

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

NW Dance Project's Best of Now

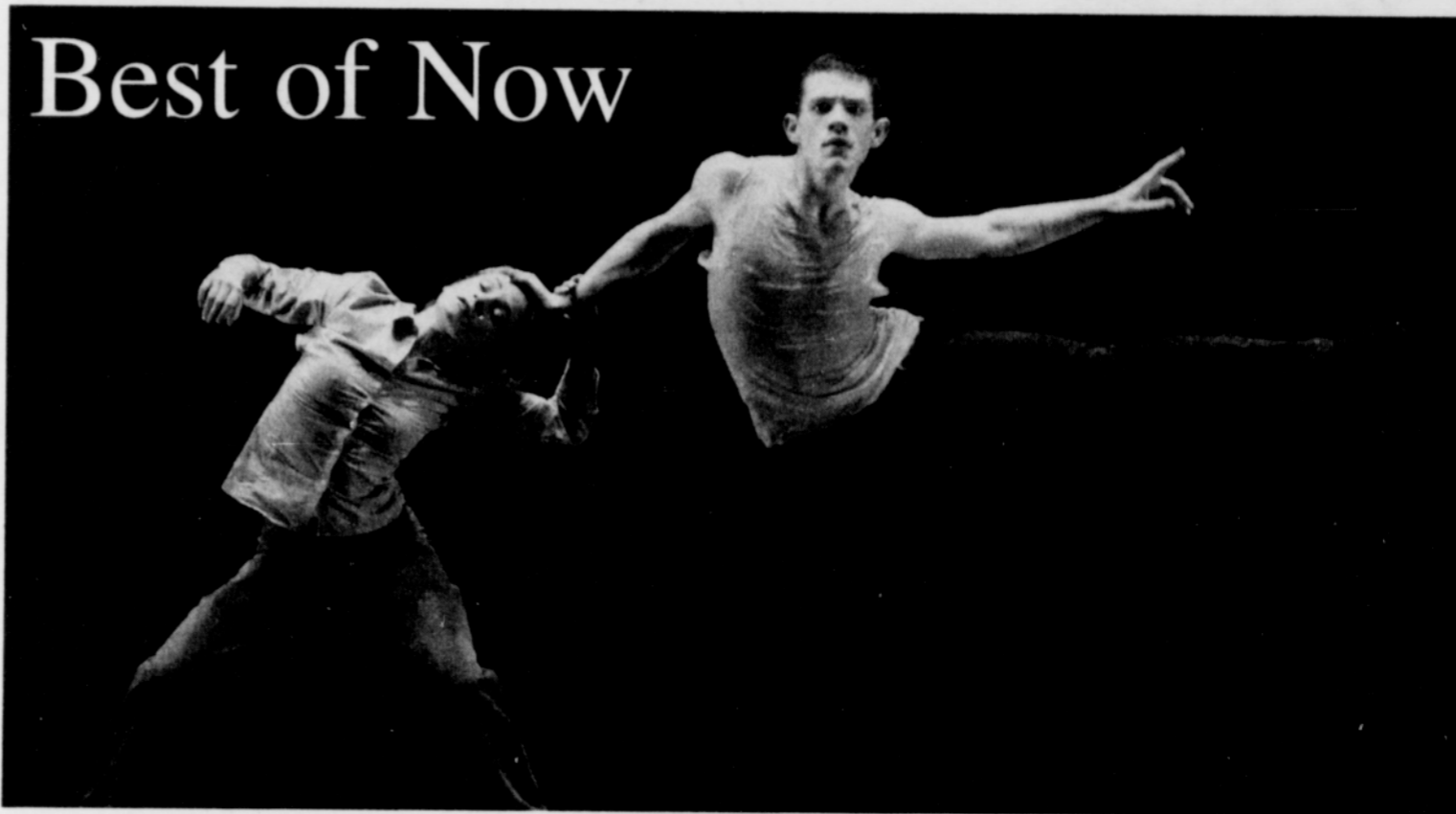
The Northwest Dance Project presents its annual spring performances for shows at 8 p.m. on Friday, March 9 and again on Saturday, March 10 at the Newmark Theatre, Portland Center for the Performing Arts, 1111 S.W. Broadway.

Portland's internationally recognized leader in the creation and performance of significant new dance works, will debut a world premiere from Northwest Dance Project Artistic Director and Choreographer Sarah Slipper; a world premiere from one of France's most

acclaimed and accomplished choreographers, Patrick Delcroix; and a world premiere from Chinese-born Wen Wei Wang, one of Canada's top choreographers.

Tickets are \$25 and up, available at the PCPA Box Office and Ticketmaster outlets.

Andrea Parson and Patrick Kilbane bring world-class contemporary dance to Portland as part of the Northwest Dance Project.



Divisions, Resentments and Bigotry Race, a play of shame and rage at Artists Reporatory

In this complicated world, acknowledging prejudice is an ugly venture into discomfort. In *Race*, two lawyers, one black, one white, take on a case that gets under their skin and exposes a minefield of deep divisions, resentments and bigotry.

Playwright David Mamet's rapid-fire dialogue, gripping plot and blunt language, thoroughly stripped of polite social convention and rife with provocative humor, is a searing portrait of American discrimination.

Director Tamara Fisch will make her Artists Rep debut with this production.

"This play is about the shame and rage about race that run very deep in the American psyche," said Fisch. She said America's history of

racial injustice is our country's greatest shame, and "the stain we can't wash out of our history."

Mamet sets us up to believe that in this "post-racial" era, we can dispense with race as a source of shame, rage and endless complication, she said. But, in the end, he shows us the futility of that idea and demands that we see ourselves as we are. Mamet is taking aim at everything we think we understand about race in America. Indeed, many progressive, educated, well-meaning, white people would rather eat glass than admit to harboring racial bias. These are Mamet's audiences, much of America's theater audience and a large percentage of the population of Portland.

Fisch said Mamet writes plays

that are challenging and even frightening - he forces his audiences to acknowledge their illusions for what they are. "If we do our job right," she said, looking at the production's cast and crew, "they will start."

Performances opened this week and run through April 8 at Artists Repertory Theatre, Southwest 15th and Morrison Street. For tickets and more information, call 503-241-1278 or visit artistsrep.org.

Houston Casket Photo Denied

(AP) — The owner of the New Jersey funeral home that handled services for Whitney Houston says the home had nothing to do with a photograph that surfaced showing the singer's body in an open casket.

But Carolyn Whigham of Whigham Funeral Home and two pastors say they do know who took the photo that ran in the National Enquirer. They just aren't identifying the person and

say that's up to the Houston family.

Defending Whigham, the Rev. Ronald Slaughter of nearby St. James AME Church in Newark, N.J., said Thursday the funeral home "had no role in this shameful betrayal."

The 48-year-old Houston died Feb. 11 in California. Whigham says she determined the photo was taken Feb. 17, a day before the funeral.

Happy Birthday Clara Tenkins-Washington from your family, we love you.

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THE APPLICATION DEADLINE IS MARCH 31, 2012

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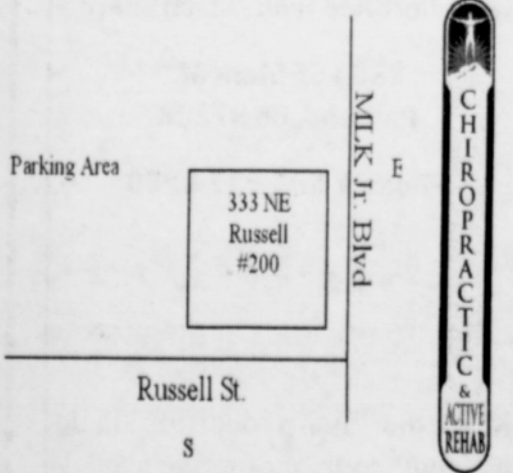
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