

FOCUS

Portland's Jazz History Shared

Author, historian introduces 'Jumptown'

Combining music, politics, and social history, the new book "Jumptown: The Golden Years of Portland Jazz, 1942-1957" sheds light on a time and place overlooked by histories of Portland and jazz.

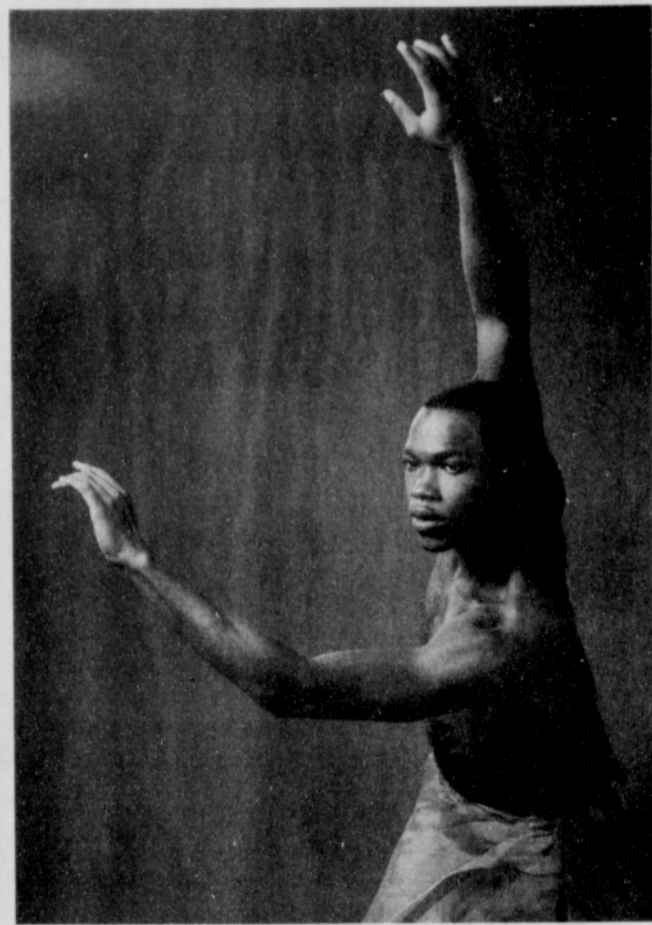
In mid-twentieth century Portland, a thriving African-American neighborhood—that would soon be bulldozed for urban renewal—spawned a jazz heyday rarely rivaled on the West Coast.

Such luminaries as Duke Ellington, Charlie Parker, Oscar Peterson, and Dave Brubeck headlined Portland clubs and traded chops with the up-and-coming local talent.

Jumptown author and jazz historian Bob Dietsche will introduce and sign copies of his book at Powell's City of Books, 1005 W. Burnside on Tuesday, Dec. 6 at 7:30 p.m., at St. Johns Booksellers, 8622 N. Lombard, on Thursday, Dec. 8 at 7:30 p.m. and at Music Millennium NW, 801 N.W. 23rd, on Saturday, Dec. 10 at 3 p.m.

Dietsche has taught courses in jazz history at Oregon colleges and universities and was the longtime host of "Jazzville" on Oregon Public Broadcasting radio. He is the founder and former owner of Django Records, Portland's legendary used-record store.

Three Nights of Extraordinary Dance



Lonzo King's Lines Ballet, a multi-ethnic dance company, brings its thrilling technique and angular dynamism to Portland State University's Lincoln Hall on Thursday, Dec. 8 through Saturday, Dec. 10.

Lonzo King's Lines Ballet is celebrating 23 years of extraordinary dance making with three nights of performances in the intimacy of Lincoln Hall on the Portland State University Campus.

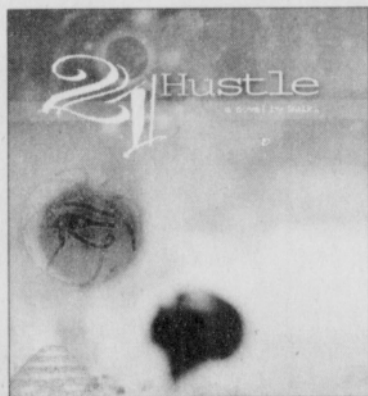
The White Bird sponsored performances will be held at 8 p.m. each night from Thursday, Dec. 8 through Saturday, Dec. 10.

King last brought his Lines Ballet to Portland in 2001 with the unforgettable "People of the Forest," collaboration with the Ba-Aka musicians from Africa. The latest work from this multi-ethnic company of strikingly beautiful dancers is a thrilling program displaying his unique fusion of classical ballet technique and the angular dynamism of contemporary dance, set to a wide range of music, from blues and jazz to classical and contemporary compositions.

Novel Breaks Psychological Barriers

A near-great hoop dreamer, hip-hop emcee and readaholic attempting to make sense out of life's experiences with her debut novel, "21 Hustle."

Author Melki presents a hilarious and exciting journey into the world of possibilities that speculate what black people may face at the turn of the next century. The book is an adven-



ture story about hoops and the 'hood, hip-hop and hypocrisy. It's also about the complex relationship between fears and dreams.

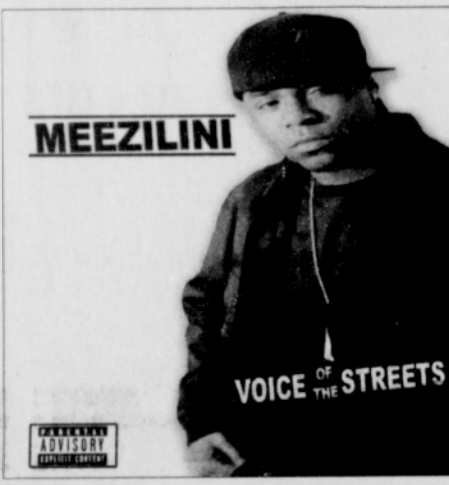
The book dives headfirst into the questions of life and the stress of living and pulls no punches concerning the possibilities for the planet both good and bad.

Portland Artist Mixes First CD

The new CD "Voice Of The Streets" by Meezilini is creating a buzz that harkens back to another northwest recording artist, Sir Mix a Lot with his hit single "Baby Got Back."

Mark Miles of Portland, also known as Meezilini, is 2Real Record's diamond in the ruff with his inspiration lyrical technique.

His "Voice Of Streets" is both a CD and DVD packaged together, a scripture of lessons learned from the urban life growing up and surviving the inner



city of Portland. His first singles from the collection, "We Want Meezi" and "Voice of the Streets," are songs that capture audiences everywhere he performs.

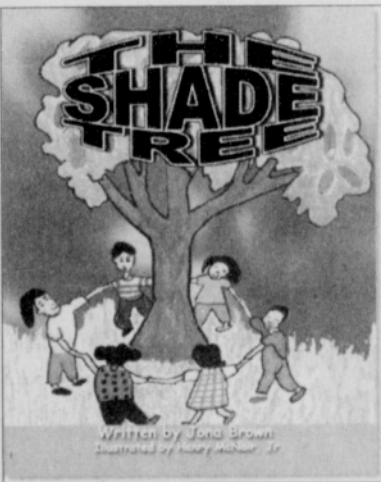
Meezilini's debut album also touches on subjects such as social, political, economical and environmental issues. You can visit www.2realrecords.net to listen to "We Want Meezi" or "Voice of the Streets."

Celebrating Diverse Beautiful Skin

Jona Brown's "The Shade Tree" is not only entertaining, but it is also a wonderful tool to help children feel good about themselves and embrace all people of color.

The book that can lead your children to discover the essence of who they are.

During children's early years, they often get bombarded with outside influences that seek to set them an image of who they are, that is contrary to the values most of us would like to instill



Jona Brown

as parents, Brown said.

"Systematically and relentlessly, our children of color are indoctrinated that the color of the face staring back at them in the mirror is associated with all things bad. Not only must we remove the negative imagery, but also we must then replace the negative with the positive," she said.

Brown is from Texas and served in the armed forces during Desert Storm. She is a sister, wife mother and grandmother.

1/8 P SP3 SP4 PORTLAND OBSERVER AD RUNS 11/23 & 11/30

Music

MAKES THE SEASON BRIGHT

Gospel Christmas

Fri., Dec. 9 at 7:30 p.m. • Sat., Dec. 10 at 7:30 p.m.
Sun., Dec 11 at 7:30 p.m.

Charles Floyd, conductor
Micah Stampley, vocalist
Northwest Community Gospel Chorus

Lift holiday spirits high with the lively, soulful sounds of Christmas.

TICKETS \$23-73

Yuletide Celebration

Sat., Dec. 17 at 8 p.m. • Sun., Dec. 18 at 3 p.m. & 8 p.m.
Mon., Dec. 19 at 8 p.m.

Charles Prince, conductor **Margie Boulé**, hostess

The whole family will love this all-new production, complete with beautiful traditional music, dazzling costumes, virtuoso soloists and a retelling of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol."

TICKETS \$23-82

Sunday Performances: 1/2 price for kids 18 and under with families in some seating areas.

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Ticket office: Mon. - Sat., 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
923 SW WASHINGTON, PORTLAND

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