



Destination: Corvallis

Broadway star Tsidii Le Loka comes to The Majestic Theatre

By Dante Zuñiga-West

Corvallis, home to the da Vinci Days Festival, a rising tide of excellent breweries and Reeser Stadium, now has one more reason for Eugeneans (and other Oregonians) to visit this season: Tsidii Le Loka.

An international sensation and Tony-nominated Broadway star, the South African-born Le Loka has come to Corvallis by way of The Majestic Theatre's first ever artist-in-residence program. A vocalist who possesses a staggering degree of talent, Le Loka's arrival is a testament to Majestic Theatre's mission of bringing big-time acts to Corvallis. Her distinguished career is accented by performances with other huge names, such as Elton John, Ladysmith Black Mambazo and Madonna.

Referred to by jazz giant Yusef Lateef as "one of the rare vocalists of the century," Le Loka will perform Saturday, Jan. 21, at the Majestic Theatre Benefit Concert with guitarist Paul Pimster, in what is sure to be an incredible treat for both fans and those unacquainted with the singer's abilities. The concert also includes an unveiling of the newly painted theater.

Le Loka's main focus during her residency is even more phenomenal than the vocal tour-de-force she will put on at the benefit with Pimster and rumored special guest violinist Tatiana Hargreaves. "To the Rising Sun," Le Loka's multimedia performance incorporating the work of Nina Simone, Miriam MeKeba and Odetta Holmes, will also grace the Majestic Theatre's stage. With poet Maya Angelou, who has personally selected poems from her own body of work for the performance, and sound design by Mio Morales (known for his regular contributions to Alvin Ailey projects), Le Loka will pay homage to female civil rights activists of the past. "To the Rising Sun" is a rare and spectacular performance worth driving hours to see, but it's only 40 minutes from Eugene.

Tsidii Le Loka headlines The Majestic Theatre Benefit Concert Jan. 21, at The Majestic Theatre; \$15-\$40. "To the Rising Sun" plays April 3, 5, and 7, at The Majestic Theatre; \$12-\$20