

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



Nightmare at the Office

Portland Center Stage reminds you that the office can be a nightmare in 'The Receptionist,' the comic exploration of the horrors beneath the surface of the most boring office routines. Now playing through March 21.

Common Ground with 'Precious'

Screenwriter's life akin to girl from Harlem

(AP) — Geoffrey Fletcher was stunned this month when he was nominated for an Academy Award for best adapted screenplay for "Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire," the story of a semi-literate teen girl from Harlem.

Precious is physically and sexually abused from infancy by her mother and stepfather. After Precious becomes pregnant again, she's forced to leave school, her mother demanding she go on welfare.

But Precious resists. She wants a better life, one filled with education and love. With the help of a devoted teacher at an alternative school and



Geoffrey Fletcher

a caring social worker, she weaves a new life from the tatters of her previous one.

The film has been nominated for best picture. Gabourey Sidibe is a best-actress nominee, Mo'Nique, best supporting actress, and Lee Daniels, best director.

Fletcher finds much common ground with "Precious." His

struggle to enter the entertainment industry resembles her humble beginnings. And through dedication, they both found their true calling.

Fletcher said he fell in love with "Precious" from page one.

He was drawn to a story that touches on the many common threads that connect all people.

"I love stories that have such specific characters and specific places, yet are about things that are so universal," he said.

Fletcher loves Precious — the character and the film — because he understands being invisible, an overarching theme in the story. Before "Precious," his career was largely off the radar in the entertainment world. "I was searching for my voice and my place in the film industry," he said. "In large part, she reminds me of myself."

Dixon's Rib Pit

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Tuesday thru Saturday
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Fluid Movement

White Bird presents the eagerly awaited return of Hubbard Street Dance Chicago in a dazzling program.

The Tuesday, Feb. 23 performance at 7:30 p.m. at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall is substituting for Lyon Opera Ballet, which



The Hubbard Street Dance Chicago returns to Portland for a dazzling program.

announced in November that they had to cancel their North American tour.

When White Bird last presented Hubbard Street Dance Chicago in November 2005, the audience responded with thunderous applause to their diverse and captivating program. The Chicago Sun-Times has declared, "The troupe can dance anything and everything... with fluid brilliance and understated virtuosity."

Hubbard Street Dance Chicago

will bring a special program to Portland that features the dazzling work Walking Mad, choreographed by Johan Inger, former Artistic Director of Stockholm's Cullberg Ballet, set to Ravel's "Bolero." The evening also includes Tabula Rasa, a masterwork by Ohad Naharin of Israel's Batsheva Dance Company, and a new piece, Bitter Suite, by Jorma Elo, whose thrilling Red Sweet closed Aspen Santa Fe Ballet's program in October.



Dr. Billy R. Flowers

THE SPINA COLUMN™

An ongoing series of questions and answers about America's natural healing profession.

Part 24. Osteoarthritis: you needn't be frightened about a frightening problem anymore

Q: I have been having a lot of pain in my neck. The doctor said that it was osteoarthritis and that I would have learn to live with it. What is your opinion?

A: As you might know, there is a tremendous amount of health research going on today. Much relates to the spine and nervous system. You might ask your doctor if he has read the latest study on osteoarthritis. The study showed that there was no correlation between the amount of osteo-arthritis and the amount of pain a person suffers. In fact it

has been found that pain and osteoarthritis are both caused by the same problem. Mechanical stress on the bone and joints is the biggest cause of pain and also the cause of that deformity of the joint your doctor calls osteoarthritis.

In Chiropractic we evaluate where the joint and bones are

stresses. Our chief purpose then is to remove the stress or irritation from the joint (and nerves) — not only to reduce pain but to allow the bones to be as healthy as possible as well. If you have joint pain, isn't it time you stepped up to , effective Chiropractic?

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