

# FOCUS

## Bringing 'Sassy' to the Symphony



### Pointer Sisters set to perform three shows

For the first time in 12 years, The Pointer Sisters will be performing onstage in Portland. The female trio of Ruth, Inetta and Issa Pointer will perform alongside the Oregon Symphony many of the pop hits that made them famous, including "I'm So Excited," "Slow Hand" and "Neutron Dance."

Their pop hits "Slow Hand" and "Jump For My Love" are instantly recognizable, and they are the first black female group to perform at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, and one of the first acts to be played in

heavy rotation on MTV.

The group enjoyed early success in the '70s, but it was their 1983 album Break Out that went triple-platinum and earned the group two Grammy Awards and two American Music Awards. The single "Neutron Dance" was featured in Beverly Hills Cop starring Eddie Murphy.

The program will be led by Guest Conductor Charles Floyd, who also conducted last season's Symphony performance with Chris Botti.

Prior to the performance by The Pointer Sisters, the Symphony will also be performing several themes from television and cinema, including The Simpsons, Star Wars and Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone.

Performances are scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 7 at 7:30 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 8 at 3 p.m. and Monday, Oct. 9 at 7:30 p.m. at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall.

Tickets are \$29 to \$80 and may be purchased at the Oregon Symphony Ticket Office, located at 923 S.W. Washington. Tickets may also be purchased anytime online at [www.orsymphony.org](http://www.orsymphony.org) or charged by phone at 503-228-1353.

The Pointer Sisters will bring their pop hits to the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall on Saturday to perform with the Oregon Symphony.



Forest Whitaker, star of 'The Last King of Scotland' arrives at a private screening of the film in New York.

### Whitaker Stars in 'The Last King of Scotland'

#### Plays Idi Amin in Oscar-worthy performance

(AP) -- We've seen Forest Whitaker do this on one of the best shows on television, "The Shield."

As an internal affairs lieutenant whose methods are just as unorthodox as those of the rogue detective squad he's investigating, Whitaker has been mesmerizing in his volatility. He can sidle on up to you as the sweetest, gentlest giant one minute, then fly into a vicious rage the next. He makes both sides of this complicated figure feel frighteningly real.

And so on the big screen, his emotional depth and range are even more stunning in one of the year's best movies, "The Last King of Scotland."

This is not hyperbole. This is how good Whitaker is: He actually makes you feel sorry for Idi Amin.

The suggestion already has been duly banded about so we may as well acknowledge it here, as well: His performance is nothing short of Oscar-worthy.

Under the direction of Kevin Macdonald ("Touching the Void"), making his feature debut, Whitaker gets plenty of room to demonstrate the vastly contradictory facets of the larger-than-life Ugandan dictator.

Macdonald uses many of the same technical tactics from his documentary background, making you

feel as if you are there, showing you how easy it might have been to be seduced by this charismatic character who also happened to be a cold-blooded killer.

Functioning as our guide through this shadowy world is James McAvoy, starring as Nick Garrigan, a young Scottish doctor who becomes Amin's personal physician, then his captive adviser.

Life at the palace is good, a non-stop orgy of women and drink, a celebration of wretched excess with Amin as its charming, generous host.

The proximity to power becomes intoxicating, but Nick also gets close enough to Amin to see his weaknesses, his insecurities, his paranoia — and at times become the victim of them. The man who ultimately would be responsible for the deaths of 300,000 Ugandans in the 1970s often comes off as nothing more than an overgrown child, throwing a tantrum when he doesn't get what he wants.

Whitaker vividly shows us this element of Amin's personality, as well, as he trembles and sweats in his ornate bedroom, his eyes bulging with fear. It's a far cry from the man who's arrogant enough to claim he knows exactly when he's going to die, and how.

"The Last King of Scotland," a Fox Searchlight Pictures release, is rated R for some strong violence and gruesome images, sexual content and language. Running time: 121 minutes. Three and a half stars out of four.

### Combs Expects Twin Girls

(AP) -- Expectant father Sean "Diddy" Combs is often depicted as a ladies' man. His latest baby news, then, should come as no surprise.

"I'm having twin girls," the 36-year-old hip-hop mogul says in Vibe magazine's November issue, on newsstands Oct. 17.

Combs broke the news earlier this month that his longtime girlfriend, 35-year-old model,

Kim Porter, is expecting twins. They have an 8-year-old son, Christian, and Combs has a 12-year-old son, Justin, from a previous relationship.

"People say, to a so-called ladies' man or whatever, that when you have girls it changes you," Combs tells Vibe. "So I was like, 'What's God trying to tell me by giving me two girls? When I pray every morning, I thank God for showing me what

he showed me while I still have a chance to enjoy myself."

Combs says he "would love to get married" but isn't ready yet.

"I didn't grow up around a married family, so it's taking me a bit longer," he says. "A lot of guys out there get married, and they still do their own thing. I don't want to get married and fail."

His new album, "Press Play," is slated for release Oct. 17.



Sean "Diddy" Combs

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