

# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

## Habib Koite at the Oregon Zoo

World-class artist brings sounds of West Africa to Portland

Lance and Morgan, the Oregon Zoo's slender-snouted crocodiles, should feel right at home, as West African music drifts from the concert lawn to their exhibit in the zoo's Bamba du Jon swamp. World-class Malian musician Habib Koité and his band, Bamada, bring their rich harmonies, unique guitar picking and lively drumming to Portland Wednesday, July 30, at 7 p.m. as part of the zoo's Summer Concert Series presented by Fred Meyer and Wells Fargo.

"Habib Koité and his band, Bamada, have a rich and extensive repertoire, and they draw on the many musical traditions of Mali," said Krista Swan, zoo events coordinator. "Not only does this approach grant a wide breadth of material, it also symbolizes Koité's openness to a variety of music."

Koité is revered as a griot, an important class of West African musician-bards. But unlike many other griots, Koité emphasizes soft, cadenced melodies, using a form he created called *danssa-doso*. "Danssa" is a rhythm popular to his native city of Keyes, and "doso" is one of the most potent and ancient musical traditions of Mali.

Relying on *danssa-doso*, Koité's first album, "Musu Ko," topped the

European world-music charts in 1995. "Mama Ya," envisioned as a "voyage through Mali," followed in 1999. Koité's latest release, "Afriki," was one of the top world-music albums of 2007.

Koité's near-universal appeal led to his 2002 collaboration with Bonnie Raitt on her album "Silver Lining." Such partnerships have earned Koité a reputation as a forward-thinker. "With one foot in the past and the other in the future," noted National Geographic, "Habib Koité is an artist for a generation that has witnessed the breaking down of cultural barriers."

"Habib Koité can incorporate ancient themes into modern music," said Swan.

"His concerts with Bamada are bold, inventive and always beautiful."

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

Tickets can also be purchased (with service charge) online or at Ticketmaster locations at area Fred Meyer stores. For more information on the concert schedule or to purchase tickets, please visit [www.oregonzoo.org](http://www.oregonzoo.org).

The Oregon Zoo has brought outdoor music to Portland for 30



Habib Koité, one of Mali's most influential artists, takes the Oregon Zoo on a "voyage through Mali" Wednesday, July 30, as part of the zoo's Summer Concert Series presented by Fred Meyer and Wells Fargo. Photo by Dirk Leunis.

years. In 1979, the zoo became the first zoo in the nation to host a summer concert series.

Since then, the series has become one of the top outdoor events in the Northwest, and is the region's longest-running outdoor series.

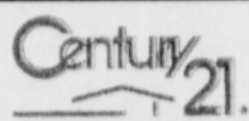
Fred Meyer and Wells Fargo are the presenting sponsors of the series, also co-sponsored by KINK fm 102 and KATU Television and PDX magazine.

The zoo is a service of Metro and is dedicated to its mission to inspire the community to create a better future for wildlife. Committed to conservation, the zoo is currently working to save endangered California condors, Washington's pygmy rabbits, Oregon silverspot butterflies, Oregon spotted frogs and western pond turtles.

The zoo opens at 8 a.m. daily and is located five minutes from downtown Portland, just off Highway 26. The zoo is also accessible by MAX light rail line. Zoo visitors are encouraged to ride MAX or take TriMet bus No. 63.

Visitors who take the bus or MAX receive \$1 off zoo admission. Call TriMet Customer Service, 503-238-RIDE(7433), or visit [www.trimet.org](http://www.trimet.org).

General admission is \$9.75 (12-64), seniors \$8.25 (65+), children \$6.75 (3-11), and infants 2 and under are free; 25 cents of the admission price helps fund regional conservation projects through the zoo's Future for Wildlife program. A parking fee of \$2 per car is also required. Additional information is available at [www.oregonzoo.org](http://www.oregonzoo.org) or by calling 503-226-1561.



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## Vintage Black Cinema Stamps go on Sale

Vintage movie posters highlighting various facets of the African-American cultural experience, as represented in early film, are returning to postage stamps as the U.S. Postal Service issues the Vintage Black Cinema stamps. The 42-

cent commemorative First-Class stamps were dedicated July 16 at the Newark, N.J., Museum during the Black Film Festival and went on sale nationwide that day. The Vintage Black Cinema souvenir sheet includes 20 stamps in four rows with five different commemorative stamps featuring posters advertising movies produced for African-American audiences prior to 1950. Stamp art director and designer Carl T. Hermann of Carlsbad, Calif., intended to evoke a strip of film with perforations, or sprocket holes, running down the left and right edges.



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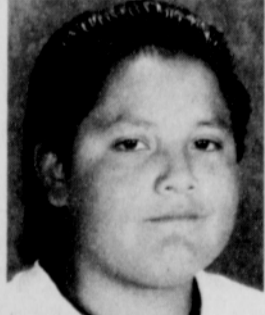


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