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# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

## Afrobeat Kicks Off Concert Series

Oregon's longest-running outdoor concert series returns with big names and summer fun

On Wednesday, June 17, one day after his 47th birthday, Nigerian Afrobeat superstar Femi Kuti will strap on his saxophone, take the stage, and kick off the Oregon Zoo's 2009 summer concert series presented by NW Natural.

Kuti, the oldest son of legendary Afrobeat pioneer Fela Kuti, grew up in Lagos, Nigeria, home base for his father's powerful blend of funk, jazz and heavy percussion. While a natural heir to his father's musical legacy, Femi Kuti also draws on elements of dance music and hip-hop to create a modern Afrobeat style entirely his own.

"Femi Kuti's passion is evident in each song," said Krista Swan, the zoo's event coordinator. "His saxophone speaks to the heart, provoking unimagined emotion with each note."



Afrobeat superstar Femi Kuti will kick off the Oregon Zoo concert series on Wednesday, June 17.

Kuti performs regularly in Nigeria, where he is a bona fide superstar, and he has toured extensively throughout Europe and the United States with his band, the Positive Force. On record, he has collaborated with U.S. musicians such as Macy

Gray, Mos Def and Common. His most recent release, "Day by Day," captures the fierce passion of his live performances, while offering more refined Afrobeat tones, elaborate instrumental patterns and tunes to ignite any dance floor.

Advance tickets for the Femi Kuti show are available online or at the zoo for \$10.50. Remaining tickets will be available at the zoo after 4 p.m. on the day of the performance. Ticket price includes zoo admission.

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## Zoo Marks Train's 50th Year

All aboard! Oregon Zoo visitors can join "Petticoat Junction" star Linda Kaye Henning in celebrating a half-century of railway fun with the Oregon steam locomotive on Saturday, June 20.

Festivities begin with a birthday ceremony at 10 a.m. and cake at 10:15 a.m. After the celebration, members of the National Railway Historical Society and Oregon steamer VIPs will take the commemorative first ride around the zoo.

From 10:15 a.m. to 3 p.m., zoo visitors can ride the historic train, take handcar rides on side railroad tracks, view steamer memorabilia from Oregon's centennial celebration, tour the roundhouse, emboss their tickets, and meet the steamer crew and railway mascot, Rex the tiger.

Henning, who played Betty Jo on the 1960s railway sitcom



Metro council President David Bragdon operates the Oregon Zoo's famous steam locomotive. The public is invited to join in a celebration of the locomotive's 50th anniversary on Saturday, June 20.

"Petticoat Junction," will also join the party, taking a celebratory ride on the rail and signing autographs.

The locomotive, built in 1959 for the Oregon Centennial Exposition, became famous as the Hooterville Cannonball on the 1960s TV sitcom.

## Comeback Album

The date for Whitney Houston's comeback has been set.

Arista Records says her long-awaited album will be released Sept. 1. Houston hasn't released a CD in seven years.

So far, there's no word on a title for the album.

The 45-year-old superstar is one of the best-selling artists of all-time, but in recent years, she's been defined more by drug problems, marital woes and erratic behavior than by her Grammy-winning voice.

She wowed the crowd when she performed at her mentor Clive Davis' pre-Grammy party in February.



Whitney Houston

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**Mon. Live Music** Twelve 22 All-Stars Band  
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**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

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**Dance Party at Zaytoon** -- A dance party with DJ L Train and DJ Gottesfinger will benefit In Other Words Women's Books and Resources and celebrate Pride on Saturday evening, June 13 at Zaytoon Bar, 2236 N.E. Alberta St.

**Mars on Broadway** -- Susannah Mars, Portland's first lady of musical theater, will be the special guest as the Portland Gay Men's Chorus romps through some of the greatest musical moments from Broadway, for one night only, Saturday, June 13 at 7:30 p.m. at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. Tickets can be purchased on line at pdxgmc.org.

**Multicultural Dance** -- A multicultural dance show choreographed by the International Union Club, a group of Cleveland High School students to benefit the Children's Cancer Association will be held Saturday, June 13 at Milagro Theatre, 525 S.E. Stark St. Tickets are \$5

**Northeast Farmers Market** -- The new Portland Farmers Market in the King Neighborhood at King School Park take place each Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. through Sept. 27.

**Birdsongs at Whitaker Ponds** -- The Columbia Slough Watershed Council invites bird enthusiasts to a free spring birding tour Friday, June 12 from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. at Whitaker Ponds. Pre-registration is required by visiting columbiaslough.org or calling Melissa Sandoz at 503-281-1132.

**Live Jazz** -- Every Friday and Saturday from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m., the Third Degrees

## ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

Lounge at the RiverPlace Hotel, 1510 S.W. Harbor Way. No cover or minimum purchase. For more information, visit pdxjazz.com.

**Portland's Dance Halls** -- The history of Portland' dance halls, many built in the 1920s, is the subject of the art show "Once Upon a Time in Portland, We Danced" at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center in north Portland.

**Best of National Geographic** -- Powerful portraits that reflect the continuity of human experiences over time are on display in the exhibit "In Focus: National Geographic's Greatest Portraits," at the World Forestry Center Discovery Museum at Portland's Washington Park through June 21.

**Eccentricity gets an Address** -- Portland Center Stage presents Grey Gardens: The Musical, the Broadway smash hit inspired by the cult documentary classic about Edith Bouvier Beale and her daughter 'Little Edie' Bouvier Beale, the aunt and cousin of Jackie Kennedy nee Bouvier. Shows run through June 21.

**Kirk Green Jam Session** -- Come enjoy the smooth and soulful sounds of the Kirk Green Band every Sunday, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. at Club 720, 720 S.E. Hawthorne. The jam session and open mic is from 9 p.m. to 10 p.m. All professional musicians are



welcome. For more information, call 503-234-7738.

**OMSI 2009 Film Festival** -- Sixteen remarkable, thought-provoking films designed to celebrate the IMAX experience will be shown through June 28 as part of the 2009 OMSI Film Festival.

**Music Millennium Free Shows** -- The Music Millennium, 3158 E. Burnside, hosts in-house live performances. Enjoy free music and the opportunity to meet artists. Call 503-231-8926 for a schedule.

**Zoo Buck Tuesdays** -- On the second Tuesday of every month, the Oregon Zoo hosts 2-Buck Tuesdays when guests can tour the zoo for the discounted price of \$2 per person.

**Food and Entertainment** -- Sliders Grill, 3011 N. Lombard, features an eclectic assortment of performers on the main stage, accompanied by delicious food. Call 503-459-4488 for more information.

**OMSI After Dark** -- OMSI After Dark is a night at the museum for the 21 and over crowd filled with food, drink and science fun; \$10 fee. For more information, call 503-797-4000 or visit omsi.edu.

**Totally Gospel II** -- Peninsula Open Bible Church, 8225 N. Peninsula, hosts all styles of gospel, country, and contemporary music with host Riny Horst each Friday night from 7:30 p.m. -- 9:30 p.m. For more information, call 503-335-3132.

**Get Intimate with Storm Large** -- Storm Large brings here in-your-face sexuality, raw musical talent and breathtaking emotional honesty to Portland Center Stage in the autobiographical world



premier musical Crazy Enough, now playing through June 28 in the Ellyn Bye Studio at the Armory, downtown.