

# FOCUS

## Jackson Stays Put in Bahrain



Michael Jackson

The entrance to Michael Jackson's sprawling Neverland Ranch estate. (AP photo)



### Closes ranch house in California

(AP) - Michael Jackson has closed the house on his Neverland Ranch in Los Olivos, Calif. and laid off some of the employees there but has not completely shuttered the sprawling estate, the pop star's spokesman said.

"It is public knowledge that Mr. Jackson currently resides in the Middle Eastern country of Bahrain," Jackson spokeswoman Raymone K. Bain said late Thursday in a state-

ment. "He therefore decided to close his house and reduce his work force."

The action came a day after state labor officials announced that Jackson had agreed to pay his Neverland Ranch employees hundreds of thousands of dollars in back wages, avoiding a lawsuit by the California Department of Industrial Relations.

Employees who received their back pay Thursday were told they were being laid off because Jackson had shut down the ranch, the syndicated television news magazine "Entertainment Tonight" reported.

But Bain indicated the ranch was still operating, at least on a limited basis.

California labor officials issued a stop-work order for the ranch last week after learning that workers compensation insurance for the 2,600 acre estate's employees had been allowed to lapse.

On a back pay issue, authorities told Jackson's representatives they had received complaints from at least 30 workers who had not been paid since Dec. 19 and were owed \$306,000 in back wages. Jackson also was told he would have to pay about \$100,000 in penalties.

## Denzel and Spike Join Forces Again

### Suspense Thriller 'Inside Man' Opens Friday

Academy Award-winner Denzel Washington is a tough cop who matches wits with a clever calculating bank robber, Clive Owen, in the tense hostage drama "Inside Man" opening Friday at theaters nationwide.

It all starts out simply enough: four people dressed in painters' outfits march into the busy lobby of Manhattan Trust, a cornerstone Wall Street branch of a worldwide financial institution. Within seconds, the costumed robbers place the bank under a

surgically planned siege, and the 50 patrons and staff become unwitting pawns in an airtight heist.

As the dangerous cat and mouse game unfolds, a wild card emerges: Jodie Foster acts as sophisticated power broker with a hidden agenda, injecting even more instability into an already volatile climate.

Directed by Spike Lee, written by Russell Gewirtz and produced by Academy Award winner Brian Grazer, Inside Man marks the fourth collaboration between Washington and Lee, beginning with Mo' Better Blues (1990) and followed by Malcolm X (1992) and He Got Game (1998). According to Lee, Inside Man is the highest budgeted film of his career. Lee is celebrating 20 years as a filmmaker.



Denzel Washington is a tough cop in the suspense thriller 'Inside Man' opening Friday in area theaters.

## GUIDE

**Bugsy Malone Jr.** -- A young mob of prohibition-era gangsters recreate the 1920 film classic at the Northwest Children's Theater. Performances are Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. through April 18 at the NW Neighborhood Cultural Center, 1819 N.W. Everett St. Special Spring Break matinees March 28-31 at 2 p.m. For tickets call 503-222-4480 or visit [www.nwcts.org](http://www.nwcts.org).



Bugsy Malone Jr.



Ardiente Paciencia

**Ardiente Paciencia (Burning Patience)** -- The all-Spanish language Bellas Artes Production comes to the Milagro Theatre, 525 SE Stark St. Opening night is Friday, April 7, and continues through April 29, on Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. and Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. English supertitles at Thursday and Sunday performances. Tickets are \$13 to \$18 and can be purchased at the box office, 503-236-7253 or [www.milagro.org](http://www.milagro.org).

**Hip Chicks Benefit** -- A benefit for In Other Words and Rock Power for Girls features three bands -- Cocks in the Henhouse, Excuse Me Sir and Little Sue, plus fire dancing and puppets at Hip Chicks, 4510 S.E. 23rd Ave. All ages welcome; tickets are \$5 to \$50 on a sliding scale and available at 503-232-6003 or [teresa@rockandread.org](mailto:teresa@rockandread.org).

**Faith and Coming Out** -- The Portland Gay Men's Chorus presents "Metamorphosis," an expansive choral and orchestral song cycle, about the coming out process for those in communities of faith. Performances are Saturday, March 25 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, March 26 at 2 p.m., at Reed College's Kaul Auditorium. Tickets are \$15 to \$25 at the box office. For more information, call 503-226-2588.

**Crowns** -- A play exploring the relationship between black women and the hats they wear continues through April 9 at Portland Center for the Performing Arts Newmark Theatre, 1111 S.W. Broadway. Tickets are \$15 to \$56, and can be purchased at the box office or by calling 503-274-6588.



The play 'Crowns'

**Old Church Jazz Sundays** -- The Old Church at Southwest 11th Ave and Clay hosts a Sunday Jazz concert, March 26 at 4 p.m. featuring Bebop and Destruction with Marc Fendel. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$12 for students, available at TicketsWest and the door. For more information, call 503-222-2031.

**Live music every night** -- Kick off your week with live jazz every Sunday at 9 p.m. at The Blue Monk (3341 SE Belmont). Participate in a mixed-media open mic night each Monday at the Back to Back Cafe (614 East Burnside). The Thorn City Improv, featuring members of Old Dominion, Quivah, The Chosen and The Black Notes, perform at Conan's (3862 S.E. Hawthorne) every Tuesday at 10 p.m. Celebrate Hump Day at The Red Sea (381 S.W. 3rd Ave) after work on Wednesdays, from 5 to 9 p.m. Inch toward the weekend at the Candlelight Room (2032 SW 5th Ave) with the Black Notes, performing each Thursday. Celebrate Friday with Mel Brown, who plays jazz at Salty's on the Columbia every Friday and Saturday, and Jimmy Mak's on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Round off your week with live Reggae on Fridays and Saturdays at Montego Bay, (1239 S.W. Jefferson).

**Innovation Station** -- Kids will have a ball at OMSI's new Innovation Station by exploring the human side of technology. For more information, visit [www.omsiedu](http://www.omsiedu).

**On the Radio** -- Groove to soul and hip-hop with Kevin Berry from 7 to 9 p.m. Mondays at 90.7 FM/KBOO. Check out the Community Potpourri talk show from 7 to 8 a.m. Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays at 1480 AM/KBMS. Count your blessings with Melodies from Heaven from 6 to 10 p.m. Mondays through Fridays at 1290 AM/KKSL. Tune in to African American Health Radio Wednesday nights on 1290 AM/KKSL.



Murders of 1940

**Murder In Showbiz** -- "Musical Comedy Murders of 1940" pokes fun at Hollywood thrillers during the genre's heyday in the 1930s and 1940s. The mix up of murder, madness and mayhem is now playing through April 9, on Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. at the Lakewood Center for the Arts, 368 State St. in Lake Oswego. Tickets are \$24 for adults and \$22 for students and seniors, available at the Lakewood Theatre box office at 503-635-3901 or [www.lakewood-center.org](http://www.lakewood-center.org).

**Call to Artists** -- Local artists are encouraged to show off their talent by becoming a Portland Open Studios Artist. Each year, 96 artists are chosen from the metro area to open their studios and become part of an exciting regional art event. Visit [portlandopenstudios.com](http://portlandopenstudios.com) for more information.

**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.

**Belly Dance Classes** -- Caravan Studios offers classes in belly dance, African dance and more. Visit [www.gypsycaravan.us](http://www.gypsycaravan.us).

**Time to Jam** -- Jam Night, Portland's ever-popular comedy and variety show is at Christian Performing Arts Center, 8131 N. Denver Ave. Shows continue every Friday night starting at 9 p.m. with dinner by Mondemaj Catering next door to the show at 6:30 and 7:30 p.m.

**Multicultural Film Festival** -- Jefferson High School hosts a free multicultural film festival each first Monday of the month through May from 6 to 8:30 p.m. For more information, call J. Doncan at 503-916-5180.

**Sesame Street Interaction** -- The Portland Children's Museum presents "Can You Tell Me How to Get To Sesame Street," using television's chroma-key technology so local kids can see themselves on TV alongside their favorite Muppet characters. For information, call 503-223-6500 or visit [www.portlandchildrensmuseum.org](http://www.portlandchildrensmuseum.org).

**Hip-hop Dance Classes** -- Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation is hosting family friendly hip-hop dance classes for ages 5 to 18. Various lessons teach rhythm, technique, coordination, agility, combinations and teamwork through urban dance moves. For more information, call 360-696-8236.

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