

Focus

The Tricksters are Talking

Diverse folklore meets new styles in an original, raw performance



Teela Labrum as Liza Fox. Painting by Gwenn Seemel.

"Trickster Tells This Tale," is a devised piece for live performance conceived and directed by Jamie Lynne Powell-Herbold. The result of a six-week workshop in experimental storytelling with a young ensemble of actors, this bold production begins with a gathering of tricksters doing what they do best: tell stories.

Each actor takes the role of a trickster from diverse mythologies and oral traditions from around the world.

In all mythologies, this archetype comes alive when tricksters make contact with humanity, provoking profound transformation and upsetting the world order. They are insatiable, irreverent, unrepentant; they sum up the

profane.

Local painter and actor Gwenn Seemel has painted the performers as their trickster archetypes. Her work is on display before and after the performance and at www.gwennseemel.com.

Material in this production is sometimes bawdy and the play is rated PG-13.

"Trickster Tells This Tale" is showing at the Back Door Theater, 4319 S.E. Hawthorne at 8 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and 4 p.m. Sundays through Feb. 21. A "feed the actors" benefit show is Friday, Feb. 6. Tickets are \$10 and Sunday matinees are two for the price of one. For reservations, call 503-232-5375.



Nat King Cole was one of America's greatest musicians of all-time.

Nat King Cole Inspired Generations

Bandleader got start at age 4 in father's church

Pianist, singer and bandleader Nat "King" Cole may have made his name as a singer, but his work as a pianist is most musically significant.

Taking the intricacies of Earl "Fatha" Hines' right-hand lines and coupling them with the more spare, left-hand ones developed by Count Basie, Cole's impact on subsequent generations of pianists is far-reaching.

Cole was born in Montgomery, Ala., on March 17, 1917. By the age of 4, his family had moved to Chicago, where he started playing organ and singing in his father's church.

Along with his jazz musician brothers Fred, Eddie and Isaac, Cole made his recording debut on Decca (1936) for the group Eddie Cole's Solid Swingers. Cole left Chicago that same year, and eventually settled in Los Angeles. He formed his trio with guitarist Oscar Moore and bassist Wesley Prince, a group that would become known as the Nat Cole Trio.

The trio format was to influence Art Tatum, Oscar Peterson and Ahmad Jamal, among others. Cole maintained the group until 1951, recording for Decca, and later for Capitol.

Arguably, Cole's most important recordings were from the early '40s. Among them is a 1942 date with Lester Young and Red Callendar, and a later date with Young and Buddy Rich for Verve.

In 1943, the Cole Trio had a hit with "Straighten Up And Fly Right," setting off his career as a singer. From 1944 through '46, Cole toured and recorded as part of Norman Granz's Jazz At The Philharmonic. After his No. 1 hit "Mona Lisa" in 1950, Cole soon earned his own radio and television show. He died in Santa Monica, Calif., on Feb. 15, 1965.

In 1997, Cole was elected by the Readers into the Down Beat Hall of Fame.

CASINO BRINGS BLUES TO THE HOUSE

Blues great Curtis Selgado joins Soul Vaccination with its funk and soul hits of the 60s, 70s and 80s during a Feb. 21 performance in Newport.



Rhythm and Blues is returning to Chinook Winds Casino and Convention Center in Lincoln City Saturday, Feb. 21 with three talented acts performing: Curtis Selgado, Garry Meziere Band and Soul Vaccination. All three are new to Chinook Winds.

Curtis Selgado has sung the blues and played the harmonica with some of the best including Muddy Waters, Bonnie Raitt, The Robert Cray Band and Albert Collins. His genuine

blues vocal styling once caught the attention of the great John Belushi. And since imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, Belushi incorporated some of Selgado's act into his infamous character, Jake Blues.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. with the music running from 7 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Tickets are \$15 for this event which is open to guests 21 and over. For more information, or to obtain tickets, call 1-888-624-6228 or Tickets West, 1-800-922-8499.

NAACP Honors Dave Matthews Band

Service to social causes cited in civil rights tribute

(AP)—The Dave Matthews Band will receive the special Chairman's Award at the upcoming NAACP Image Awards for its devotion to social and environmental causes and its "dignified representation of people of color," the civil rights group has announced.

With the awards, the civil rights group honors people and companies that support positive change for people of color in arts and entertainment. The honor will be bestowed at the March 6 awards ceremony in Los Angeles. Fox will broadcast the program on March 11.

The racially mixed music group includes drummer Carter Beauford, bassist Stefan Lessard, vocalist-guitarist Dave Matthews, saxo-



The NAACP will honor the Dave Matthews Band during its Image Awards in March.

phonist Leroi Moore and violinist Boyd Tinsley.

NAACP Board Chairman Julian Bond, who chose the group for the special award, praised band members for their distinguished service to social causes and dignified representation of people of color.

"Dave Matthews Band demonstrated what commitment means in an artist. With their music and their

generosity, they have made a difference in the lives of many," Bond said. "To see and hear them is to recognize great talent; to learn of their good deeds is to recognize they are good souls."

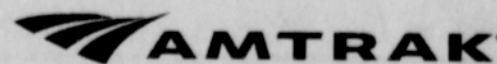
Previous NAACP Chairman's Award recipients include actor Danny Glover, cartoonist Aaron McGruder and singer-actress Janet Jackson.

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