

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Reel Music Festival Lines Up

African-American films and more featured

"Every sound has a story and every story has a sound," writes the Northwest Film Center, announcing the 28th annual Reel Music Festival with intentions to celebrate the unexpected stories behind some of the world's greatest music from Friday, Jan. 7 through Jan. 18 at various screening locations in Portland.

Featuring everything from collections of vintage performance clips to new documentary and dramatics films, to cutting-edge music videos and animation, Reel Music embraces films that explore a variety of musical genres rock, classical, opera, and avante garde as well as jazz, blues, reggae, folk, and hip-hop, and fuses them into a unique cinematic celebration, says the press release.

Believing in the power of cinema to unify communities, the Northwest Film Center will celebrate a number of films of both traditional African music and contemporary African-American contributions to music, including three of the following:

Benda Bilili! -- French directors Renaud Barret and Florent de la Tullaye follow the Benda Bilili band's remarkable fairy tale journey from the streets of Kinshasa, Congo, to international stardom. 'Benda Bilili' is Congolese for 'see beyond,' which has profound meaning for this group of musicians, composed of five paraplegics and one able-bodied teenager who makes music from a tin can connected to a stick with a piece of nylon. They sing about life on the streets, suffering from polio and sleeping on cardboard, and ride around on customized Mad Max-style tricycles. Fantastic music and remarkable charac-



'Kinshasa Symphony' goes behind the scenes to feature the only orchestra in the Congo. The documentary is one of the many films featured this month at the Northwest Film Center's Reel Music Film Festival.



Ray Charles

ters make this an uplifting and unforgettable film.

Ray Charles America -- American director Manya Spraic profiles Ray Charles, one of the few music icons who resonated with so many aspects of American culture. Over time, both his story and his work became two sides of the same coin. Few came from less—dirt poor, blind, and ultimately orphaned—to achieve more. The film examines the social and political context of Charles' work and how his unique approach to music and his ability to transcend racial barriers changed the cultural landscape as we know it. Through in-depth interviews,

unreleased music, and never-before-seen footage, the film tells of Charles' impact in broader stories of love, politics, art, and business.

Kinshasa Symphony -- German directors Claud Wishmann and Martin Baer bring to life the African beats in Beethoven by profiling the 200 musicians of the Kimanguiste Symphony Orchestra, the only orchestra in the Congo. For musicians who have survived two putsches and the effects of a decades-long war, a passion for music is inspiration to overcome mundane obstacles like a lack of electricity. Kinshasa Symphony paints a picture of the diverse, fast-paced, vibrant city in which these musicians live and work—and the courage of a community that demands a better tomorrow.

For a complete lineup, visit the website nwfilm.org. Screening locations include the Northwest Film Center's Whitsell Auditorium at the Portland Art Museum, 1219 S.W. Park Ave., Portland Art Museum's Fields Ballroom, 1119 S.W. Park Ave., McMenamin's Mission Theater, 1624 N.W. Glisan, and Mississippi Studios, 3939 N. Mississippi Ave.



Friends of Chamber Music

Friends of Chamber Music bring the prestigious Pacifica Quartet, one of the finest chamber ensembles performing today, to Portland, for 7:30 p.m. concerts on Monday, Jan. 10 and Tuesday, Jan. 11 at Lincoln Performance Hall, 1620 S.W. Park Ave. Call 503-224-9842 or any Ticketmaster outlet.



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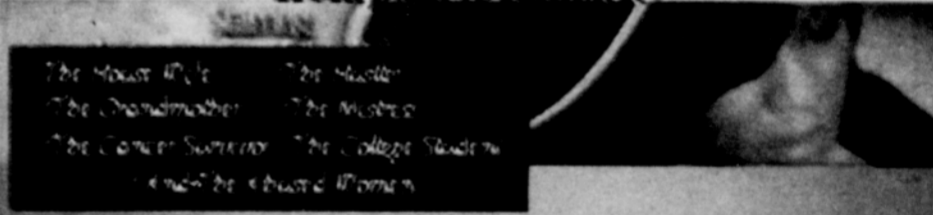
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