

Focus



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Rapper Heads London Fundraiser

(AP) — Rap mogul Russell Simmons will act as the ambassador for a hip-hop and R&B festival being held in London to raise funds for a youth charity, event organizers said.

Simmons will help raise awareness of the May 8-9 Urban Music Festival organized by The Prince's Trust, a charity founded by Prince Charles to aid disadvantaged young people.

Artists scheduled to appear



Russell Simmons

at the Earls Court indoor venue in London include Jay-Z, Alicia Keys, Lemar, Dizzee Rascal and Jamelia. The festival also will feature MC battles, urban art and disc jockeys.

"Hip-hop culture is being embraced globally to transform lives in a positive way," said Simmons in a statement. "The Prince of Wales and The Prince's Trust are wise to invest their time and resources in creating an Urban Music Festival for the U.K."

Book on Tupac's Letters

'Inside a Thug's Heart' give insight into evocative figure

Featuring exclusive letters and poems written during his incarceration at Rikers Island and Dannemora State Prison, the May 4 Dafina Books release 'Inside a Thug's Heart' provides one of the most intimate and affecting portraits of Tupac Shakur to date.

Published with the approval of the Shakur estate, the book captures Tupac's vulnerability at a time when his public persona was at its most controversial.

Author Angela Ardis, an actress, model and screenwriter, sent a letter to the imprisoned hip hop artist in 1995 on a dare from friends and coworkers.



Angela Ardis

I thought I'd call." The two would exchange near daily letters, poems and phone calls for the next several months, meeting for the first time when Ardis visited Shakur in prison.

By turns playful and serious, 'Inside a Thug's Heart' illuminates both Shakur's magnetic personality and the incisive powers of observation and expression that distinguished his lyrics.

Elsewhere, his letters reflect on the 1994 shooting

She was startled days later to receive an answering machine message: "Hi, Angela. This is Tupac. I got your letter today and

that nearly killed him, his arrest and conviction on charges he vehemently denied, and his dreams for the future.

Portland Filmed Movie Doing Well

Robert Bailey Jr and Marlee Matlin star in "What the Bleep," a movie shot in Portland and playing at McMenamins theaters.



A movie shot in Portland and produced by filmmakers from Yelm, Wash. is proving a hit.

"What the Bleep" opened with lines around the block at the Bagdad and is showing at two others McMenamins theaters in Portland.

"Audiences are stunned, coming back with friends two and three times to see a film about quantum physics and spirituality. We're calling it the passion of the physicists," the film's promoter said.

The movie won a grand jury prize at DC Independent Film Festival and has been selected for showing at next month's Houston-Fest International Film Festival.

Aretha Franklin Released From Hospital

(AP) — Aretha Franklin was released from the hospital after being treated for an allergic reaction to antibiotics.

Franklin, 62 was admitted to Sinai-Grace Hospital in Detroit March 20 after she coughed up some blood while on her tour bus, which was returning to the Detroit area from Chicago.

Her doctor, Claud Young, said it appears Franklin had an allergic reaction to



Aretha Franklin

penicillin she took while on the road. He said the singer was put on medication that brought her platelet level back to normal. Young has said Franklin's illness appears to be an isolated event.

Franklin smiled, waved and gave a thumbs-up to fans who gathered at the hospital when she was released.

"Love you back," she told well-wishers before getting into her limousine.

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Hoppity Hop

The Oregon Zoo welcomes spring with a Rabbit Romp from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 10. The romp features a candy egg hunt, games, face painting and photos with the Mad Hatter's Tea Party by the Young People's Theater Project. For more information, call 503-226-1561 or visit www.oregonzoo.org.

Spring Fest

The 10th annual Spring Beer and Wine Fest is at the Oregon Convention Center on April 9 and 10. The theme, A Taste of the Best, introduced another level of culinary education with cooking demonstrations, besides sampling more than 150 beers, ciders, meads, wines, Scotches, bourbons, martinis and gourmet foods. For details, visit www.springbeerfest.com.

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.

Neville Brothers at Chinook Winds

The Neville Brothers brings their Mardi Gras Mambo and New Orleans Big Easy sound to Chinook Winds Casino and Convention Center in Lincoln City, May 7 and Saturday, May 8.

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 Rd. For more information, call 503-286-4990.

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

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. For tickets, 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.

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.



Ebony Fashion Extravaganza



Zoo events include the Rabbit Romp and Dino Island.



Artist's Featured at Abbey Cafe

The Abbey Cafe, 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.

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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