

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

# Eccentricity gets an Address

**'Grey Gardens' inspired by cult film**

Portland Center Stage presents Grey Gardens: The Musical; the Broadway smash hit inspired by the cult documentary classic that redefined our notions of eccentricity, American royalty and glamour in decline.

This Tony-nominated musical was inspired by the 1973 Maylse Brothers film about "Big Edie" Edith Bouvier Beale and her daughter "Little Edie" Bouvier Beale, the aunt and cousin of Jackie Kennedy née Bouvier.

Once two of the brightest stars in the New York social register, the Bouvier Beales came to notoriety after the East Hampton health depart-



The full length velvet glove hides the fist. 'Little Edie' Bouvier Beale (Rebecca Eichenberger), cousin of Jackie Kennedy, expounds on how fashion can be a political statement in Grey Gardens: The Musical, playing through June 21st on the Portland Center Stage Main Stage.

ment tried to condemn their beach house.

The two women had been

virtually abandoned in the decaying 28 room mansion after Big Edie's husband di-

vorced her, the Bouviers had disowned her and Little Edie's New York cabaret dreams had fallen flat. The house was filthy and in astonishing disrepair — over 160 cats and raccoons had been allowed to treat the house as their personal litter box.

Embarrassed by the subsequent tabloid exposure, Jackie stepped in and invested nearly \$30,000 to fix up the house. Jackie's sister, Lee Radziwell, later commissioned a movie about the Bouvier family and sent Alfred and David Maylises out to visit. Fascinated, the Maylises decided to stay for six weeks to document these two staunch eccentrics.

The stage production opens on Friday, May 29, and runs through June 21. Tickets range from \$33.50 to \$68.50, with student and under 30 discounts available.

LV's *Twelve 22*  
Bar & Lounge

3530 N Vancouver Ave  
503-281-2936  
The Little Big Spot

**Sun. Live Music** Randy Starr and The Player-Jam Session  
7:00-12:00 Funk & Soul

**Mon. Live Music** Twelve 22 All-Stars Band  
8:00-12:00 Open Mic, Singers, poets, Musicians, Guests

**Tues. Reagge Night**  
8-12:30 Guest DJ's and Bands

**Weds. Ladies Night** - Twelve 22 All-Stars Band Guest DJ  
Rehearsal 5:00-7:00 Live

**Thurs. Jazz Band** -- coming Soon-Happy Hour 6-9

**Fri-Starting April 10** -- Kings of Ol-Skool. *Dress Code Enforced.* DJ's: Ken Berry, Larry Bell & Mike. \$5 cover

**Saturday - Guest DJ**

Day time Sports on Flat Screen  
Great appetizers • Dinner Specials



## Portland First on Idols Tour

This season's American Idol top 10 contestants will be in Portland for two weeks next month prior to kicking off their North American tour on Sunday, July 5 in the Rose Garden arena. Tickets at the Rose Quarter Box Office and participating TicketsWest outlets.

## From Meek Start to Idol Winner

Contest goes to guy with charm

(AP) -- Not much has changed about Kris Allen since his mostly forgettable "American Idol" audition. Well, except for the winning-it-all part.

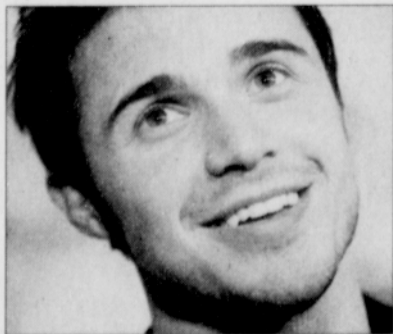
When the 23-year-old college student from Conway, Ark., first auditioned with Leon Russell's "A Song for You" in Louisville, Ky., he seemed nothing more than a boy-next-door "Idol" hopeful, lacking the instant juggernaut feel of showy 27-year-old runner-up Adam Lambert or even plucky 17-year-old spark plug Allison Iraheta.

A newsboy cap pulled down around his eyes, Allen was asked back then by the judges if he was the best singer.

"You know, there's probably people who are better than me," was his response, a humility that Simon Cowell said he found off-putting.

"Idol" producers must have agreed. Back in February, viewers had seen less of Allen out of all the crooners that moved forward in the competition. During Hollywood Week, neither of Allen's solos were aired, just his "I Want You Back" group performance. In fact, more footage from his original audition was aired during last week's eighth season finale than in any previ-

ous episodes. Once selected as a finalist, Allen got off to a rocky start after his first performance. The judges were decidedly mixed over his rendition of Michael Jackson's "Man in the Mirror," yet his charming nice-guy demeanor quickly emerged when it was revealed that the long-



Kris Allen

time Jackson fan had been helping the other singers — his competitors of all people! — tackle their takes on the King of Pop.

Allen himself seemed the most surprised about his shocking win by a margin of votes that, unlike last season's landslide victory by David Cook over David Archuleta, was not publicly declared by host Ryan Seacrest.

"I'm exhausted, and I'm shocked," Allen said backstage after winning the title. "I'm really shocked."



ready?

**TV goes digital by June 12.**

**Contact the Urban League of Portland if you need assistance**



Urban League of Portland

**10 N. Russell, Portland, OR 97227  
(503) 280-2600  
Training workshops Mon-Fri  
8am-5pm**