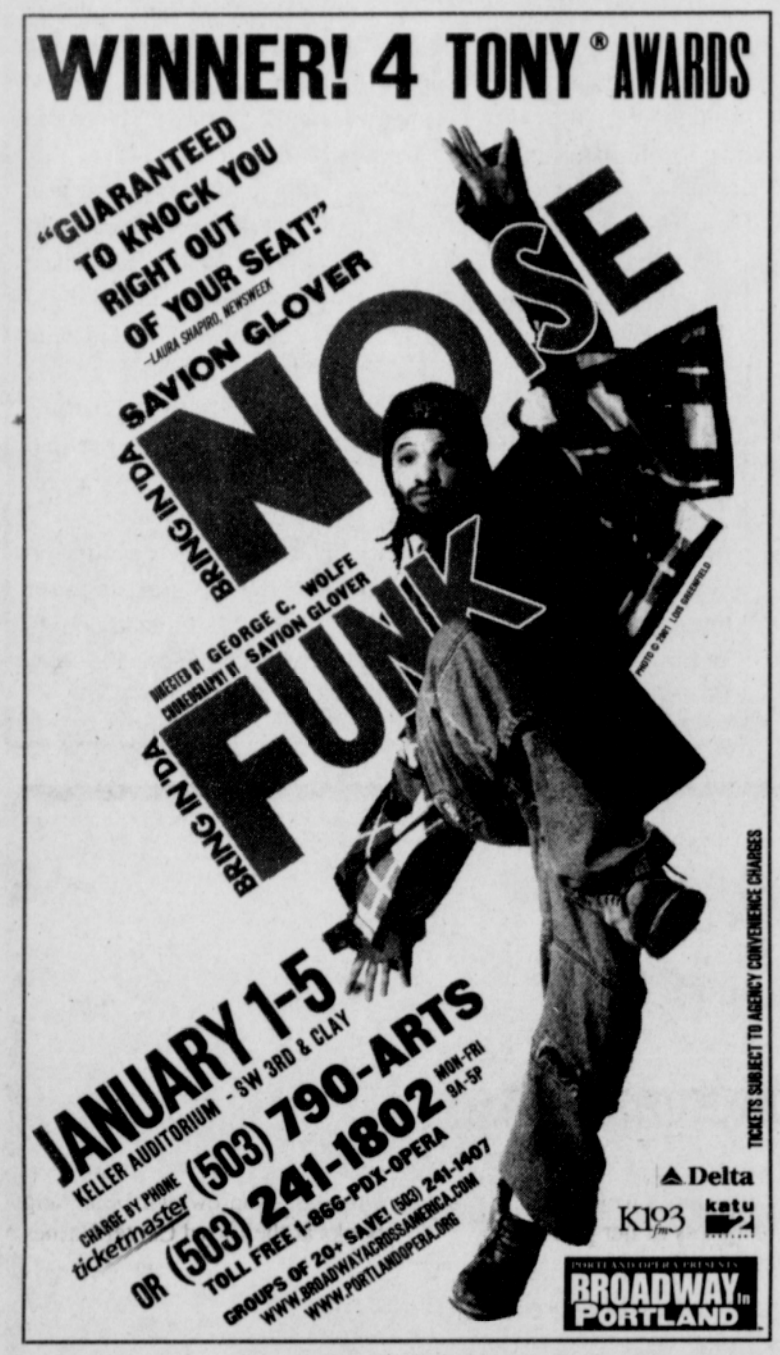
The SantaLand Diaries tells the tale of a hapless unemployed actor and sometime Manhattan apartment cleaner who resorts to working as one of Santa's elves during Christmas time at Macy's. A Christmas Memory is a lonely child's memories told against the backdrop of the Depression-era rural south where expressive gifts like fruitcakes and kites meant Christmas love. The two dramas, one comical and one tender, evoke memories of childhood traditions and the bitter-sweetness of the holiday season. Ongoing showtimes at Portland Center Stage are Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 7 p.m., Thursdays at noon at 8 p.m., Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. and on Monday, Dec: 23 at 2 p.m. For Tickets, call 503-247-6588.

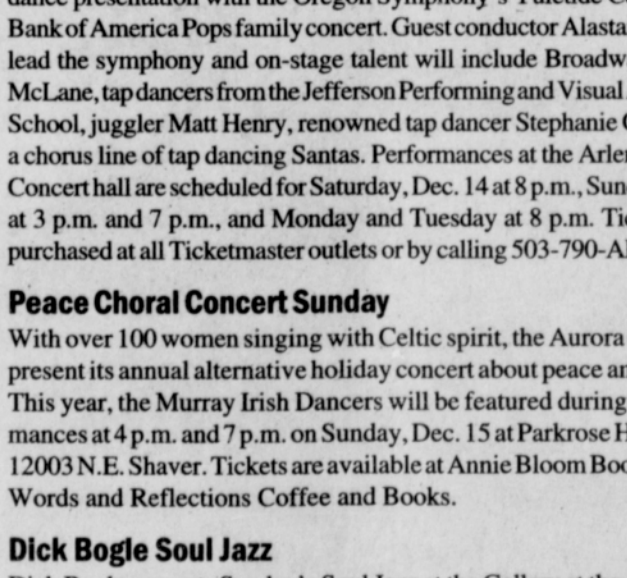
Little Things; through Dec. 23

The Guardino Gallery at 2939 N.E. Alberta will show a collection of works smaller than seven inches. The show features work by 25 artists in a variety of mediums including encaustic paintings, clay sculptures, blown glass, acrylic paintings, metal constructions, collages and photography. Call 503-281-9048 for store hours.

Abstract and Representational Group Show

Artists Robert Shepard, Gail Jordan, Miriam Badyrka, Roger Friedel, Dean Shapiro, David Coddington, Juergen Eckstein, Raina Imig, John McAnulty, Pattie Palmer-Baker and Julie Ann Smith will show a diverse body of work opening at the Talisman Gallery, 1476 N.E. Alberta.





Candace Carey (second from left) and Nick Cannon (thirdfrom left) are freshmen trying to get a spot on the marching band drumline in 20th Century Fox's Drumline, which opens in theaters this Friday.

DRUMLINE

For fans of America's show-style marching bands, halftime is game time.

A squad of players, some 300 strong and armed with musical instruments, takes over the field, commanding attention with their stirring, spectacular display of choreography and musicianship. The football contest's controlled mayhem makes way for the blaring sound of trumpets and the heart-thumping rhythm of drums.

Into this rigorous, ritualistic world comes a kid from a different culture. Devon Miles, a young, gifted hip-hop drummer from Harlem, wins a full music scholarship to Atlanta A&T University with the hopes of gaining a spot as a drummer on the school's renowned marching band's drumline. Devon, sporting a talent that is both raw and undisciplined, has one problem: He marches to the beat of his own drum.

With a great multicultural cast, Drumline stars Nick Cannon, Orlando Jones, Zoe Saldana, Leonard Roberts, Petey Pablo, Earl C Poitier, Gregory Oaiyum and Jason Weaver.