

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

On N MISSISSIPPI AV Avenue Mississippi Street Fair Saturday

The 2009 Mississippi Street Fair will draw celebrants and sightseers to the historic north Portland neighborhood Saturday for a celebration of diversity and community building.

Activities for the whole family will take place along North Mississippi Avenue which will be closed from Fremont to Skidmore Streets during the celebration from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Highlights will include a local market with interesting arts and crafts vendors plus community service displays and food vendors; and four stages, featuring a multicultural roster of entertainment.

There will be a kids area at nearby Boise Eliot elementary school featuring a castle and kids games; and a sustainability Fair at the Mississippi Avenue Lofts, 4138 N. Mississippi.

A children's parade will start at Beech school at noon.

A multicultural roster of entertainment is planned on four stages.

Michael Jackson Memorabilia Explodes

Caution urged because of inflated prices

Immediately following the announcement of Michael Jackson's sudden death, enterprising individuals began selling memorabilia online to take advantage of the increased demand.

The Better Business Bureau warns that the value of most memorabilia and commemorative items being sold is sentimental and the currently inflated prices for many items will drop over time.

According to the group Smartmoney, before Jackson's death, sellers listed an average 200 to 400 memorabilia items daily on eBay, but by the morning following his death almost 20,000 Michael Jackson-related items and memorabilia were for sale on the auction Web site.

Items included autographs, gloves, posters, newspapers and even a Cheeto which supposedly predicted the death of the pop star.

In addition to memorabilia, commemorative items are already being



Commemorative buttons pay tribute to the late Michael Jackson.

mass produced and sold to fans—including t-shirts and special edition newspapers and magazines. Because the value of collectibles is largely dependent on how rare an item is, mass-produced commemorative items are not likely to appreciate in value.

"Collectibles associated with Michael Jackson are selling at a premium right now and most of these items will not increase in value in the future," said Robert W.G. Andrew, a BBB representative. "Following the

death of Princess Diana, the market was flooded with mass-produced items commemorating her death including special edition Beanie Babies that at one time sold for more than \$100 but are now on garage sale tables for a buck."

For fans looking to purchase items to help them remember the King of Pop, BBB offers the following advice:

Collectors should research the value of Michael Jackson-related items before they begin purchasing memorabilia, especially if they are in-

terested in purchasing pieces that have the potential for substantial appreciation in value.

Confirming the authenticity of memorabilia is rarely easy. Autographs can be verified by a third party, but for other items, the collector should feel free to ask the seller questions about the item, including how the seller came to own it. If the seller can't answer simple questions, then the collector should walk away.

Consumers should always purchase items with a credit card if they are shopping online. If the seller turns out to be fraudulent, then the consumer can dispute the charge with the credit card company and may be eligible for reimbursement.

When purchasing items from an individual on eBay, research the seller's track record by reading buyer reviews. When shopping on Craigslist, go local and never wire money as payment.

Just because the seller claims that the item is of limited edition, it doesn't mean that there weren't millions made. If the item is being widely advertised, chances are, it's too common to actually gain much value over the years.

Jackson Albums Sales Hot

Nielsen SoundScan says Michael Jackson's album sales have exploded—three of his albums are in the top three spots and 2.3 million tracks have been downloaded in the United States since his death.

Album sales for the week ending just three days after his death hit 422,000 in the U.S., up from 10,000 a week earlier. The week's tally was greater than all the Jackson albums sold from the start of the year to June 21.

The top three albums were "Number Ones," "Essential Michael Jackson," and "Thriller." The Black Eyed Peas' latest CD came fourth.



Michael Jackson

Obama Reflects on Jackson

(AP)—President Barack Obama called Michael Jackson a brilliant performer whose talents were paired with a tragic personal life.

"I'm glad to see that he is being remembered primarily for the great joy that he brought to a lot of people through his extraordinary gifts as an entertainer," Obama said in an AP interview Thursday.

Obama said he didn't see any controversy in the fact that he did not issue a formal public statement upon Jackson's death, and said he was unaware of any dis-

satisfaction in the black community with his response.

"I know a lot of people in the black community and I haven't heard that," Obama said.

The president said he grew up on Jackson's music and "I still have all his stuff on my iPod."

"I think that Michael Jackson will go down in history as one of our greatest entertainers," Obama said. "His brilliance as a performance also was paired with a tragic and in many ways, sad personal life."

Johnson died June 25 at age 50.

Filmmaker Presents 'Sweet Crude'

Seattle filmmaker Sandy Cioffi and her crew made headlines by being taken into custody by the Nigerian military while shooting "Sweet Crude," a documentary about the Nigerian oil industry.

Ten percent of the U.S. oil supply comes from Nigeria, where oil is big business, particularly in the Niger Delta. Hundreds of billions of dollars have been generated from that resource. Unfortunately, 80 percent of the revenues go to just one percent of the population, and the environmental devastation has contaminated much of the water supply for the 20 million people who live there.



The Northwest Film Center presents 'Sweet Crude,' a documentary about the Nigerian oil industry, on Thursday, July 9.

As peaceful protests have had no effect, militant groups are forming to gain the world's attention and to take action against the powerful oil companies. Sweet Crude tells a story that may be far away, but is moving closer all the time.

Cioffi will introduce the film when it screens Thursday, July 9 at 7 p.m. in the Northwest Film Center's Whitsell Auditorium at the Portland Art Museum, 1219 S.W. Park Ave. The showing is part of the Northwest Tracking series, which showcases the work of independent filmmakers living and working in the Northwest and whose work reflects the vibrant cinematic culture of the region.

'Night with Day'

Award-winning songstress and actress Julianne R. Johnson-Weiss brings back her portrayal of Miss Billie Holiday in Night with Day, an event that has been a hit since it first opened last March at Jimmy Mak's Jazz Club in downtown Portland.



Julianne Johnson-Weiss

The encore performances, with a special appearance of Tom Grant on piano, are scheduled Thursday, July 9 at 11 p.m. and Friday, July 10 at 7:30 p.m. at the Ellyn Bye Studio at the Portland Center Armory Building.

Johnson-Weiss portrays Holiday five months before her untimely death in 1959.

LV's Twelve 22 Bar & Lounge
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 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

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