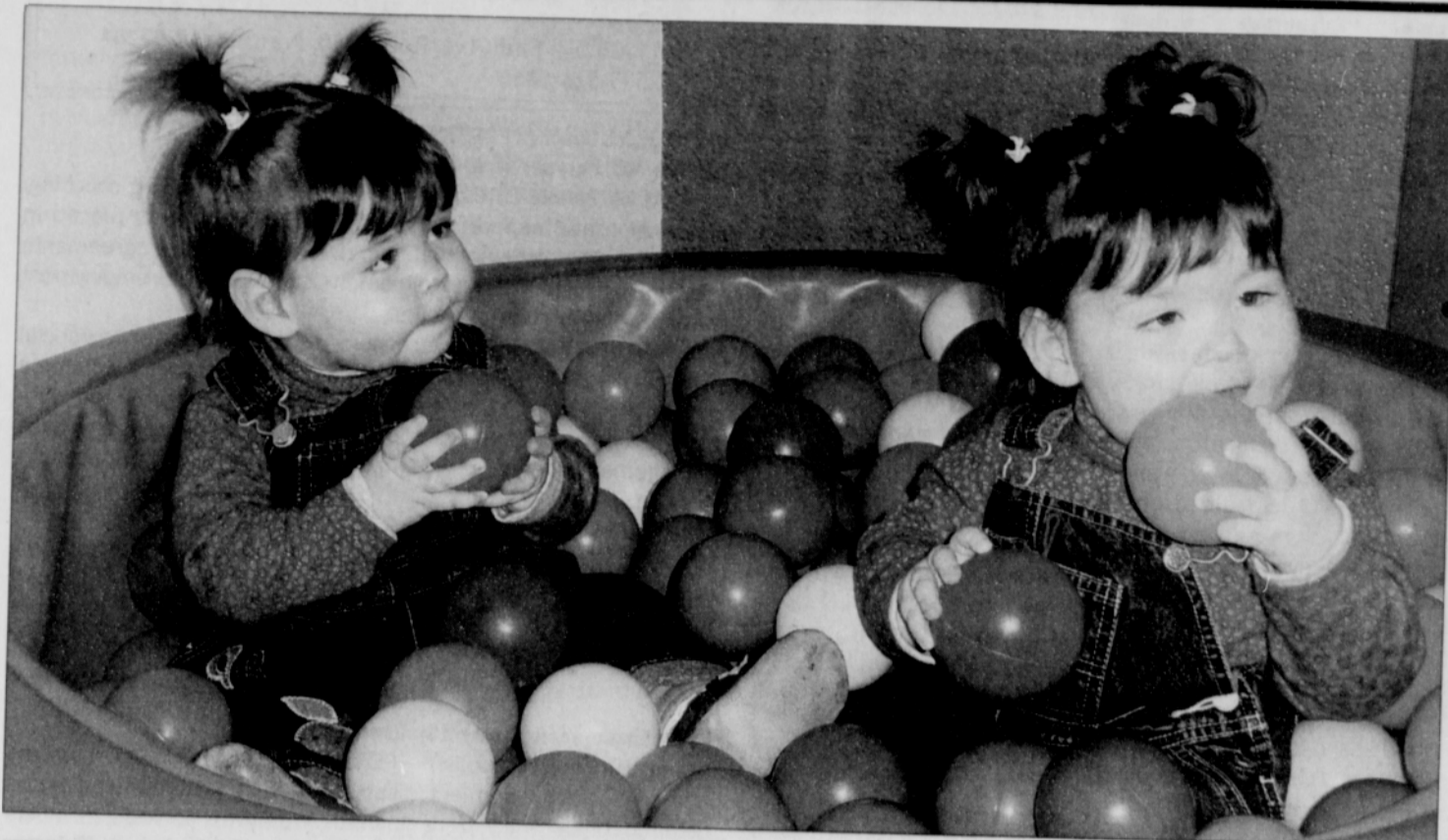


# FOCUS



## Science Playground

Oregon Museum of Science and Industry has made renovations to suit its tiniest guests. The Science Playground, an early childhood education hall, stimulates OMSI's littlest visitors with a "water wall," Sandland and a larger than life reading and drawing canopy. The new and expanded area was sparked by OMSI's membership statistics, showing fam-

ily memberships including children under six years old grew from 4,500 in 1997 to 13,200 in 2002. "With input from kids and parents, we've transformed an entire hall into a vibrant, multi-sensory environment, complete with amenities that are important to adults participating in the fun," said Ann Wieding, OMSI's lead early childhood educator.

One-year-old twins Rori and Tenley Hodge celebrate their first birthday at the grand opening of OMSI's Science Playground, a colorful and vibrant place for kids to play, explore, and engage in science.

PHOTO COURTESY OF OMSI

## Harlem Dance Theatre Come Back

### New support brings life to renowned program

(AP)—The world renowned but financially beleaguered Dance Theatre of Harlem in New York reopened its school last weekend after supporters poured in more than \$1.6 million.

The donations include \$500,000, contributed by an anonymous benefactor a source identified as Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

"The Dance Theatre of Harlem not only holds an important place in this community but also in the cultural landscape of our city," Bloomberg said at a news conference announcing the school's reopening.

The school had closed in October due to poor finances and lack of insurance; the dance company shut down in September. Bloomberg said the school's reopening was a step on the road to getting the company performing again.

"The last few weeks have been absolutely horrendous," said Arthur Mitchell, who co-founded the school in 1969. But "the outcry that came from across the world ...



New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg (far left) and Laveen Naidu look on as Arthur Mitchell directs students in a preview exercise at the Dance Theatre of Harlem School in New York. (AP photo)

it was just amazing. The response has been absolutely incredible."

At the news conference, Bloomberg declined to identify the anonymous donor but was not asked if it was him. A person close to the mayor said that Bloomberg had been the source of the money. This isn't the first time the mayor has stepped in to help arts organizations. In February 2003, according to reports, he made an anonymous

gift of \$10 million to the Carnegie Corporation, which was distributed among 162 cultural institutions.

The Dance Theatre of Harlem School provides training in classical ballet and the allied arts. The school is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Dance and is listed as an institution of higher learning by the state Department of Education.

## Tina Goes Swiss

(AP)—Tina Turner, who celebrated her 65th birthday last week, is enjoying her quiet life in Switzerland, but reportedly has no plans to retire from performing.

The rock diva completed her final world tour four years ago, but still gives live performances in Switzerland. Her latest was Saturday night, the day after her birthday, the Swiss weekly Schweizer Illustrierte said Tuesday.

Turner will star as the Indian goddess Shakti in Ismail Merchant's new film, "The Goddess," and she recently released a new CD. Her screen credits also include 1985's "Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome" with Mel Gibson. "Switzerland is wonderful,"



Tina Turner performs a song during the German television show "Wetten Dass...?" ("Bet It...?") in Leipzig, Germany, on Nov. 13. Turner, who just celebrated her 65th birthday, is enjoying her quiet life in Switzerland, but reportedly has no plans to retire from performing. (AP photo)

Turner told the magazine. "I love the people, the lakes, the mountains - simply everything."

She has lived in the exclusive

Zurich district of Kuesnacht since 1994. She also has a ski chalet in Klosters, the luxurious Swiss alpine resort.

## Author Puts Dramatic Works on Audio

One year ago she took theatergoers on a whirlwind trip through black history when Danny Glover was tapped to narrate her play "From the Porch." Now Miami-based author E. Claudette Freeman is once again taking lovers of literature on a journey.

Freeman uses her ear-enchancing voice to lure the literati into an array of fiction in "Drama Exposed," short stories and poetry that can leave you in deep thought or tears.

Freeman, the author of "Pieces and Me - A Collection of Life", does a masterful job of relaying varying themes and giving them independent life in "Piano Man." The story wonderfully uncovers a wife's pain and acceptance of her adulterous



E. Claudette Freeman

husband. In "His Skirt Wasn't What I Wanted To Be Beneath" she takes on a woman's discovery of a lover on the down low with someone in her office.

With a calming and warm tone, "Mama Blues" delicately examines how the possibility of losing a parent makes one question their own mortality. Still there's "A Look At Myself," in which a seemingly harmless trip to the mall leaves the listener seriously questioning who they are in the overall scheme of life.

Drama Exposed is available for those who prefer audio books or have been considering enjoying literature in a more portable fashion at [www.cdbaby.com/ecfreeman](http://www.cdbaby.com/ecfreeman)

## Actresses of Color Needed

A play about women of color surviving emotional and verbal abuse is holding open auditions for early next year's production of "Tangoing With Tornadoes."

The choreoplay, written by award-winning Oregonian columnist S. Renee Mitchell and directed by Brenda Phillips, is scheduled for production from Jan. 28-Feb. 5 at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center in north Portland.

Auditions will be 5:30-7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11 at Reflections Coffee, 446 NE Killingsworth. Women of color actresses, ages 25-65 are needed. Latina women are especially encouraged to apply. Come prepared with a monologue, either to read or recite from memory.

If you are interested and cannot make the open auditions, e-mail your name and phone number to [nappyrootspress@blackemail.com](mailto:nappyrootspress@blackemail.com).

## Your Care Our First Priority



Dr. Marcelitte Failla  
Chiropractic Physician

Call for an appointment!  
(503) 228-6140

We are located at  
1716 N.E. 42nd Ave., Portland, OR 97213  
(Between Broadway and Sandy Blvd.)



We specialize in:

- Automobile accident injuries
- Chronic headache and joint pain
- Workers Compensation injuries

# smokey Robinson

January 14 & 15 • 8pm

Tickets \$35 to \$55

Call 1-888-MAIN ACT or  
TicketsWest at 1-800-992-TIXX

It's Better at the Beach!  
1-888-CHINOOK  
[www.chinookwindscasino.com](http://www.chinookwindscasino.com)

**Chinook Winds**  
CASINO RESORT