

Focus



Elegant outfits are modeled from the Donna Vinci spring collection.

Fashions from the Soul

Outfits for the African-American plus-sized woman

The intuition and remarkable creativity of fashion designer Donna Vinci has garnered him a devoted following amongst African-American churchgoing and professional women. Imagine stunning elegance that comes from the soul: Classy gospel couture for women of all sizes featuring magnificent hats and

flawless workmanship. The slimming shapes, novel designs, quality fabric and ubiquitous color all combine to create a style that is as transcendent as the spoken word.

Donna Vinci fashions are easily appropriate for every special occasion from weddings, Easter or Mother's Day, to giving entirely new meaning to your "Sunday Best."

Women should celebrate their curves, and I thank the Lord that a designer has finally realized the needs of today's women," said Grammy-nominated – and notoriously fashionable – gospel diva Dottie Peoples, the spokeswoman

for Donna Vinci Couture.

The clothing line's lead designer Danny Golshan is a third generation fashion designer whose family hails from the same region that has produced handmade Persian carpets that are known because of their stunning quality, for over a thousand years.

He realizes more than anyone else the reality of the modern fashion industry: Elegant fashions custom cut to flatter figures are more relevant now than ever as women face increasingly unrealistic portrayals of beauty

and body image in all forms of media.

Perhaps creating exquisite high-quality clothing for the full figured woman is not the answer to addressing the distorted body images, but it is a reflection of the growing determination of women everywhere to be judged for who they are and what they have to offer as vibrant members of their community.

"When I look my best, it helps me feel and sing my best," Peoples said.

To view all the latest collections visit www.donnavinci.com.

Lil' Kim, Entourage Charged with Lying

Rapper Lil' Kim arrives at court in New York accompanied by her lawyer to turn herself in on charges she lied to authorities investigating a 2001 shooting at the hip hop radio station Hot97, WQHT. (AP photo)



(AP)—Lil' Kim, the Grammy-winning rapper known for her outrageously revealing outfits and sexually charged lyrics, was charged April 14 with lying to a New York grand jury about a 2001 shootout involving her entourage.

The 28-year-old star, whose real name is Kimberly Jones, turned herself in at federal court. Her attorney, Mel Sachs, called the charges "baseless."

Also charged in the case were

her manager, Damion Butler, bodyguard Suif Jackson and a friend, Monique Dopwell.

Authorities said the shooting apparently happened as Lil' Kim's entourage was leaving the hip-hop radio station WQHT, or Hot97, and the entourage of the rival rap group Capone-N-Noreaga was arriving. One man in the duo's entourage was wounded. The indictment said Jackson, Butler and at least one other person fired guns.

Neville Brothers at Chinook Winds

The Neville Brothers bring 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.

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.

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 CDs and perform on Fridays and Saturdays. For more information, call 503-286-4847.

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 "Lewis and Clark: Great Journey West" through June and "Jane Goodall's Wild Chimpanzees"

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

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 on Wednesdays at the Ohm. \$7 cover. 31 N.W. First Ave.

Jazz Mass Performance

Pacific University to present the world premiere of new arrangements of the only Jazz Mass commissioned by the Vatican at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 8 in McCready Hall in the Taylor-Meade Performing Arts Center on Pacific University campus. General admission is \$5, and \$3 for students and seniors. For more information call 503-352-2918.

Blazers Street Jam

Blazer Street Jam 3-on-3 basketball to benefit the Special Olympics Oregon is on July 16-18. For information, visit www.blazersstreetjam.com.

The School of Rock

The School of Rock presents Music Law Basics at the Mississippi Pizza Pub with attorney Peter Vaughan Shaver from 4-6 p.m. Sunday, April 25. Free admission. For more information, call 503-888-4480.

Musical Event

An Evening with John Farrell, a musician and writer, is from 7-8 p.m. May 15 at the Hollywood Theatre, 4122 N.E. Sandy Blvd. Ticket are \$4 for kids, \$7 for adult and \$12.50 for a family. For more information, visit www.hollywoodtheatre.org.

Toots & The Maytals

Toots & the Maytals will perform with special guests at 8 p.m. May 4 at the Roseland Theater. Ticket are \$20 in advance, or \$25 at the door. To charge by telephone, call (503) 224-8499 or (503) 992-8499 or to order online, visit www.ticketwest.com.

Le Femme Filmposium!

Le Femme Filmposium is from May 22-23 at Itisness, 3016 N.E. Killingsworth. For information, visit www.zonkerfilms.com.



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