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# The PO



## Vegan Soul

Food activist author  
fronts Portland  
Roots Festival  
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## Right Kind of Reverence

Biopic on James  
Brown gets it right  
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'City of Roses'



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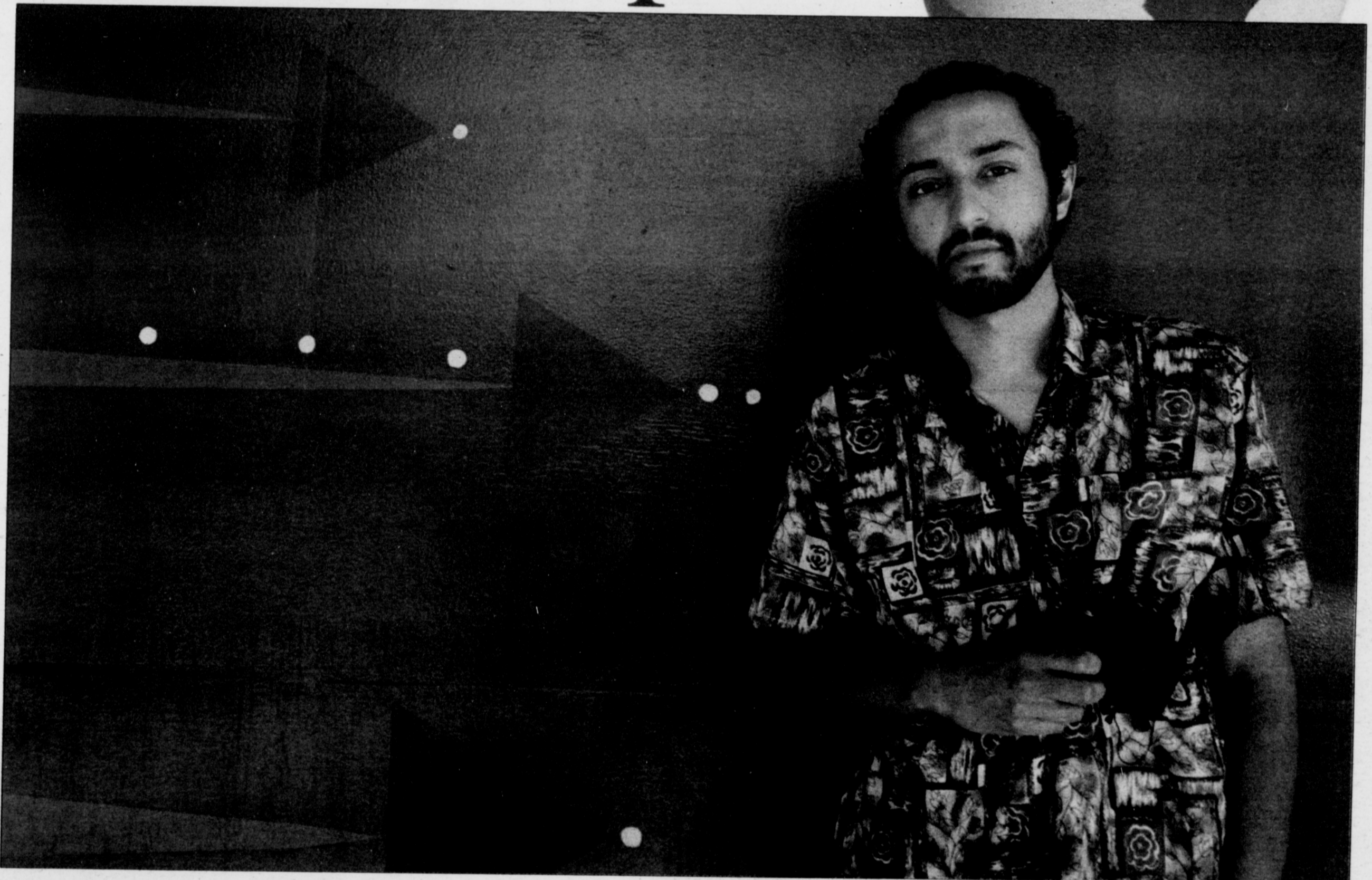
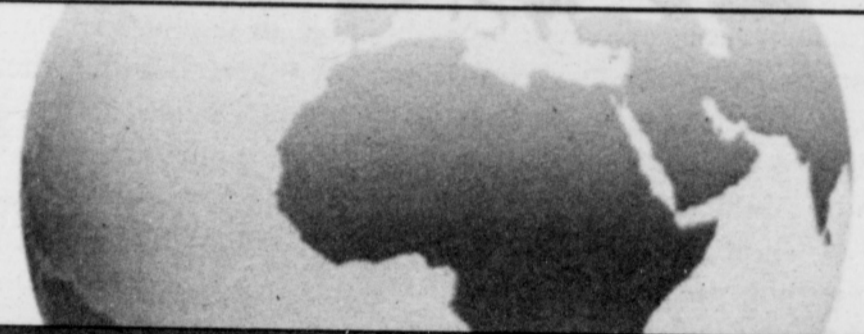


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## Global Impact



BY DONOVAN M. SMITH/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Portland photographer Alex Riedlinger tackles issues of globalization relating to Africa and America. He has launched a fundraising effort via Indiegogo to produce a photo-documentary on life in Nigeria, using scenes that he captured during a recent visit.

### Portland photographer visits Nigeria to produce documentary

BY DONOVAN M. SMITH  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Filtered through his eyes and lens, photographer Alex Riedlinger wants to give people a piece of the vibrancy that exists in the people of southwest Nigeria.

Titled *Just Like That*, Riedlinger's photo-documentary gives in stills, day-to-day life of Nigerians he shadowed as they mused, danced, and performed religious rituals over a

month. Portland-raised, and the son of African immigrants, Riedlinger has been shooting since childhood.

He recently launched a fundraising effort via Indiegogo that would bring 60 images from his trip, to 200 paperback books, and cover the printing of 15 large photos for a future exhibition.

Riedlinger, 27, also focuses much of his work documenting the cultural practices and religion of people of African descent. Important, he says, to adding alternative narratives around black people in America. In fact, records show that the region Alex visited is where many of the people shipped into slavery in America had their roots.

This work, he says, holds importance for communities even right here in Portland. "Honestly there's parts of north Portland that don't seem that different from life in Africa,"

Riedlinger says.

In Nigeria, the seasoned photographer spent considerable amount of time following young priests of an ancient spirituality called Yoruba Ifa. The men were followers of Orisa traditions that focus mostly on the worship of ancestors and deities.

In the midst of keeping tradition, he found a struggle. He observed that many of the youth in Africa are looking to the "Western World," pop culture, hip-hop, and even President Obama for social cues. In this, it is becoming increasingly difficult for pre-colonial forms of tradition and worship to survive.

Where kids would once learn to play traditional drums

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