

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Saturday Concert to Help African Orphans

### Rap benefit at the Wonder Ballroom

BY FELICIA SLIDER  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Mic Crenshaw of Portland's Hip Hop scene is helping coordinate Saturday's benefit concert with Cool Nutz, Dead Prez, D.J. Chill and other rap stars to raise donations for the African Youth Initiative Network and pay for the shipment of computers for orphan children in the African countries of Rwanda and Burundi.

The Global Family Network concert for all ages takes place at the Wonder Ballroom, 128 N.E. Russell St. Doors open at 7 p.m. with the concert scheduled for 8 p.m.

The Portland Observer got together with Crenshaw to talk about his work in Africa and how the concert will serve as a stage to make a difference.

#### What is the African Youth Initiative Network?

It's an African-based multinational youth advocacy group for peace and development of resources to aid educational projects.

How extraordinary is it that proceeds from this Portland event will directly bring computers to Africa for educating children?

It's an exceptional thing. Overall, it's been sensational, soul satisfying. The local Global Family Network has ambitions to fill the venue to capacity, which in turn would make enough money to ship the donated computers, printers and equipment to AYINET offices in Burundi.

The musical stage is set for social consciousness. Which global,



Portland rap star Mic Crenshaw of Hungry Mob performs during a community event in Rwanda.

#### national and local artist will mirror the mission?

Every act. We're professionals with a purpose for creative change. Scheduled are Dead Prez, Umi, Cool Nutz, Hungry Mob and much, much more. We're all ready to mix, make music and make a memorable evening of global awareness.

Dead Prez as well as the social conscious hip-hop duo Umi and M-1 are scheduled as headliners. What role do they play in this event?

They are critically acclaimed for being politically progressive, but more importantly they are activists and socially copious.

Jefferson High School will also be a vessel for bringing awareness to this event?

Dead Prez is scheduled to give a lecture at Jefferson High School for social studies and English students. As a socially conscious duo, this is sure to give great exposure to others who want to be socially active.

How was Rwanda and Burundi determined to benefit from AYINET?

Global Family Network is committed to supporting their work. This commitment stems from a 2004 con-



Orphan children of Rwanda are pictured during a visit to the East African country by Portland's hip hop group Hungry Mob.

ference to Rwanda in which more than 40 delegates from different African countries were present and I was one of nine people from the U.S. who attended. I was asked specifically to get computers and educational material to them.

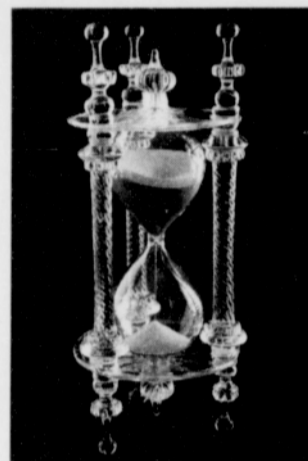
You have been speaking on conscious lyrics for years, how passionate are you about activism and the political process?

The gift of music and communications is about more than trying to be rich and famous. It has taken me to

my ancestral homeland and into Rwanda schools. This is my life's work and I am very conscious of that. I was asked in a very clear manner not to forget what I saw and I made a

promise that I would not. How else can the public assist in donating used or new computers, laptops, equipment, etc? Contact info@globalfam.org.

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**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.

**Open Mic Night** -- Every Wednesday night at 7 p.m., Proper Eats Market and Café, 8638 N. Lombard St., hosts open mic night.

## ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

**Rappin' for a Reason** -- Dead Prez and other rap acts including Cool Nutz and Hungry Mob will be rappin' for a reason as part of an African Youth Initiative Network fundraiser, Saturday, May 26 at the Wonder Ballroom, 128 N.E. Russell St. Doors open at 7 p.m. with the concert scheduled for 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20 at the door with proceeds to help pay for the shipment of computers to Rwanda and Burundi.

**Mississippi Studios** -- Portland's genteel gentlemen of world chamber music, 3 Leg Torso, will perform with special guest Buoy LaRue for two shows at Mississippi Studios, 3939 N. Mississippi Ave., on Saturday, May 26 at 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. Admission is \$15 for patrons 21 and over.

**Latin Dance Masters** -- Portland's premier Latin dance masters thrill Milagro Theatre audiences with Viva Baile! -- the sensuous moves and passionate music of tango and flamenco, through Sunday, May 27 at Milagro Theatre, 525 S.E. Stark St. Tickets are available online at milagro.org or by calling 503-236-7253.

**Grease, The Reunion** -- After a sold-out run, the Geezers and Old Ladies, um, Greasers and Pink Ladies are back. The Stumptown Stages production of Grease, featuring Margie Boule and Corey Brunish, returns to the stage, at the World Trade Center Theatre through June 30. Tickets are \$27 for general admission and are available online at stumptownstages.com.

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Latin Dance Masters



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