

FOCUS

Theater Stages Nazi Propagandist

Explores filmmaker's divisive legacy

Insight Out Theatre Collective presents "Leni," the story of the propagandist German filmmaker funded by the Nazi Party, continuing Thursdays through Saturdays at 8:30 p.m., through Nov. 11 at The Academy Theater, 7818 S.E. Stark St.

Tickets are \$15 and available at insightouttheatre.org or by calling 503-493-8070. Patrons are encouraged to arrive early to catch a unique multimedia segment beginning 20 minutes prior to the play. Guided Talk Backs will be held every night following the performance.

"Leni" is about the German filmmaker Leni Riefenstahl, whose two most famous films, "Triumph of the Will" and "Olympia", were funded by the Nazi Party. Her legacy is extremely divisive. She was both cinematic genius and brilliant propagandist. Although Riefenstahl was admired by such greats as Walt Disney, Charlie Chaplin and Andy Warhol, her achievements have been clouded by the fact that she



operated within the context of Nazi Germany.

"Triumph of the Will" is considered the most effective piece of propaganda ever made and is currently under lock and key in Germany. Riefenstahl claimed until her death in 2003 that her obsession with creating perfect art left her blind to the fascist propaganda machine that used her film to hypnotize a nation.

The stage production by Sarah Greenman, set in the context of Riefenstahl directing her own autobiographical film, explores themes of artistic responsibility, modern media, and personal and social myth-making.

JoAnn Johnson (left) and Cecily Overman star in "Leni," the story of the propagandist German filmmaker funded by the Nazi Party.

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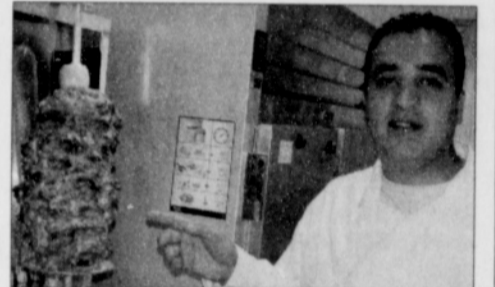
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Adult dysfunction gets a Crayola makeover in "Mr. Marmalade," a hilarious satire about a precocious 4-year-old who brings us face to face with our own weird hang ups and shows how ridiculous grown-ups can be. Performances run through Nov. 19 at the Artists Repertory Theatre, 1516 S.W. Alder St. Tickets can be purchased by phone at 503-241-1278 or the box office.

Urban Jazz Saxophonist 'Shines'

Acclaimed saxophonist Boney James has just released his 10th album, "Shine" with guest appearances by hip-hop and soul diva Faith Evans, jazz-guitar icon George Benson, R&B vocalists Dwele and Phillip Bailey, keyboard wizard George Duke, alternative-pop singer Esthero and Sounds of Blackness powerhouse Ann Nesby.

For more than a decade, Boney has delivered a string of hugely successful albums that blended jazz and R&B - virtually spawning the

subgenre known as Urban Jazz. He earned four gold certifications, two Grammy nods, a Soul Train Award and an NAACP Image Award nomination.

"My wife calls me Mr. Einstein," he reveals. "I'll come in from the studio with crazy hair and this wild look in my eyes." Confessing that he is a "mad scientist in the studio. I get obsessed". You'd never know it from the effortlessly soulful melodies and silky grooves of his records.

As a child, Boney was exposed to jazz through his father's record collection. By the ripe old age of 10, he was urged to take up the saxophone by his music teacher.

"I wanted to play the clarinet, but I realized that if I played the sax, I could get into the stage band, so I switched - and right away I loved it," he recalls. "Mostly it was the sound. But it also opened up a world of pop songs I could suddenly play."

With "Shine's" sparkling new batch of material, James is set to take audiences to entirely new places with his eclectic, evocative playing and velvety grooves.



Saxophone virtuoso Boney James is joined by guest singing stars Faith Evans, George Benson and Dwele and Phillip Bailey in his new CD 'Shine.'



Duffy Epstein (left) as Richard Nixon and Gary Brickner-Schultz as Henry Kissinger.

PHOTO BY STU MULLENBERG

'Nixon's Nixon' at Old Church

The Portland Civic Theatre Guild's 48th season of First Tuesday Readers Theatre continues on Tuesday, Nov. 7, Election Day, with the satirical political comedy, "Nixon's Nixon," featuring Gary Brickner-Schultz and Duffy Epstein, at Portland's Old Church, 1422 S.W. 11th Ave. Coffee hour begins at 10 a.m. with the performance at 10:30 a.m. Admission is \$6 at the door.

Russell Lees' play, written in 1995, explores what might have gone through the infamous President's mind the night before his famous departure from the White House. Although Nixon's resignation occurred more than 30 years ago, its relevance to current political events is undeniable. The audience listens in on a clandestine meeting between Nixon and his testy Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger - and becomes privy to their frightening logic and the rationalizations of the cornered elite.

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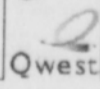
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