

Focus



Piece of My Heart, a true drama about nurses during the Vietnam War, runs through Oct. 2 at the Portland Actors Conservatory.

Shattered Expectations, Desperate Encounters

Drama Tells Story of Women Who Served in Vietnam

The Portland Actors Conservatory is bringing back the season's most acclaimed production: A Piece of My Heart by Shirley Lauro.

The play is a true drama of six women — four nurses, a Red Cross volunteer and a country western singer — whose lives were changed

forever during a tour of duty in the Vietnam War.

Shattered expectations, desperate encounters and the anguish of the war zone are uncomfortably recounted in this highly acclaimed stage production.

The play runs Fridays and Saturdays, Sept. 12 through Sept. 27 and Thursdays through Saturdays, Oct. 2 through Oct. 18 at the Firehouse Theatre at 1436 S.W. Montgomery.

A preview is scheduled for Sept. 11, with specially priced tickets for \$20. For more information, call 503-274-1717.

Neville's 'Nature Boy,' a Tribute to Nat Cole

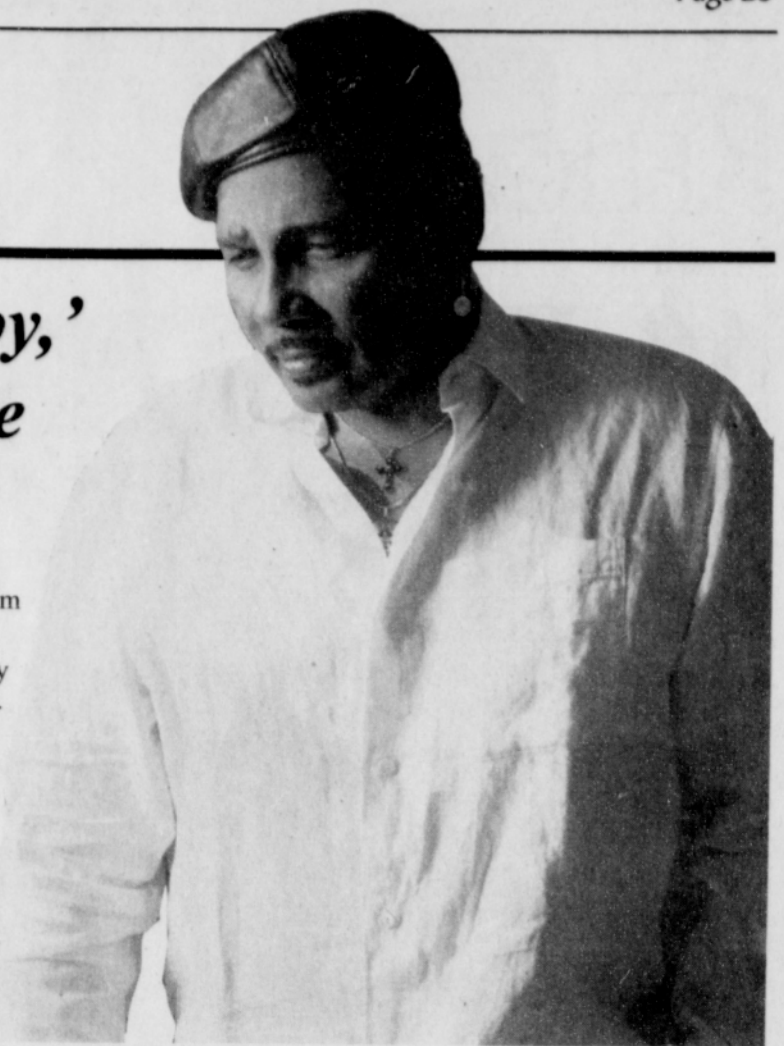
Acclaimed vocalist reinvents 'Great American Songbook'

Recording great Aaron Neville released his latest album 'Nature Boy' on Verve Records Tuesday.

The album, described as classy and classic, is a deeply satisfying suite of standards sung with remarkable sensitivity.

"Jazz," says Neville, "was as much a part of my musical education as blues or funk. Dad loved Nat Cole's brand of jazz. Nat was his favorite singer and 'Nature Boy' his favorite song. I sing it in tribute to him, a man who inspired his children."

The album was produced by Rob Mounsey and features an all-star lineup of musicians, including Roy Hargrove, Grady Tate, Ron Carter, Michael Brecker, Ry Cooder, Anthony Wilson and Linda Ronstadt.



Aaron Neville



"Secret Portland" features northeast Portland's historic Kennedy School on its cover. The book by Ann Carroll Burgess with photos by Linda Rutenberg, takes readers on a trip through Portland's underground, exposing little-known legends, ethnic eateries, favored nightspots and chic but cheap hotels. "Secret Portland" helps newcomers and longtime residents navigate the hidden gems of the city.

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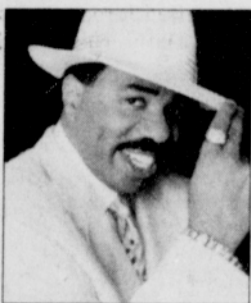
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Steve Harvey

Essence Shines Light on Brightest Stars

Grammy Award-nominee and NAACP Image Award-winner Steve Harvey will host the upcoming Essence Music Festival.

The R&B and hip-hop musical extravaganza will air on the UPN television network on Friday, Sept.

12 at 8 p.m. from New Orleans' Louisiana Superdome.

Celebrity guests include Flex Alexander (One on One), Tracee Ellis Ross ("Girlfriends") and Tom Joyner. Ashanti, LL Cool J, Mo'Nique, Tamia and Usher take the stage with

special performances by Erykah Badu, Faith Evans, Chaka Khan, Patti LaBelle, Tamia and Stevie Wonder.

This year's festival also includes an all-star tribute to Luther Vandross, who was scheduled to appear before suffering a stroke earlier this year.

Idol Winner Scandalized

(AP) — Owners of hip-hop clothing maker 205 Flava Inc. say they secretly paid Ruben Studdard (shown inset) to wear the company's bright jerseys on "American Idol," despite a ban by the program on such deals. According to clothing maker's lawsuit, Studdard asked for \$1,000 a week to wear the merchandise.



Wheelchair Battle lost by Theatres

(AP) — Front-row seating for wheelchair-bound viewers at six Portland movie theaters violated the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled recently, reversing a lower court dismissal of the case.

The movie theaters, run by Tennessee-based Regal Cinemas and Eastgate Theatre Inc., had stadium-style seats on steps rather than on a sloped floor. The wheelchair-accessible seating was located on the first few rows, forcing wheelchair users to look up at greater — and more painful — angles than other moviegoers.

We find it simply inconceivable that this arrangement should constitute 'full and equal enjoyment' of movie theater services," Judge Betty Fletcher wrote in the majority opinion.

Kathy Stewson, a plaintiff who has multiple sclerosis and uses a wheelchair, told the court, "Sitting in the front row, so close to the screen, the screen was so huge that I couldn't focus on it."

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Solange -- "Solo Star"

Eric Sermon -- "React"

TLC3D

"Friday After Next Snd Trk"

The Isley Brothers

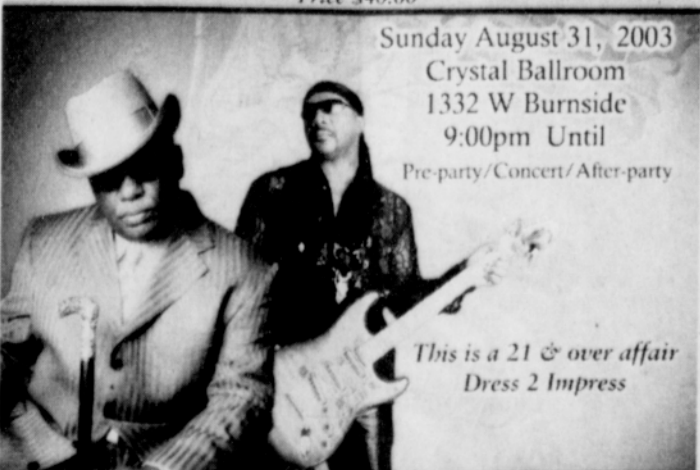
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