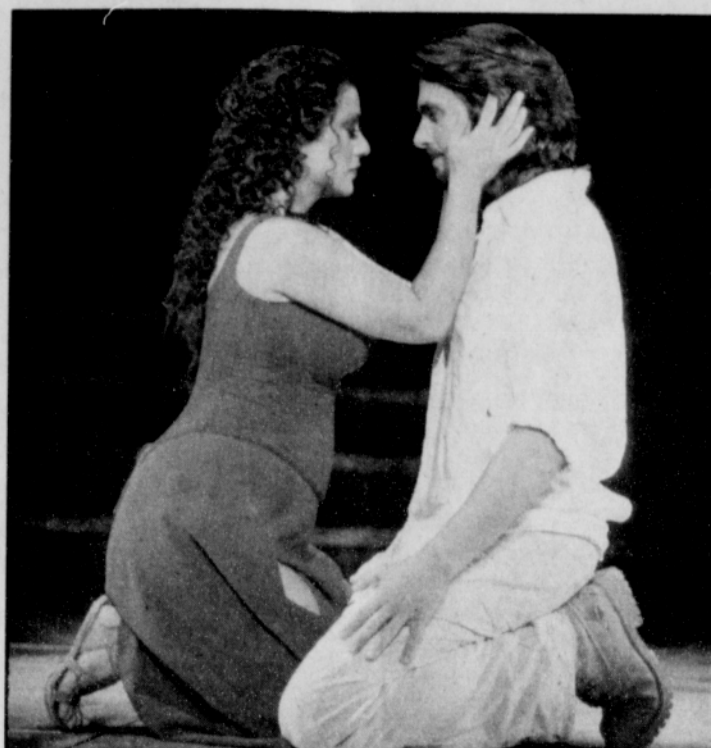
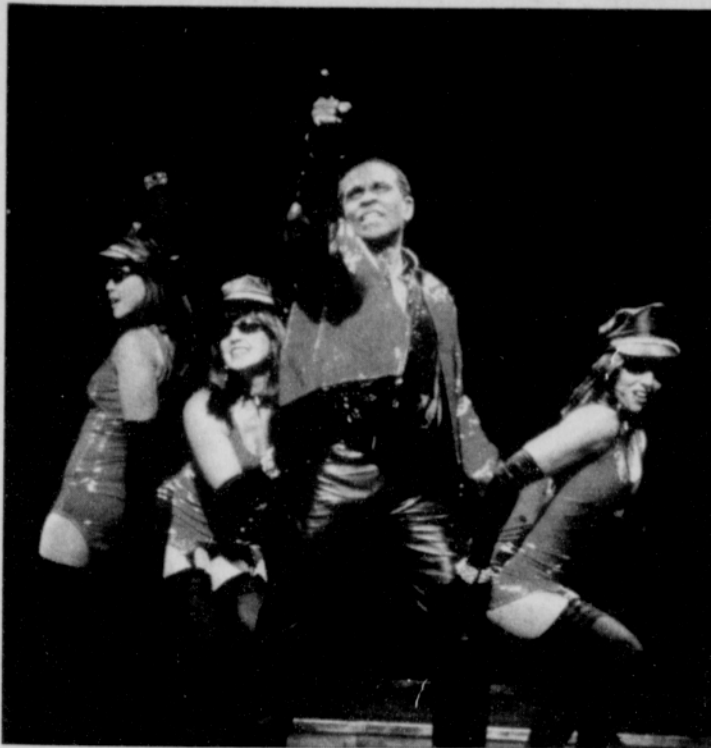


RELIGION

'Jesus Christ Superstar' Returns



The Portland Opera presents 'Jesus Christ Superstar' from Tuesday, June 10 through Sunday, June 15 with show times at 7:30 p.m. all week and 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. To get tickets stop by the Portland Opera Box Office at 115 SW Morrison, call 503-241-1802 or visit www.portlandopera.org.



Gospel singer Tammara Walker turned her life around and got off the streets by singing.

PHOTO BY JAYMEE R. CUTI/ THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Greatness of Gospel

Music saved singer from a life on the streets

BY JAYMEE R. CUTI
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Local Gospel singer Tammara Walker took the long road to get to her life today, as a gospel singer and songwriter, and vice president of the Juneteenth Emancipation Awareness Committee.

Walker who is known onstage as Fiya, sings original gospel music from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Sundays at Hanna Bea's Poundcake restaurant in northeast Portland.

With one CD down and another in recording, Walker had a hard time visualizing herself as a successful singer when she was selling drugs to make a living.

Walker has seen hard times, using and selling drugs, and living on the street with her children. Going to prison for 15 months scared her straight. She decided to return to her roots in the church.

"I picked up my dreams and my goals and I started being blessed with music," Walker said.

Walker divides her time between her music and planning for the Juneteenth event at Fern Hill Park on June 20 through June 22.

Working as co-chair of entertainment for Juneteenth Northwest last year, Walker decided to branch off to give the community a variety of events to celebrate the ending of slavery.

"I don't feel that Portland has enough knowledge about the day of freedom," said Walker. "Sooner or later, I want to see every park and every family celebrating on that day."

Don't miss Tammara "Fiya" Walker this Sunday at Hanna Bea's.

Number to Call God Annoys Many

'Bruce Almighty' moviegoers call real people with God's phone number

(AP) — A lot of mortals who happen to share God's telephone number - or at least the one He uses in the new movie "Bruce Almighty" - have spent days now taking calls from curious dialers, snickering cranks and desperate souls.

In the hit movie, a TV newsman played by Jim Carrey is endowed by God with divine powers, allowing him to perform such feats as parting a bowl of tomato soup like the Red Sea. God's phone number is repeatedly displayed on the newsman's pager whenever the Lord tries to summon him.

Usually, movies and TV shows use the telephone exchange 555, which is not used for homes and businesses. But "Bruce Almighty" used a seven-digit number valid in many parts of the country.

Many moviegoers have remembered the number and put it to work in their own area codes.

A woman in Pinellas Park, Fla., has threatened to sue the movie studio because of the 20 calls per hour clogging her cell phone. A Colorado radio network was getting dozens a day last Wednesday, five days after the

It was funny and knowing God's phone number was our number was really something to be excited about.

— Tracy Collington, the wife of an evangelist who happens to share the same telephone number as the one used to call God on 'Bruce Almighty'



The Jim Carrey comedy "Bruce Almighty" features a telephone number to call God. Rather than use the normal 555 movie prefix, the movie uses a number with more than 30 listings nationwide. Some people with God's number are not pleased. (AP Photo)

movie hit theaters, and is planning to build a contest around the phenomenon.

In Sanford, N.C., the listing belongs to a church whose minister is actually named Bruce. And he is not amused.

"It's a movie that mocks God and makes a mockery of religion," said the Rev. Bruce MacInnes, pastor of Turner's Chapel Church. "I'm not too thrilled with it at all. But the Lord God is one that could use something that's meant for evil and turn it around for good. So this may very well be the reason that that number showed up."

In Cornelia, Ga., the number belongs to the Rev. Patrick Collington, an evangelist who runs Souls for Christ Ministries. His wife, Tracy, said they have gotten about 100 calls since Friday - mostly people asking for God and hanging up - but they are not bothered.

The family went to see the movie Tuesday night and loved it.

"It was funny, and knowing God's phone number was our number was really something to be excited about," she said.

A database search turned up more than 30 listings nationwide for the number in the movie.

Church Calendar Support Group for Priest Abuse Victims

The Archdiocese of Portland is sponsoring a free 10-week support group for people who were sexually abused as minors by a Catholic priest. The sessions will begin on Sept. 10 and will be led by Dr. Jonathon Beamer, a board certified psychiatrist in private practice who has extensive experience in both post-traumatic stress disorder and working with people who have been abused.

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Obituary Warren G. Black Sr.

Warren G. Black Sr. died May 27 at age 81. He was born July 9, 1921, in Ada, Okla. He served in the Army during World War II and lived in the Portland area most of his life. He was a retired water service mechanic for the Portland Water Bureau. Survivors include his son, Warren G. Jr.; daughter, Trenia; six grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. A memorial service was held at 1 p.m. Saturday, May 31, at Killingsworth Little Chapel of the Chimes.

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