

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



Dynamic Dancers Open Series

White Bird launches its 13th season Thursday with the thrilling *Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal* at the Newmark Theatre, 1111 S.W. Broadway. Three shows are scheduled at 7 p.m. beginning Thursday, Sept. 23 through Saturday, Sept. 25 at Newmark Theater, 1111 S.W. Broadway. Tickets start at \$20.

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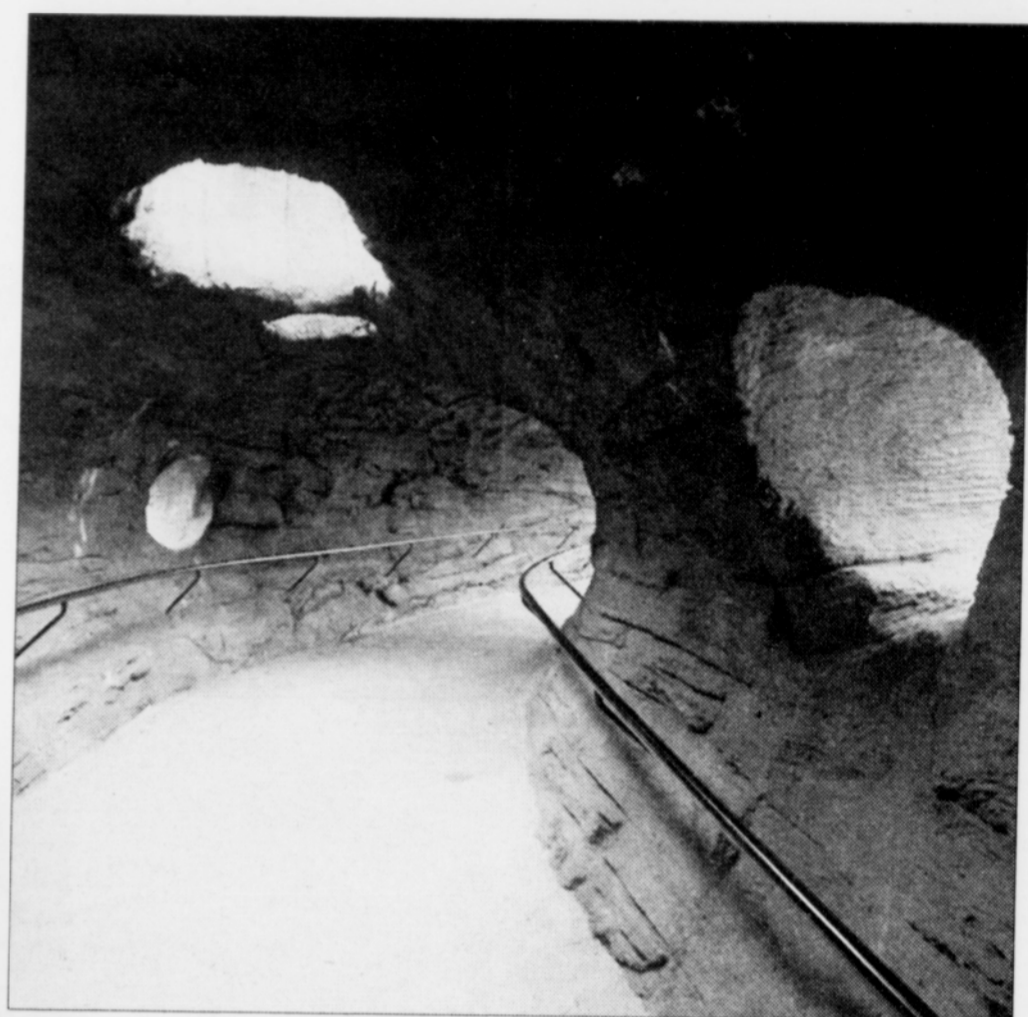
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The interior of the Tree Tunnel at Red Ape Reserve at the Oregon Zoo.

Red Ape Reserve Enriches Experience Zoo's orangs and gibbons settle into new home

The public is getting its first full view of orangutans and white-cheeked gibbons exploring their new home in the Oregon Zoo's Red Ape Reserve exhibit.

"To see 50-year-old Inji and her grandson Kutai constantly exploring their surroundings is a thrill," said Dave Thomas, the zoo's senior primate keeper. "And to watch the two gibbons, Phyllis and Duffy, swing through the air just adds to the excitement. I know I speak for many here at the zoo in saying that it is a joy to have these animals outdoors in such an enriching environment. I'm confident the public will feel the same."

According to Thomas, primate staff could not be more pleased at how well the orangutans and gibbons are interacting with their new exhibit as well as with each other. Keepers have been amazed by how quickly and smoothly the animals have adjusted to their new surroundings.

"The fact that they are all utilizing the climbing structures of ropes, sway poles and logs is exciting in itself," Thomas said. "What is even more thrilling is that the orangs and gibbons are getting along as roommates. Many zoos would be envi-

ous of such a successful introduction of mixed species."


The naturalistic exhibit places visitors in the context of the fragile Southeast Asian habitats that are home to the two species. Visitors have unprecedented opportunities to observe orangutans, indoors and outdoors, exhibiting natural behaviors as they literally climb and swing over visitors' heads and come nose-to-nose with them at glass viewing windows. It also provides visitors opportunities to actively learn about orangutan conservation.

A massive log tunnel, nearly 60 feet long and 8 feet wide, cuts directly through the exhibit's outdoor animal area. Orangutans and gibbons are able to climb freely around the log while visitors watch safely from inside.

Another highlight of the outdoor space is the signature "enrichment tree." Designed to resemble a massive buttress tree overtaken by a strangler fig, this feature is intended to keep the animals alert, engaged and mentally challenged in their new home.


The zoo is a service of Metro and is dedicated to its mission of inspiring the community to create a better future for wildlife.

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