

ENTERTAINMENT



Jesse Jackson, Patti La Belle Will Appear on E! For Special Black History **Month Presentations**

"E! New Daily" Will Explore Media Portrayals of Black Entertainment, including Interracial Relationships and Rap Music

E! Entertainment Television honored Black History Month on two of its prime time series this month. "Extreme Close-Up," the network's half-hour celebrity series, inaugurated its first "theme week" with a five-part presentation that focused on the accomplishments of the African-American community. "E! News Daily" presented a four-part look at black entertainment, its impact on American society, and its handling in the media.

Political leader Jesse Jackson, Academy Award-winner Denzel Washington, and pop singer Patti LaBelle will be among the guests on "Extreme Close-Up" during the week of February 24. Interviewed by E! host Arthel Neville, these guests and others to be announced will offer insight into their careers and success. "Extreme Close-Up" airs nightly at 8:30 p.m. ET/PT.

"E! News Daily," which airs nightly at 9:00 p.m. ET/PT, presented a look at the "African-American Identity" on Monday, Feb. 17. Communities often establish a sense of identity from the celebrities in their midst, which means that celebrities are treated as if they are culture heroes. Actors such as James Earl Jones and Sheryl Lee Ralph ("To Sleep With Anger") discussed the pressure and responsibility placed on individuals when they are asked to represent the hopes and dreams of an entire

community. "Bad Rap/Good Rap" (Tuesday, Feb. 18) - Rap music is often seen as a stimulus to violence and hatred of whites and women, but the genre as a whole is far more diverse. In interviews with rappers Ice T and Ice Cube, among others, this segment explored the many

To be seen on Wednesday, Feb. 19, is "Interracial Relationships." Television shows and movies are depicting interracial relationships more frequently, and the subject always stirs controversy. Blair Underwood of "L.A. Law" and Annabella Sciora of "Jungle Fever," whose characters both had interracial relationships, will talk about the ways the media depict this often taboo subject.

"Sampling" (Thursday, Feb. 20)-rap music occasionally uses snippets of other musicians' songs--a practice that has led to litigation over copyright infringement but that also is seen as contemporary musicians' paying homage to earlier ones. Rap musicians Salt N Pepa and Herby "LuvBug" Azor, among others, will discuss this controversy.

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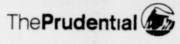
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Louis Gossett, Jr. To **Lecture At Linfield College**



On Thursday, Feb. 18, Academy Award winning actor Louis Gossett, Jr., will presents a lecture on African-American history at the Wilson Gymnasium in Linfield College.

The lecture, which will be free and open to the public, is sponsored through the Madeleine Amsden Endowed Lectureship.

Gossett got his start in show business in 1953 when as a 17-year-old without any professional acting experience, he won the leading role in the Broadway play, "Take a Giant Step." He received the Donaldson Award as best newcomer in the theatre that year.

Over the next nearly 40 years, Gossett appeared in more than 60 theatrical productions, 20 movies, four television series, and about 20 miniseries and made-for-television movies. His most notable film appearances have been in supporting roles in such movies as "A Raisin in The Sun," "The Deep," and "An Officer and A Gentleman," for which he received the Academy Award as best supporting actor for his depiction of the no-nonsense drill instructor Sergeant Emil Foley. He will long be remembered by viewers for his depiction of Fiddler, the friend and mentor of Kunta Kinte in the landmark miniseries "Roots," a performance that earned him an Emmy Award.

An all-around athlete in high school, Gossett lettered in track, baseball and basketball. His first taste of the

theatre came when an injury forced him to sit out an entire basketball season and he won a role in the school play. He later auditioned and won the role in "Take A Giant Step," for which he received outstanding reviews. Gossett attended New York University on an athletic-drama scholarship, playing on NYU's outstanding varsity basketball team and also continued his acting career. After graduating in 1959 he was drafted by the NBA's New York Knickerbockers, but decided to abandon basketball after he was offered a role in Lorraine Hansberry's Broadway play, "A Raisin in the Sun."

He has gone on to star in the stage and screen productions of "A Raisin in the Sun,""The Choirboys,""Backstairs at the Whitehouse," "Gideon Oliver," "Sadat," "Iron Eagle," "A Gathering of Old Men" and many more feature films, theatre and television productions.

Gossett has also received a Golden Globe Award, and the NAACP's Image Award for projecting a positive view of African-Americans, and the Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award for his work with ghetto children. Hoping to increase the number of nonstereotypical roles for African-American actors, Gossett founded his own production company, LoGo Entertainment. Among the projects he is said to be considering is a movie biography for Cab Calloway.

A group of Linfield alumni, headed by Baruti Artharee, a Portland businessman, has invited Portland area high school students and residents to attend Gossett's lecture as special guests as part of their efforts to help increase cultural diversity at Linfield.

The group has been instrumental in developing a mentoring program for Linfield's minority students. The alumni meet with students on a regular basis for social activities and to help the students if they are having any difficulties. This group, along with other Linfield alumni, have developed an endowed scholarship to support minority students in attending Linfield. Additionally, they are also working with the Admissions office to increase the recruitment of minority students to Linfield.

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