

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Bold Attitude and Mind Set

Acclaimed singer gets you dancing

(AP)—If you're going to a Janelle Monae performance, be prepared to get up and dance. Even if the music doesn't move you — and it most likely will — her agents will plot to get you on your feet.

At a recent concert to preview her first full-length album, the critically acclaimed "The ArchAndroid," her backup dancers literally pulled people out of their seats, while other members of the Monae nation ordered people to move.

"You don't come to a Janelle Monae show to sit!" one woman barked.

The experience is almost like participating in a spiritual conversion, and in some ways, that's what Monae is hoping to achieve with her music — a revolution of the mind, one frenetic beat at a time.

"Sometimes you have to show how to dance to a song — like, they don't know until they see an example," the 24-year-old singer-songwriter explains during a recent interview.

She adds: "I want them to allow the music to transform them as much as it's transformed me... (the music) deals with self-realization, and I think if they listen to it from the beginning



Janelle Monae gets people dancing with her James Brown-funk to Prince-like rock.

leader, and she led me to a place that no other artist had been able to do, female artist," she says. "She was an inspiration for me because she showed me that I didn't have to take the same safe, sexy route. I could bring all of me with me, when I'm performing. I could be all of me on my album."

"The ArchAndroid" seems to contain all of Monae's artistic self. It's a melange of musical styles, from James Brown-funk to Prince-like rock to a tune that could blend in with 1960s folk-pop.

Monae's artistry draws from a large well. Her inspirations include Fritz Lang's futuristic "Metropolis" (she named her debut EP after the film) and Walt Disney; her uniform is usually that of a tuxedo, complete with button-down shirt and tie; and her signature pompadour hairstyle (she calls it the "Monae").

Her creative muse is a female android who finds out she is the chosen one and is trying to figure out how to handle her newfound mission. And Monae describes her own talents as superpowers.

"My goal is to really help preserve art and focus on ideas that are life-changing that will stay around for years and years, that will help the next generation that comes after me," she declares.

It's a bold attitude, but that mindset is what helped Monae during her years toiling underground before she started to chip at the mainstream.

to the end, they will have an emotion picture experience for the mind — and that's very transformative in itself."

Monae hopes to have the same impact on her followers that Lauryn Hill had on her. Back then, when Monae was growing up in Kansas City, Kan., Hill's Grammy-winning "The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill" was one of the albums that expanded her musical horizons.

"You just got a sense that she knew as an artist that she was a

Jazz Night at Clark College

The Clark College Music Department will be presenting its 4th annual Clark Jazz Night, showcasing both of the Vancouver campus's acclaimed student jazz ensembles.

The concert in Gaiser Hall on Friday, June 4, at 7:30 p.m. will feature both big band and vocal jazz featur-

ing the Vocal Jazz Ensemble, under the direction of Janet Reiter, and the Jazz Ensemble, under the direction of Rich Inouye.

Admission is free and open to the public and donations to the Clark Music Department will be graciously accepted at the door.



Congratulations!

Cheryl L. Johnson
Georgia State University Graduate
from Mom & Dad,
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Contact: Lionel Clegg at **503-916-6282**
3920 N. Kerby Ave.
Children (under 12) \$5
Adults \$10

The sounds of the powerful African drums rumble in the distance. A chant is called back and forth between the children. Drums and voices become a river of sound and the room is transformed into an African village. Drummers and dancers come into view. They begin Kukatonon ("We Are One").

Kukatnon is proud to be supported by: Regional Arts & Culture Council, Self Enhancement, Inc, The Black United Fund of Oregon, The Herbert A. Templeton Foundation, Papa Murphy's International, and The Matthew S. Essieh & Family Foundation.