

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Hip, Hot ^{and} Healthy

Local fashion designers promote healthy youth

Local fashion designers are set to launch their latest line of spring fashions with more than fabric and flair. Betty Jean Couture, Bon Lou Couture and Christa Taylor are collaborating with the MIKE (Multicultural

Integrated Kidney Education) program to create a fashionable message of a healthy lifestyle for youth with a fashion show.

The Saturday, March 13 event from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at California Closets Showroom, 1225 S.E. Grand Ave., is designed to raise awareness and funding for youth-based activities in the Portland area.

Local celebrities Byron Beck and Ayanna Berkshire of Twilight and Extraordinary Measure, will co-emcee the 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. event, featuring Fox 12's Sophie Soong as a celebrity model.

Kenneth Doswell of Betty Jean Couture looks to ramp up the show with sounds and sights in high style.

The African American founder of his own design studio and manufacturing business on North Williams Avenue, Doswell created Betty Jean Couture to continue the legacy of his mother.

Her death from breast cancer brought Doswell and his family into the destructive nature of major diseases. Doswell's work for MIKE Program is to reach out to youth in a fun way in hopes of offsetting kidney disease. Preventing diabetes is one of the best ways to eliminate kidney disease, but it all begins with healthy eating habits.



Fashions by Betty Jean Couture will be featured in a benefit fashion show for MIKE, a kidney education program promoting healthy lifestyles for youth. The Portland company focuses on women looking their best, independent of their size and shape.

Local students who are involved with the MIKE program will be participating in many of the aspects of the fashion show. Some are busy designing t-shirts with healthy messages, while others are looking to model the couture fashions of the

designers.

The show will also feature the works of O'Pearl jewelry and the Real McCoy purses.

Admission to the show is \$30, which includes script for beverages, wine and hearty appetizers.

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~By Appointment Only~

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Friends of Chamber Music

The vibrant Miami String Quartet will perform during 7:30 p.m. shows on Monday, March 8 at the First Baptist Church, 909 S.W. 11th Ave., and Tuesday, March 9 at Kaul Auditorium at Reed College, 3202 S.E. Woodstock. The Friends of Chamber Music concerts will also feature the piano trio Kalichstein, Laredo and Robinson.

Shakespeare Meets Hip Hop

Play explores gender roles

When William Shakespeare wrote Taming of the Shrew, there were no hip-hop artists around. But Portland's Fuse Theatre Ensemble likes to think if he'd encountered some hip hop in

the streets of London, it might have changed the style of this classic.

Slap that Bitch! A hip hop telling of Taming of the Shrew is an original work written by Francesca Sanders.

The award winning playwright fuses forms; using the lens of hip hop to observe the roles of men and women play, modern day morality, and maybe

finding a new way to look at an age-old play. When Colette shows up at his house the next day as part of an acting troupe, he tries to banish her. Will he have the last word on this matter...or will she?

Performances continue through March 20 at Theater! Theatre! 3430 S.E. Belmont.