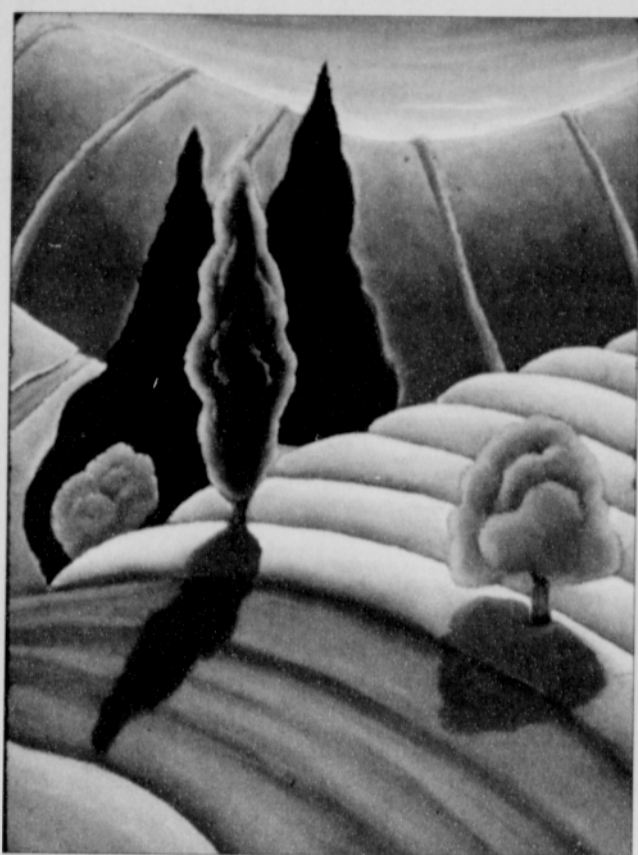


# FOCUS



Jane Aukshunas' oil pastel 'purple tree' is one of the many items to be auctioned at the Buckman Art Show.



A hand painted ceramic by Baba Wague Diakite will sell to the highest bidder benefiting the Buckman Arts Magnet Elementary School.

## Buckman Art Show to Help Kids

### Top Northwest artists sell wares

The 16<sup>th</sup> annual Buckman Art Show and Sale returns to Buckman Elementary School, 320 S.E. 16th Ave., on Friday, April 21 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday, April 22 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

More than 100 artists from around the Pacific Northwest will proudly sell their wares to benefit the school's arts magnet program.

Equal parts sophisticated art show, colorful crafts fair, and lively family event, the extravaganza features paintings, ceramics, sculp-

tures, photography, prints, collages, mosaics, fabric arts, fashion accessories and jewelry.

Among the top artists featured are Portland ceramic artist Baba Wagué Diakité, jewelry artists Rebecca Bashara and Scott Macdonald, painter "Tripper" Dungan, Jen Neitzel of DIY Lounge, and the crafts collective Super Crafty.

Friday evening's opening celebration will include live music by respected jazz artists Ed Bennett and Tony Pacini and a silent auction. Music and dance performances by a wide range of entertainment groups will liven

things up on Saturday, including the Middle Eastern group the Brothers of the Baladi, and accordionist Courtney Von Drehle of Portland's eclectic ensemble 3 Leg Torso.

A supervised hands-on children's art area for kids age 3 and up will give young artists the chance to create their own masterpieces while their parents shop for treasures. Gourmet refreshments will be offered both days. Southeast Hawthorne's new Iorio restaurant will provide mouth-watering Italian food on Friday night, and Salvador Molly's will spice things up on Saturday.

"The Art Show & Sell is one of our primary fundraisers, and the income from the event goes a long way toward ensuring Buckman's stability. But more than that, it's a community-building endeavor. It's our chance to share our artistic spirit with the city of Portland," said Helen Nolen, principal of Buckman.

Tickets are \$5 on Friday with no charge for children age 4 and under. On Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. tickets are \$3 for adults age 12 and over; \$1 for children ages 5 to 11; and no charge for children age 4 and under. From 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, admission is free.



## Celebrated Mark Morris Dancers

Whitebird presents the eagerly awaited return of the Mark Morris Dance Group, celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a 7:30 p.m. performance Wednesday, April 19 at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. The group is comprised of 18 superb dancers noted for creating a unique fusion of movement and melody. The Portland program will feature a revival of the striking solo Rondo (1994), set to Mozart's Rondo in A Minor, in honor of Portland's Month of Mozart.

## Racism Stirs Performance

Firehouse theater hosts play

Shylock is an award-winning play about a Jewish actor who finds himself condemned by his own community for his portrayal of Shakespeare's notorious Jew.

Critics call the play now showing through Saturday at 8 p.m. at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center in north Portland controversial, witty, provocative and necessary. It is written by Mark Leiren-Young and produced by and featuring award winning

Shakespearean actor William B. Eissler in a solo performance.

Eissler portrays Jon Davies, an actor playing the role of Shylock in a production of The Merchant of Venice.

The festival presenting the show has cancelled the remainder of the production due to controversy over Davies' portrayal of the Jewish moneylender. He has chosen not to depict Shylock from a post-modern, post-Holocaust, politically correct perspective, but in terms that would have been accurate in



Shakespeare's day: as a villain.

To further complicate matters, Davies himself is Jewish, and has been condemned in public for being a traitor to his race, a "self-hating Jew."

Davies has come out after the final performance to answer the critics and protesters who seem to be demanding a pound of his flesh. In answering the attacks, he explores political correctness, racism, the responsibilities of both actors and audience and explores whether it acceptable to theatrically depict anti-Semitism.

### Queens of Africa

A Queens of Africa silent auction and benefit concert featuring Zimbabwean performing artist Loveness Wesa will be held Thursday at 6 p.m. at the Wonder Ballroom, 128 N.E. Russell St.

A talented singer, dancer and teacher, Loveness was first exposed to the traditional music and dance of her country as a small child watching her mother, aunt and grandmother who were Sangomas - the traditional spirit mediums who use song and dance to channel spirits.

Proceeds from the benefit will support the Kgotso ("Peace") African Dance Theatre, a vehicle Wesa founded in 1998 to bring works by women artists to Zimbabwe's stage. Currently, she is working to bring five female performing artists (all single moms) to the United States.

Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors/students, \$5 for kids, free for children under 5. For information, call 503-223-4464 or visit <http://www.interculturalorganizing.org>

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