

# FOCUS

## Mastery of Form and Style

Neela Ramanujam, a 15-year-old student from Beaverton who has taken five years of intensive study in Indian dance, will perform a solo two hour performance, with a live Indian orchestra at the Performing Arts Center at the Sylvania Campus of Portland Community College in southwest Portland on Saturday, Sept. 9 at 4 p.m. Reservations are required by emailing [neela.rsvp@yahoo.com](mailto:neela.rsvp@yahoo.com)



## Singer-Songwriter Takes Stage

**On N MISSISSIPPI AV Avenue**

Australian guitarist-singer-songwriter Jeff Lang will take the stage at Mississippi Studios, 3939 N. Mississippi, on Wednesday, Sept. 13 at 8 p.m. Lang will perform from his 2006 debut CD "Prepare Me Well" a stirring collection of tales well told - by an artist who blurs the lines between blues, folk and rock, between story and song. Steeped in the traditions of such di-



verse figures as Bob Dylan, Richard Thompson, Jimi Hendrix, Tom Waits and Ry Cooder - yet always with an eye on the next level of innovation - Lang falls into a category that is no category at all. An emotionally charged alchemy of equal parts blues-drenched emotion, folk storytelling, world-music inflections and roots-rock energy, his sound could be described as "disturbed folk," but in truth it speaks for itself far better than any label can. Admission is \$12. For more information or tickets call 503-288-3895.

Guitarist Jeff Lang will perform Wednesday, Sept. 13 at Mississippi Studios.

## Comedian on Track for 'Rush Hour 3'

### Stays sharp with standup

(AP) -- After a five-year absence from movie screens, Chris Tucker is about to begin shooting "Rush Hour 3" with Jackie Chan.

But before the cameras roll, the 34-year-old motor-mouthed comedian has just a couple of weeks left of his 21-city standup tour. "Standup gets me warmed up for the movie," Tucker said Friday. "It keeps you sharp, and also current on what's going on."

In his new act, Tucker riffs on politics and pop culture, joking about recent rumors that his pay-



Chris Tucker

day for "Rush Hour 3" will be \$25 million.

He also tells audiences that he's never done a sequel to his 1995 breakout film, "Friday," because Ice Cube tried to pay him with CDs rather than cash.

Like many comedians, Tucker takes aim at President Bush and violence in the Middle East. But his jokes don't rely on profanity

to garner a laugh.

"I don't cuss in my personal life," said the soft-spoken Tucker. "On stage, I do cuss every now and then. But it's not like it's overshadowing my act. ... I don't want the cussing to get in the way of what I'm saying."

It's a decision, the actor said, that's based on concern for young fans. "I'm a role model and I watch what I do. I don't want to misguide any young people."

The comic has spent much of the past five years working with children through his charitable foundation, which raises awareness about education issues. He has recently been focusing on poverty and the HIV epidemic in Africa, after accompanying Bono

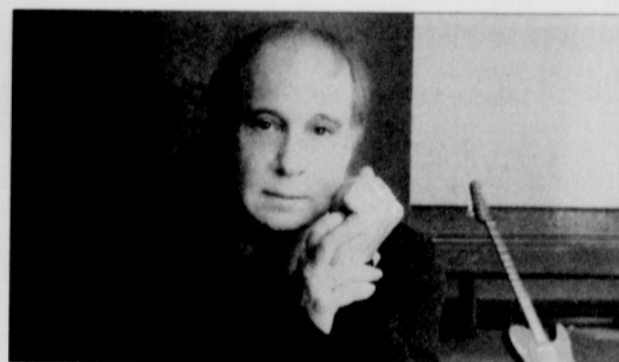
and former President Clinton to Africa earlier this year.

When Tucker's tour wraps up in Atlanta on Sept. 17, he'll fly to Paris, where shooting on "Rush Hour 3" starts Sept. 25.

Tucker said he's excited about working in France with Chan and director Brett Ratner after traveling to China for the series' last installment.

"We were in Hong Kong for two months. That was definitely culture shock for me," Tucker said.

He said the movie, scheduled for release next summer, will offer fans of the franchise plenty of outrageous moments. "People love the out-takes," he said. "This one's gonna be one long out-take."



## Portland Date with Paul Simon

Paul Simon, one of the most popular singers and songwriters of the Rock era will perform at the Rose Garden, Saturday, Sept. 30 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are on sale at the Rose Quarter Box Office and all participating Safeway outlets.

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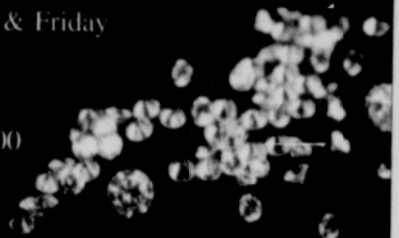
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Saturday, September 23, 2006  
Billy Webb Elk's Lodge  
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Donation: \$15.00 per person  
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