



LATINO THEATER COMES ALIVE

Surrealist story intrigues audiences

The magic and color of Latino theater comes to life with the Miracle Theatre Group's production of "Yemaya's Belly," the world premier of the new play by playwright Quiara Alegria Hudes.

In this surrealistic tale, Hudes shapes a world where myth, ritual, and reality coexist.

The production is the dream-story of Jesús, a young boy who pulses with the desire to leave his island village and cross the ocean to America. Pulling him along his journey of awakening and self-discovery is Yemaya, the Yoruba goddess of the seas, whose voice sways with the salty seduction of waves.

Caught in the aftermath of tragedy, Jesús must choose his new home, and determine his own path through despair and hope, beginnings and endings, dreams and memory.

Like the sea, the play is a shifting landscape of mystery, sometimes soothing, sometimes violent.

Nature's powerful and unpredictable elements are woven throughout the fabric of the story. "Yemaya's Belly" is directed by Artistic Associate Sacha Reich, now in her second season with the Miracle, and stars a diverse ensemble of performers including Roarke Menzies, Mari Bartoo-Jacobson, Daniel Taylor, Skeeter Greene, and Garfield Wedderburn. Together, they create a mosaic of sights and sounds inspired by contemporary Cuban paintings, folkloric dance and music, and their own imaginations.

"Yemaya's Belly" shows Thursdays through Saturdays, until Feb. 28 at the El Centro Milagro, 525 S.E. Stark St. Tickets range from \$14 to \$17. For reservations, call 503-236-7253, ore-mail-rachel@milagro.org.



Mari Bartoo Jacobson (from left), Roarke Menzies and Garfield Wedderburn in a scene from "Yemaya's Belly." PHOTO COURTESY OF ALAN MEVIS.

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Producer Bounces Back to the Top

(AP) — Antonio "L.A." Reid, ousted from the top job at Arista Records barely a month ago, was named chairman of Island Def Jam Music Group on Tuesday, where he will oversee the label's stable of acts, including Jay-Z, Bon Jovi and Melissa Etheridge.

Reid's three-year deal with the Universal Music Group-owned label will pay him just under \$10 million, according to a source familiar with the contract. He also has a one-year option on the contract.

Reid, who over his career as a music producer and label head has racked up hits with artists such as Whitney Houston, Avril



Antonio 'L.A.' Reid

Lavigne and, most recently, hip-hop duo OutKast, could earn more with contract incentives

linked to his ability to generate hits, the source said.

Reid replaces Lyor Cohen, who started Def Jam 21 years ago and left Island Def Jam last month to head Warner Music Group.

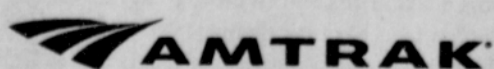
He first gained prominence in the early 1980s as a founding member of the R&B group The Deee, which featured then unknown Kenneth "Babyface" Edmonds. The pair built a successful production and songwriting partnership with hits for artists such as Houston, and later for the group's own label, LaFace Records, whose artists included Toni Braxton, TLC and Usher.

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Black History Film

Black women's activism is celebrated by the group Radical Women with a showing of the film "Passion for Justice" on the life of Ida B. Wells at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 25 at the Bread and Roses Center, 819 N. Killingsworth. Donation is \$3. For more information, call 503-240-4462.



Ida B. Wells

way. Tickets range from \$10 to \$20. Fortickets, call 503-248-0557.

Oklahoma! at Keller Auditorium

Rodgers and Hammerstein's beloved musical Oklahoma! comes to Keller Auditorium, Southwest Third Ave. and Clay, through Feb. 22. Tickets range from \$23 to \$63 and can be purchased by calling 503-241-1802.

A. Philip Randolph: For Jobs and Freedom

The Freedom Socialist Party hosts a Black History Month viewing of "A. Philip Randolph: For Jobs and Freedom" at 7 p.m. Feb. 21 at the Bread and Roses Center, 819 N. Killingsworth. Dinner is available at 6 p.m. for \$7. For more information, call 503-240-4462.

Larger Than Life-sized Adventures

OMSI's big-screen OMNIMAX theater is showing "Pulse: A Stomp Odyssey" through February, "Coral Reef Adventure" through March, "Lewis and Clark:

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

Great Journey West" through June and "Jane Goodall's Wild Chimpanzees" through May. For more information, call 503-797-4588.

Roseland Presents Jimi Hendrix Experience

Roseland Theater welcomes Buddy Guy, Jerry Cantrell, Living Colour, Double Trouble, Indigenous, Paul Rodgers, Mich Mitchell and Billy Cox from the Jimi Hendrix Experience at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 24. Tickets are available by calling 503-224-8499.



A. Philip Randolph

Trippin' through Town

Take a trip through time to find the hottest poetry, hip-hop and soul influencing Portland Wednesdays at the Ohm. \$7 cover. 31 N.W. First Ave.