

Black Beauty in Perspective

Three young ladies representing historically black colleges and universities, hosted a forum "Black Beauty in Perspective" at Hampton University in Virginia as part of Black History Month events.

Anita Blanton, Miss Hampton University; Laura Brown, Miss Howard University; and RaSheda Waddell, Miss Randolph County, N.C., all honored beauty queens, examined the myths and images of the black female.

"Beauty is subjective; it's something that's different to everyone," said Brown, a speech communications major.

"This seminar spoke specifically to black women," said Blanton. "We discussed the evolution of black females and how America looks at women today. We also addressed



Myths and images of the black female was the topic between RaSheda Waddell (from left), Anita Blanton and Laura Brown, all reigning beauty queens from across the country.

issues that come up in society from permed/relaxed hair versus natural hair, make-up versus no make-up and more.

The women also discussed the role the media plays on the por-

trayal of the black female, video images, magazine advertisements and the images of today's models.

The idea for the forum stemmed from Dr. Valerie Sweeney Prince's, assistant professor of English at

Hampton University, "Trying to Find Mama in a White Man's World." Prince recently released her book "Burnin' Down the House: Home in African American Literature.

Homowo Festival Plans Change African arts celebration turns to storytelling

After 15 years of thunderous drumming and powerful rhythms, the Homowo Festival of African Arts has elected to embrace a quieter tradition during this summer's annual celebration.

Honoring one of the most ancient rituals in African culture, Homowo African Arts will present Homowo African Storytelling, a daylong celebration of African folk stories told around the glowing embers of a fire, Aug. 20 from 2 to 8 p.m. at Jamison Square, 810 NW 11th Ave. in the Pearl District.

The tradition of storytelling is one of the most ancient in African culture. Rich with stories, songs, poems, and customs, entire cultures have been carried down through the



Obo Addy

centuries by the spoken word.

The Homowo African Storytelling event will replace the long-standing Homowo Festival, a traditional Ghanaian harvest festival founded by master Ghanaian drummer Obo Addy in 1990. For years, the Homowo Festival has brought to Portland an authentic ethnic celebration, blending African music, dance, pageantry, crafts, food and demonstrations.

"The Homowo Festival was a labor of love," explained Addy. "It has always been important to me to share the heritage of the original Ghanaian festival with the Portland community to create a welcoming, vibrant place for people of diverse international origins. The Homowo Festival was successful in its mis-

sion, but it is time for a change in direction. We're excited to use the time-honored method of storytelling to share the rich cultural traditions of Africa."

The departure of the Homowo Festival also allows Addy more time to focus on his life's work as a renowned master drummer and composer. He is currently working on larger symphonic pieces, and will debut his first full orchestral symphony, "Cries Of Our Mothers," Aug. 12 at the Portland Festival Symphony in Washington Park.

Homowo African Arts and Cultures is located at 4839 N.E. Martin Luther King Blvd, Ste 209. For more information, call 503-288-3025 or visit www.homowo.org.

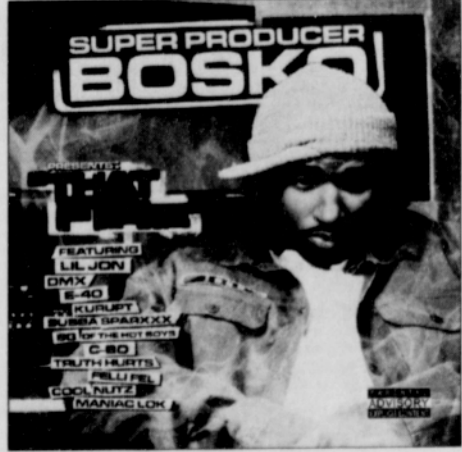
Busdriver - Hip hop acts Busdriver, 2 Mex, Sand People, Intellectually Sound and Santotzin will perform on March 4 at Conan's at 3862 S.E. Hawthorne. For more information, call 503-234-7474.

Obo Addy - Obo Addy will perform his new work "Pulling at the Roots of My Heritage," and join the dance troupe Okropong on Saturday, March 5, at Lewis & Clark College at 0615 S.W. Palatine Hill Rd. The performance is in Agnes Flanagan Chapel. Tickets are \$15 general admission, \$10 for senior citizens and non Lewis & Clark students, and \$5 for the Lewis & Clark community. For more information, call 503-768-7216.

International Women's Day - Portland's International Women's Day will celebrate its 30th anniversary on Sunday, March 6 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Portland State University's Smith Center Ballroom with workshops, films, discussions, vendors, art, health and more. Sliding scale donation is \$5 to \$15, no one will be turned away. For more information, visit www.pivd.org.

The Black Notes - Hip hop, jazz and soul acts The Black Notes, DJ Sneakers, Mic Crenshaw and Ms. Suad will perform on March 6 at The Blue Monk on 3341 S.E. Belmont. For more information, call 503-595-0575.

Benefit for Impact - McMenamins Friends and Family Night at the Barley Mill Pub will benefit Portland Impact's Youth Mentoring to Achieve Potential Program, which 50 percent of all sales going toward the organization, on Monday, March 7 from 5 p.m. to closing. The Barley Mill Pub is located at 1629 S.E. Hawthorne Blvd.



Bosko CD Release - Jus Family Productions presents Bosko in an album release party featuring Cool Nutz, Maniac Lok, Siren's Echo and DJ Chill on March 11 at Berbat's Pan. Tickets are \$10 advance, \$15 day of show.

Sidewayz Speech CD Release - Sidewayz Speech will perform at a CD release show at Conan's on March 11.

Rebirth Brass Band - New Orleans' Rebirth Brass Band will perform on March 12 at 9 p.m. in Lola's Room at the Crystal Ball Room. Tickets are \$12 advance, \$15 day of show.

KRS-One - KRS-One will perform on March 12 at Berbat's Pan. Tickets are \$15 advance, \$18 day of show.

My Fair Lady - Portland Center Stage presents "My Fair Lady" through March 12. Evening performances take place at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday and Sunday and at 8 p.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Thursday, Saturday and Sunday matinee dates are also available. Tickets are \$15 ages 30 and under, \$20 to \$55 general. For more information, call 503-274-6588 or visit www.pcs.org.

GUIDE

Red Jerusalem - Mt. Hood Community College presents the play "Red Jerusalem," by Native American film actor and playwright Jonothon Gill, at noon on March 3 and 4. The 40-minute performance is free and open to the public. For more information, call 503-491-7213.

A Winter's Tale - The Shakespearian play "A Winter's Tale" will be performed at Portland Community College's Sylvania Campus Performing Arts Center at 7:30 p.m. from March 3 to 5 and March 11 and 12. There is a Sunday matinee on March 13 at 2 p.m., which will be interpreted for the hearing impaired. Tickets are \$7 general, \$5 students, seniors, PCC staff and children. For more information, call 503-977-4949.

Beijing Modern Dance - White Bird presents the Portland debut of one of China's most exciting dance companies, Beijing Modern Dance Company, on Wednesday, March 9 at 7:30 p.m. at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. Tickets for the event range from \$19 to \$43, with

discounts for college students, seniors and groups. For more information, call 503-245-1600 ext. 201 or visit www.whitebird.org.

Multicultural Film Festival Series - Jefferson High School features a free film showing once a month from 6 to 8:30 p.m. in room C12. On March 7, "European Perspectives" will be featured. For more information call 503-916-5180.

Oregon Ballet Theatre - The Oregon Ballet Theatre presents "Body, Mind, Spirit" at the Keller Auditorium on March 5, 11, 12 at 7:30 p.m. and March 6 at 2 p.m. Tickets can be purchased by calling 503-222-5538 or by visiting 818 SE 6th Avenue between Belmont and Morrison.



"My Fair Lady" by Portland Center Stage

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