

FOCUS

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

The music of apartheid

Amandala! (Power to the people!) documents the history of freedom songs during the near half-century that South Africa suffered under apartheid. Most songs featured in the film became so popular that the government banned them along with the artists who sang them. Still, the freedom songs created an effective underground form of communication within prison boundaries and united a nation of oppressed citizens. Director Lee Hirsch combines an engaging mix of interviews with previously exiled activists and musicians. Friday, Jan. 3 at 7 p.m. at The Guild Theatre.

'Champion Blues' follows life of legend

Champion Blues follows a Los Angeles' singing legend, Mickey Champion, from her roots in Lake Charles, La., to Los Angeles Central Avenue where she performed with Billie Holiday, Dinah Washington and doubled for Esther Phillips. Champion Blues tells the story of a woman who has been of service to the community she loves. Sunday, Jan. 5 at 7 p.m. at The Guild Theatre.

Morgan Freeman narrates juke joint film

These southern, mostly rural clubs provided the showcase for black artists and the social center for many communities. Focusing on the Subway Lounge in Jackson, one of the last juke joints still operating, Actor Morgan Freeman provides the narration. Tuesday, Jan. 7 at 7 p.m. at The Guild Theatre.

'Breath Control' explores history of hip-hop

Director Joey Garfield uses interviews, live performances, archival footage and animation to bring to light this important ingredient of Hip-Hop's identity. With the help of Beat Box pioneers Doug E. Fresh, Biz Markie and The Fat Boys, the documentary traces the art form from its basic beat happenings in the 1980's to its present day multi-layered, polyrhythmic figureheads. Saturday, Jan. 11 at 7 p.m. at The Guild Theatre.

Music for pre-civil rights era Deep South

Scott Taradash's atmospheric and music-laden biography of 87-year-old Mississippi Delta blues legend David "Honeyboy" Edwards' life in the pre-civil rights era Deep South. Interwoven among his colorful storytelling and raw vocal performances are appearances by B.B. King, Willie Foster and Waymon Meeks, who all lend their own insights about the blues. 7 p.m. at The Guild Theatre.

Abstract and Representational Group Show

Artists Robert Shepard, Gail Jordan, Miriam Badyrka, Roger Friedel, Dean Shapiro, David Coddington, Juergen Eckstein, Raina Imig, John McNulty, Pattie Palmer-Baker and Julie Ann Smith will show a diverse body of work through Dec. 31 at the Talisman Gallery, 1476 NE Alberta.

When Crocodiles Ruled

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. through Jan. 5. The museum is located at 1945 S.E. Water. Call 503-797-4000.

IFCC Kwanza Celebration Show

Over twenty local African American artists will exhibit textiles, paintings, prints, drawings, photographs, mixed media works and sculptures to reflect on one or more of the seven principles of Kwanza. The IFCC is located at 5340 N. Interstate Ave. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Friday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from noon to 4 p.m. through Jan. For more information, call 503-823-2070.

Transitional youth showcase artwork

This month the non-profit gallery for homeless and transitional youth will showcase glass works by Erika Kohr and Mel George. Kohrs pieces of mother's dresses, fathers shoes, beating hearts and fragility pair well with George's finely crafted miniature versions of ordinary things like bathtubs, folded paper airplanes and tiny polo shirts. Peer youth will exhibit work in various mediums, from chain mail to oil paints, graphite and plaster through January.

Ethnographics



The delightful photograph of an African-American child is the work of Portland photographer Kelly Johnson.

LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHER RELEASES NEW BOOK

Kelly Johnson, a Portland native and photojournalist best known for her striking photographs of African-American children, has finished a new book entitled 'Look at the Baby' which is on shelves now at Barnes and Nobles and Powell's Books.

Filled with Johnson's studio portraits and detail shots of each part of the baby with childlike text identifying them, parents can

teach their children anatomy and art at the same time.

Johnson started working for *The Oregonian* as a photo assistant in 1987. In 1991 she became a resident staff photographer and left in 1993 to work on her portraits and books. She has also done work for *Ebony Magazine* and is currently working on her second book.

Johnson has had a passion for

photography since she first picked up a camera at age four.

"Once you fall in love with something you get addicted," she said. "Now I just can't stop."

Anyone interested in Johnson's book, greeting cards with her photographs or scheduling a portrait session can contact her by calling 503-282-2440 or sending an email to brukel4@msn.com.

Kelly Johnson



A Good Year for Black Actors

2002 proved a year of gains for African Americans in the film industry

(AP) — Halle Berry's tearful acceptance speech and Denzel Washington's nod to Sidney Poitier were just the beginning.

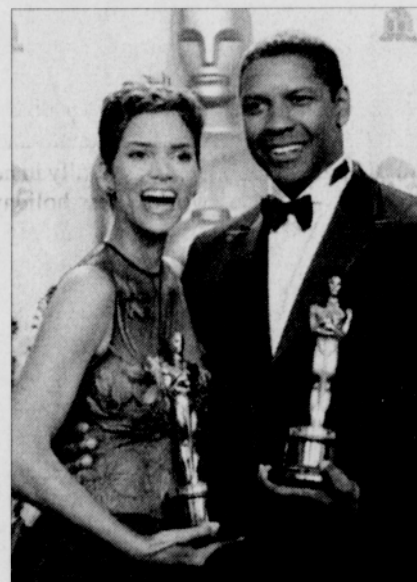
Nine months after their twin Oscars - the first time black actors swept the lead-role Academy Awards - 2002 has proved a year of gains for black actors in an industry perpetually rebuked for its lack of racial diversity.

Although one year does not necessarily signify long-term change - and the surge in better roles and breakout movies did not extend to many black actresses - critics and performers say 2002 was a clear improvement.

After the awards and commercial success of Washington's "Training Day" and Berry's "Monster's Ball," the year saw high-profile films starring Ice Cube, Samuel L. Jackson, Morgan Freeman, Wesley Snipes and Will Smith, who along with Washington had earned a best-actor nomination, for "Ali."

Smaller films with black themes also clicked with audiences, among them the smart romance "Brown Sugar," the "blaxploitation" spoof "Undercover Brother" and "Drumline," the tale of a Harlem drummer competing in a Southern marching band, which opened to solid receipts last weekend.

"It's a huge sign that diversity is here," Berry said in an interview to promote her latest film, "Die Another Day," in which



Halle Berry and Denzel Washington celebrate their 2002 Oscars for best acting.

she plays an ally to super-spy James Bond. "The cynical ones will say it hasn't arrived fast enough, but it is here. Real evolution and real change is slow. If it were to happen quickly, I don't think I'd feel that sure of it, because we could lose it as fast as we got it."

Washington began the year by following "Training Day" with another success, "John Q." And he's finishing it with his directing debut, "Antwone Fischer," based on the true story of a violent black sailor trying to work

through the trauma he experienced as an abused child.

Newcomer Derek Luke gives a memorable performance in the title role, and Washington co-stars as his Navy psychiatrist.

"It's a universal story. It doesn't

It's a huge sign that diversity is here. The cynical ones will say it hasn't arrived fast enough, but it is here.

— Actress Halle Berry

have to be about a black family. This could be about anybody. Pick your race, it doesn't matter. Abuse is color blind," Washington said. "I think we need to give audiences a little more credit. That they're not looking for black or not looking for white, but they're looking for good movies."

Cuba Gooding Jr., one of only six black actors to win an Oscar before Washington and Berry, scored a crossover success early this year with the family flick "Snow Dogs."

Ice Cube did the same with "Barbershop," and had two other films, "All About the Benjamins" and "Friday After Next," the third in his series of "Friday" comedies. All three movies were developed through Ice Cube's production company, which the rapper-turned-actor started to broaden his roles.

Except for "Barbershop," Ice Cube's films mainly have drawn black audiences. But more black actors, such as "Ali" star Smith, Eddie Murphy and Martin Lawrence, have developed mainstream followings.

"It's still a pretty select group. But having this select group getting more exposure now, it'll be interesting to see what happens in the next couple of years," said Matt Alvarez, Ice Cube's producing partner. "Could the next Brad Pitt be somebody who's black? Will Hollywood be willing to accept that?"

Customize Your Jeans

Levi's new store features an 'Original Spin'

The quest for the perfect pair of pants is over. If your bum's too big, your legs are too short or your favorite pair of pants are falling apart, don't worry. Now you can walk in to the new Levi's store at 2307 NW Westover Road and customize a pair to fit.

At the new store staff has already introduced to Portland the option to modify an existing pair of Levi's and by the summer, jeans lovers will be able to build their own pair from scratch.

"So lets say you like your pants baggier in the seat - we can do that," said Jen Crook, Manager of Mass Customizations for Levi's. "Or if you like your pants skin tight or the flood look - we can customize pants that are perfectly sized for you."

In order to modify an existing pair of Levi's, all you do is come in and pick a current style, or one of several Levi's Archive styles from 1996, select and inseam, waist size and fabric, make an order and your custom fit jeans will be delivered FedEx to your home in a few weeks.

"What this does is add 11 more inseams and five additional sizes for women," Crook said. "And for men we've added 13 to 14 more waste sizes and eight more inseams. We find a great value in offering these additions."

After choosing a size, the options continue to expand. Through the Original Spin program, you can choose between 12 different options, including Authentic Stonewash, Iggy, Raven, Stainless, Burgandy, Light Indigo, Indigo, Black Magic, Dark Rinse, Indigo Stretch, Black Out and Medium Stonewash Stretch.

Then pick button fly or zipper, pay your bill and your jeans will be on their way.

In June of 2003, Levi's will introduce the option of building your own jeans from scratch.

KOGNITO'S THE CLUB

UPCOMING EVENTS

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22ND

@ 11:00PM

OCEAN 503 BAND

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13TH

@ 11:00PM

LINDA HORNBUCKLE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27TH

@ 11:00PM

STREET MUSIC BAND

ACADIAN BALLROOM

1829 NE Alberta

cover \$5.00

FOR MORE INFO LOG ON TO

WWW.503STEPPERS.COM



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