

Focus



An ensemble of acting veterans such as Ving Rhames and Mekhi Phifer join fresh faces, including Ty Burrell of *Black Hawk Down* and Michael Kelly of *Unbreakable* in the re-envisioned classic zombie movie "Dawn of the Dead" opening Friday, March 19 in local theaters.

Classic Zombie Remake Premieres

Sarah Polley, Ving Rhames, Jake Webber and Mekhi Phifer head an ensemble cast in a re-envisioning of George Romero's apocalyptic horror classic, "Dawn of the Dead," opening at theaters nationwide on Friday, March 19.

An unexplained plague has decimated the world's population and yet...the dead aren't dying. They've become zombies, stalking endlessly in a constant quest to feed on the flesh and blood of the few remaining living.

A ragtag group of desperate survivors in a Wisconsin town seek refuge in a large indoor mall, where they must learn not only to protect themselves from the ever-increasing zombie horde, but also to co-exist with each other as a last bas-

tion of humanity. Sealed off from the rest of what used to be the world, the group uses every available resource (both within and without) in their against-all-odds fight to remain alive and human.

Fallen Reporter Tells Story Sales slow even with publicity blitz

(AP)—Jayson Blair and Stephen Glass, two young journalists notorious for fabricating stories, have something else in common: Both have written highly publicized books that few people are buying. Blair, a former New York Times reporter, received a six-figure advance for "Burning Down My Master's House." Published March 6, the book had an announced first printing of 250,000 and plenty of media coverage, including author interviews with Katie Couric on NBC and Larry King on CNN.

But in its first nine days of publication, the book only sold about 1,400 copies, according to Nielsen BookScan. Figures from Nielsen usually represent about 70 percent of total sales. The book recounts Blair's rise and fall at The New York Times, which he left last spring after being accused of plagiarism. A review by the newspaper uncovered errors and fabrications in three dozen stories.

Most critics panned "Burning," with the Los Angeles Times labeling it "self-pitying and unreliable." Blair's agent, David Vigliano,

said "negative" press coverage had hurt the book. He said sales went up after Blair was "treated fairly" in interviews with King and Fox News Channel host Bill O'Reilly.

Glass' "The Fabulist," a fictionalized version of his downfall at The New Republic, flopped despite an interview on "60 Minutes" and other media coverage. Simon &



Former New York Times reporter Jayson Blair responds to questions after reading an excerpt from his book, "Burning Down My Master's House" at a bookstore in New York's Harlem neighborhood. (AP photo)

Schuster, which published the hardcover last May and gave it a first printing of 75,000, has not set a date for the paperback.

"We knew there would be a lot of attention for the Blair book and we wanted to see what happened and then talk about when we would schedule the paperback," Simon & Schuster spokesman Adam Rothberg said.

The New Republic fired Glass in 1998 after determining there were fabrications in 27 of the 41 articles he had written.

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Black Laborers Profiled in Live Theater

Performances at Interstate Firehouse

The theater company PassinArt presents *Pill Hill* by Samuel Kelley and directed by Brenda Phillips on

Friday and Saturday evenings and Sunday matinees through April 10 at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center on North Interstate Avenue.

Pill Hill examines the successes and failures as well as the relationships of six black steel mill workers in Chicago as they move from blue collar to white-collar professions.

It addresses the painful conflicts with which they must deal in leaving the comfortable and secure life of the mill while facing an uncertain economic future as they seek to assimilate into professions their parents only dreamed about.

The production isn't about black men, but about human beings strug-

gling to find their niche in a rapidly accelerating and increasingly volatile world.

"A play of substance with a great deal to say about the plight of even the most enterprising men" said the New York Times. "Hilarious, poignant, raucous striking contemplative."

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

Child Singer Returns

Gifted child star, Patrick Minner is now 30 and returning to his native Portland for a performance at Rose and Raindrop, 523 S.E. Grand, for a show from 7:30 to 11:30 Saturday, April 3.

Hip Shaker Performs, Teaches

One of the Northwest's greatest belly dancers, Aziza, returns at 7:30 p.m. March 28 at the Viscount Ballroom, 722 E. Burnside. Tickets are \$12. For more information, call 503-234-7035. Aziza also holds workshops on Saturday, March 27 at 1 p.m. at Sunday, March 28 at 1 p.m. at the Portland Metro Performing Arts, 9933 S.E. Pine. For more information, call 503-234-7035.

Peacejam Diverse World Retreat

Oregon and Washington youth aged 12-20 and adult supporters are holding Peacejam: Youth Leadership for a Diverse World retreat at Camp Adams in Molalla. The registration cost is \$75. Scholarships are available. For more information, call 503-275-0663.

Benevolent Queen helps Community

Darcelle XV is having a benefit extravaganza premiere glamour drag queen show for the Linnton Community Center at 7 p.m. Sunday, April 25. Tickets are \$20 for legendary performances at the Community Center, 10614 N.W. St. Helens Road. For more information, call 503-286-4990.

Ebony Fashion Extravaganza April 16

The Portland Chapter of The Links presents its annual fundraiser, the Ebony Fashion Fair at the Oregon Convention Center at 6 p.m. April 16. Tickets are \$45 to \$75. For more information, call 503-2866426.

Ongoing and Upcoming Music

The Blue Monk on Belmont plays live jazz. For a schedule, visit www.thebluemonk.com. Interstate Bar and Grill has mature live music at 4234 N. Interstate. The Black Notes plays Thursdays at the Candlelight Room. Mel Brown plays jazz at Jimmy Maki's on Tuesdays and Thursdays and Fridays and Saturdays at Salty's on the Columbia. A Community Unity Breakfast is every third Thursday at SEI at 7:30 a.m. Skip Elliott Bowman Jazz Trio plays Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon at Hannah Bea's, on northeast Shaver. R&B and live funk bands perform weekends at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center.

Children of Uganda

Nike and White Cloud present the Portland debut of Children of Uganda, an ensemble of 20 children who have lost their parents to

AIDS. The performance will benefit Portland's Black United Fund, Cascade AIDS Project, For Us Northwest, Harambee Center and the Urban League of Portland. Tickets range from \$18 to \$40. The performance begins at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 31 at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. Fortickets, call 503-224-4400.

Artists Monthly at Alberta Gallery

March artists for the Talisman Gallery, 1476 N.E. Alberta St., are Sue Allen and Juergen Eckstein. A reception is from 5:30 to 9 p.m. on March 25. For more information, visit www.talismangallery.com.

Urban Nights with Reparations Band

Urban Nights features The Reparations Band and Cool Nutz with special guests at 9 p.m. Saturday, March 27 at the Ash Street Saloon, 225 SW Ash St. \$8 cover.

Dino Discovery at Oregon Zoo

The Oregon Zoo discovers Dino Island: The Land of Civilization Forgot through April 30. This simulator thrill ride includes riders on a scientific team whose mission is to explore a newly formed island baffling environmentalists around the world. The ride is \$4 in addition to general admission. For more information, call 503-226-1561 or visit www.oregonzoo.org.

Artist's Featured at Abbey Cafe

The Abbey Café, 441 N. Killingsworth St., invites musicians to sell their CD's and perform on Fridays and Saturdays. March's artist of the month is Serena Barton. For more information, call 503-286-4847.

Pill Hill at IFCC

PassinArt Theater presents "Pill Hill," the story of six black steel mill workers as they move from blue collar to white-collar professions. The play by Samuel Kelley and directed by Brenda Phillips through April 10 at the Firehouse Interstate Cultural Center, 5340 N. Interstate Ave. General admission is \$15 with discounts for students and seniors. For more information, call 503-823-4322.

Puppet Theatre Presents Wild Child

Hand 2 Mouth Theatre and Signal Light Puppet Theatre present, "The Wild Child," based on true accounts of children raised by wild animals. Show plays Fridays through Sundays until March 27 at Performance Works Northwest, 4625 S.E. 67th Ave. All performances are at 8 p.m. and tickets range from \$7 to \$10. For reservations, call 503-235-5284.

Laughing Through It

A Portland Jam Night plans to heal the community's ills through laughter at the Wave Theatre in North Portland. The live music and sketch improv comedy is at 9 p.m. Fridays. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$4 for kids. For more information, call 503-735-4184 or visit www.jam-night.com.

Larger Than Life-sized

OMSI's big-screen OMNIMAX theater is showing "Coral Reef Adventure" through March, "Lewis and Clark: Great Journey West" through June and "Jane Goodall's Wild Chimpanzees" through May. For more information, call 503-797-4588.

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.

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