

# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

## Zoo Happenings

### Zoo Concert Turns to Jazzy Vibes

Blues artist on deck for summer series

Swingin' brass notes and sassy jazz numbers ring out on a warm Portland evening. These aren't the sounds of a new club or juke joint, but rather the unforgettable music of Catherine Russell, playing the Oregon Zoo Wednesday, July 16, at 7 p.m.

"Catherine Russell has this dusky voice that lends such power to the robust music she performs," says Krista Swan, zoo events coordinator. "Her stage energy and sass put a lively spin on traditional jazz and R&B."

Dubbed "the real thing" by renowned jazz critic Nat Hentoff, Russell was born into a musical family. Her parents were Luis Russell (Louis Armstrong's long-time musical director) and Juilliard graduate Carline Ray. Russell graduated from the American Academy of Dramatic Arts and began her career performing with David Bowie, Steely Dan, Cyndi Lauper, Jackson Browne and Rosanne Cash.



Catherine Russell will bring her saucy smile and jazz chops to the Oregon Zoo Summer Concert Series Wednesday, July 16.

Russell's 2006 debut album, "Cat," featured a composition by her father and Louis Armstrong. "Back O' Town Blues." The album also showcased the mandolin and the pedal steel on many songs.

Her most recent album, 2008's "Sentimental Streak," melds jazz and blues in mostly acoustic arrangements. Using a wide variety of instrumental backup,

Russell puts a saucy spin on the tracks.

"Catherine Russell never makes the mistake of taking her music too seriously," says Swan. "Because of this, each song is fresh and fun. Her off-hand vocal manner hooks you in and keeps you listening."

Tickets for the Catherine Russell concert can be purchased at the Oregon Zoo for \$10 each.



Guests of all ages can observe Oregon Zoo's pygmy goats during "Moo at the Zoo," Saturday, July 12, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## Family Farm Fun Facts

How many glasses of milk can a cow produce in one day? What's it like to live on a dairy farm?

Guests learn the answers to these questions at "Moo at the Zoo" on Saturday, July 12, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Oregon Zoo's Trillium Creek Family Farm.

The event, sponsored by the Dairy Farmers of Oregon, al-

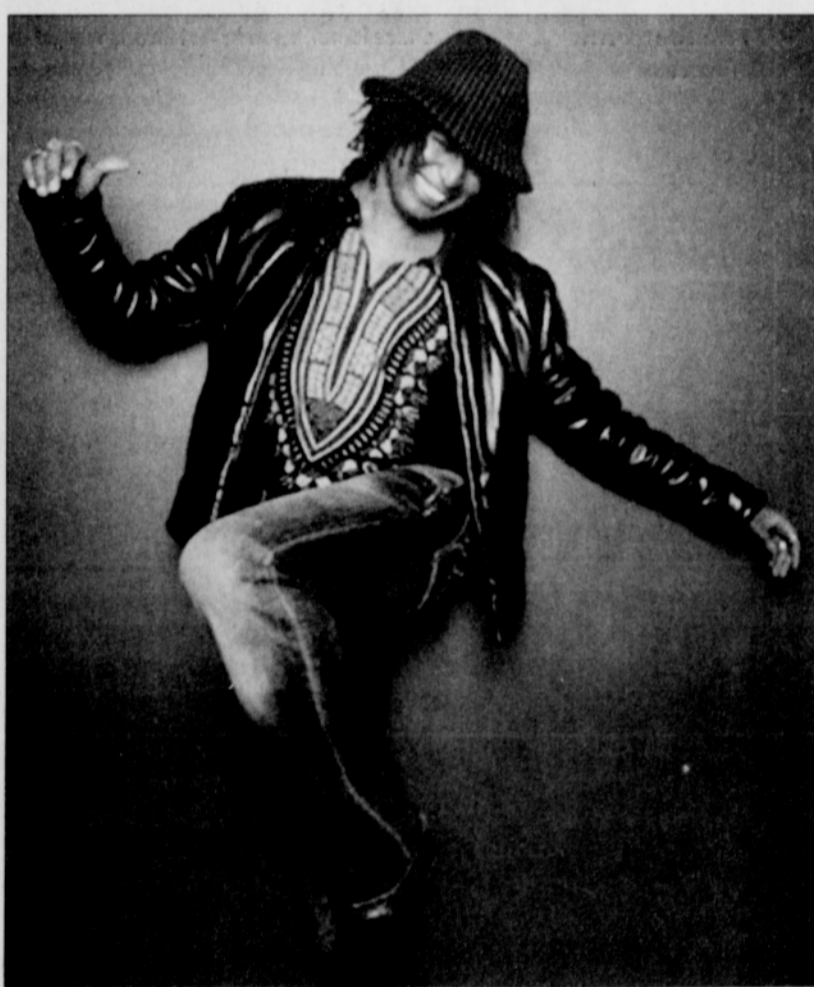
lows visitors to discover a host of fun facts through interactive exhibits, puppet shows and displays.

Throughout the day, Oregon's Dairy Princess Ambassadors will share stories about the lives of dairy cows and the workings of dairy farms. Visitors test their dairy knowledge and have their milk-mustache p

Children can receive a free coloring book, popular cow trading cards, "Got milk?" handouts, and tips about healthy eating.

Guests also view pygmy goats and Shetland sheep in the zoo's hands-on area.

Admission to the zoo is \$6.75 for children ages 3 to 11 and \$9.75 for youth over age 12 to adult. Infants 2 and under are free.



Victor Sila rides the wave of popularity for funky Afrobeat dance music.

## Festival with a Cause

### Afro-Funk beats to a social awareness

The Afro-Funk Festival comes to the Sometown Lounge, 125 N.W. Fifth Ave., Friday, July 11, at 9 p.m.

Blending African and Afro-Brazilian roots and funky dance music, the one night only festival will feature Sila and the Afrofunk Experience, SambaDá and DJ Jeremiah and the Afrobeat Nation.

Afrobeat is dense, funky, intricately-layered, groove-heavy music with an intrinsic message—delivered through polyrhythmic beats, the sweat of the dancers, and the power of words.

The Afrofunk Festival was born in 2005, when Kenyan singer Victor Sila joined forces with Liberian DJ Jeremiah Kpoh. The result was a truly unique event with a righteous, humanitarian cause benefiting at-risk youth in famine- and war-torn regions of East Africa.

In the years since, Afrobeat has continued to grow in popularity, while the AFF has become a cultural institution -- not just in the San Francisco Bay Area, but along the West Coast.

Having spent time in a refugee camp as a youth himself before coming to America, DJ Jeremiah is particularly sympathetic to the struggles of Africa's children. "This is the best way I know of to focus attention on this important issue. The youth are the future. By helping them, we are giving them the hope for a better life," he says, adding, "what better medium to get this message across than Afrofunk?"

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## Rock Returns for Essence

(AP) -- Grammy Award-winner Mary J. Blige and comedian Chris Rock drew some of the biggest accolades at the 14th Essence Music Festival in New Orleans.

The Louisiana Superdome was packed Sunday when Blige appeared for the fourth straight year at the festival, while Rock returned for the first time in 12 years.

Blige was welcomed by a wild crowd that remained energetic until she departed the stage. But the music wasn't the only attraction for festival-goers.

Danae Green, of Pittsburgh, Calif., said she was enthralled by the free empowerment seminars and festival marketplace.

Sunday's seminars included performances by gospel stars Tye Tribbett and Regina Belle as well as in-

spirational words from televangelist Juanita Bynum.

Saturday night's lineup in-

cluded LL Cool J, Musiq, Jill Scott and a tribute to soul diva Patti LaBelle.



Comedian Chris Rock performs during the Essence Music Festival in New Orleans. (AP photo)

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