

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



From Comic to Comic Book

Before his stunning 2009 senatorial election the world knew Al Franken as that funny guy from Saturday Night Live, or maybe the incendiary liberal talk show host on Air America. Now he's a political rising star in the Democratic Party and the featured subject of Bluewater Productions' latest biography comic.

Political Power: Al Franken traces the career of Minnesota's newest

Senator from a staff writer on SNL where he made a living skewering politicians to his current position on Capitol Hill. The issue also covers Franken's somewhat controversial election that was eventually decided by the Minnesota Supreme Court.

However, according to writer Jerome Maida the most important aspect of this newest addition to the Political Power series is trying to show an often unseen side to

Franken's character.

"Al Franken has this reputation - not completely unfounded, if you read the comic - as a metaphorical bomb-thrower, a guy who hates his enemies and has an in-your-face style," said writer Jerome Maida. "While I did find some stuff that would support that perception, I also found out a lot more interesting stuff that makes him a real person, a character instead of a caricature."

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

Waterfront Blues Festival

-- Your invited to join Blues fans from around the world at the Safeway Waterfront Blues Festival, Friday, July 2 through Monday, July 5 along the downtown Portland waterfront. A fireworks show will highlight the evening of Sunday, July 4. The suggested donation of \$10 plus two cans of food per person per day will benefit the Oregon Food Bank.



Fort Vancouver July 4th Celebration-- After a year's hiatus, July 4th fireworks are returning to Fort Vancouver with a day-long celebration culminating in a spectacular fireworks show. Attendees will enjoy a renewed focus on family, community and fun. For more information, visit fortvan.org.

Norman Sylvester Band -- Boogie Cat Norman Sylvester and his band perform Saturday, July 3 at the Candlelight; Sunday, July 4 at the Lotus Card Room; Wednesday, July 7 at Music on the Green; Friday, July 9 at West Linn Saloon; Saturday, July 10 at the Mississippi Street Fair; and Sunday July 11 at McCoy Park.

Peace on the Street Art Fair -- An art fair for Portland's Old Town community takes place Friday, July 9 at the Macdonald Center and Residence at Northwest Couch Street between Broadway and Sixth Avenue. An open mic stage, food, live music, hula hoops, face painting and other entertainment is planned.



Angela Cheng in Recital -- Portland Piano International presents Angela Cheng, one of Canada's brightest stars, on Friday, July 16 at 7:30 p.m. at the World Forestry Center. The concert is part of the 12th annual Portland International Piano Festival.

Prehistoric Predators -- Enormous dinosaurs with lifelike ferocity are represented in an exhibit that continues through Labor Day at the Oregon Zoo. Visitors will follow a trail through an ancient rain forest, surrounded by the realistic animatronic creatures that

roar, snarl and move.

Lion King National Tour

The Lion King, a national touring show sponsored by Fred Meyer Broadway Across America is now playing through July 11 at Keller Auditorium.

First Friday for Professionals -- The Minority Professional Networking group hosts its First Friday get together with free food, drinks and fun on Friday, July 2 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the MVP Sports Bar and Grill, 110 S.W. Yamhill.

Mel Brown Live -- Portland jazz giant Mel Brown performs at Salty's on the Columbia every Friday and Saturday night. Known as the "Gentleman of Jazz," Brown has a career spanning over 40 years.



King Farmers Market -- The King Farmers Market is back each Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. through Oct. 31 at Northeast Seventh Avenue and Wygant Street, adjacent to King School Park. Food stamp users can receive up to \$10 in matching tokens.

St. Johns Farmers Market -- The St. Johns Farmers Market takes place each Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St. Johns Plaza through Sept. 25. About 24 vendors sell fruits, vegetables, meat, dairy, honey and more.

Live Jazz -- Every Friday and Saturday from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m., the Third Degrees Lounge at the River Place Hotel, 1510 S.W. Harbor Way. No cover or minimum purchase. For more information, visit pdxjazz.com.

Portland Homes -- "At Home in Portland: 1909-1914," explores the variety of architecture during the city's boom years between 1900 and 1920. The exhibit runs through July 11 at the Pittock Mansion, 3229 N.W. Pittock Dr.

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.

Samson the T. Rex -- A magnificent -foot-long Tyrannosaurus rex skeleton, one of the most fearsome carnivores ever to walk the face of the earth is on display at OMSI. The 66-million-year-old fossil known as Samson is one of the most complete Tyrannosaurus rex specimens in existence.

Discount Admission -- OMSI visitors pay only \$2 per person for general admission on the first Sunday of each month as well as discounted admission of \$5 to the Planetarium, OMIMAX Theater and USS Blueback submarine.

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