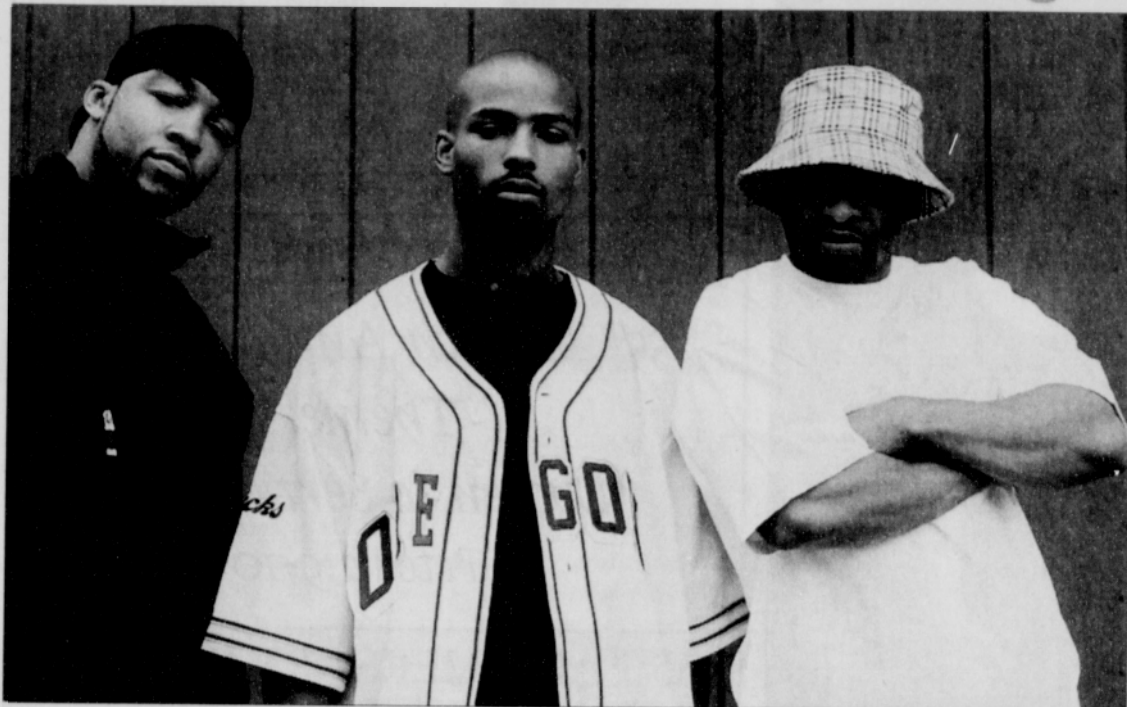


Focus

Star Quality



Portland hip-hop and rap artists from the group Young F.A.M.E. prepare for the release of their first CD 'The Movement.'



continued from Front

three-song edits for promotion. Mason says Young F.A.M.E. stands above other groups because of its industry sound.

"You put our CD in and it sounds like it was put together with brilliance. All the tracks, all the beats are a crisp, quality production," he says.

So far, Young F.A.M.E. has recorded The Movement, a CD due

for release in the next couple of months, featuring the hit single, "Lostland," currently on the playlist during the Starchile's: The Underground, a hip-hop and rap show that airs each Sundays from 9 p.m. to midnight on Jammin 95.5. The CD is directed toward a broad audience and also features "In Luv Wit" and "Get Money."

Young F.A.M.E. performed at the recent Poh-Hop hip-hop festi-

val and was a leading act last month at the Crystal Ballroom. They perform each Wednesday night at the Icon. On West Coast tours, the group has hooked up with popular artists such as Snoop Dog, Dog Pound, Bad Ass, Too Short, 112, Ginuwine and others.

Their music is downloadable at www.soundclick.com/youngfameus. For information about upcoming shows, call 503-449-8842.



PHOTO BY JANIS MIGLAVS

A mother of a Bedik tribal chief in Western Clothes.

EXPLORING MYTHS OF AFRICA'S ENDANGERED CULTURES

Illustrations shared during Black History Month

BY SEAN P. NELSON, THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Adventure travel photographer Janis Miglavs is sharing his record of the elders, witch doctors, chiefs and shamans of tribesmen in the darkest corners of Africa.

The Sherwood artist is the featured exhibit during Black History Month at Gallery 7126, inside the Sellwood Masonic Center on Southeast Milwaukie Avenue.

The exhibition, entitled, Africa's Undiscovered Myths: Images of Endangered Cultures will run through Saturday, Feb. 28.

Miglavs' work is an artistic endeavor to describe oral African legends which predate the ancient histories Greece, Persia, China and Egypt.

In one myth, Garuso, an elder of the Ethiopian Karo Tribe, recounts what he believes happens to another tribesman after death in a legend entitled, Life After Death:

Such ancient myths in other

cultures often evolved from stories that could actually have their origins in prehistoric times in Africa, Asia, North America and Europe. They preceded any written form of expression and may be the earliest form of storytelling known to primitive man and passed down through generations.

"They have no conceptual art. Everything is oral, all of the stories are all oral and none of it ever written down," Miglavs said.

He has studied about 55 tribes throughout the world as well as 15 in Africa.

"The elders and the chiefs were really gracious, but it takes awhile to develop a rapport. I had to explain I was just there to learn, I wasn't there to change anything," Miglavs said.

After immigrating from Germany in 1948, Miglavs earned a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from the University of California at Berkeley in 1969, Teaching Credentials in 1970, and a Master of Fine Arts Degree in 1972 from California State Univer-

sity in Sacramento. He then studied and photographed in India, Nepal, Sikkim, Japan, Latvia, Patagonia, Chile and Argentina before beginning to examine African tribal legends in the Mything Link Project in Senegal. He began by studying the Bassari and Bedik Tribes at the dawn of the 21st Century.

In 2001 he continued the project in the Omo River Valley in Ethiopia. The following year he traveled to Namibia to continue his research with the Himba and Bushman, or San tribes.

His photographs and legends constitute a unique departure from Americans preoccupied with a traditionally isolationist viewpoint concerning the rest of the world.

"Most Americans that I know aren't in touch with other cultures. The tribes I visit are really remote and on the edge of losing their traditional way of life. When I heard the traditional myths of the elders, I was amazed at how much had really been lost," Miglavs said.

Badu Gives Birth to Neo-Soul



Erykah Badu is credited with starting music's neo-soul movement, but she really doesn't like the term. (AP photo)

(AP) — Singer Erykah Badu might be credited with started music's neo-soul movement, but she really doesn't like the term.

"Neo-soul is just another label," she said. "We don't make up those labels. Who knows where they come from? Probably from somebody who can make money by boxing it and selling it."

Many credit Badu's award-winning, chart-topping, five-time platinum 1997 debut album "Baduizm" for helping spark the neo-soul movement. She just wants to be known

for making good music.

"Hip-hop is not something we do, it's something we live," she said. "It's the way we dress, the way we talk... everybody bobbing to the same beat. It's a culture, and you have to find your own place in that culture. Top 10 or Top 40 can't dictate that. They can only dictate what's marketable."

Badu, born Erica Wright, followed up "Baduizm" with the Grammy-winning album, "Mama's Gun," and her most recent CD is titled "Worldwide Underground."

Oscar Ads to Be 'Tasteful' No Super Bowl free-for-all promised

(AP)—Don't look for any flutulent horses or impotence cures during commercial breaks at the Academy Awards. The motion picture academy has an unusual hands-on policy to monitor advertising during the Oscars, approving each commercial and enforcing a strict set of rules regarding what can be shown.

It will be nothing like the raucous Super Bowl free-for-all.

"We want the show to reflect, not a stuffiness, but a dignity appropriate for film's highest honor,"

said Ric Robertson, executive administrator for the motion picture academy. "We want it to be a family affair that can be appreciated by the widest possible audience."

The awards show, to be telecast Sunday on ABC, is often dubbed the "Super Bowl for women" and frequently is the year's second most-watched program after the football championship.

Levitra-pusher Mike Ditka will be benched during the Oscars. There will be no pharmaceutical ads at all during the show, ABC said.

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