

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

NPR Celebrates Black History Month

PIG's Life Hangs By A Thread!



Actress Esther Rolle (top left) in "Ain't Gonna Be Treated This Way"; The Holmes Brothers (top right) in "Juke Joints & Jubilee"; James Reese Europe and his Harlem Hellfighters Band (bottom right) in "Horizons" "Fantare for the Warriors"; George Clinton (bottom left) in "Afropop Worldwide".

Coming in February, many National Public Radio (NPR) member stations nationwide will air a mix of documentary, music and cultural programs in celebration of Black History Month.

A two-part documentary, "Ain't Gonna Be Treated This Way," explores the experience of African Americans in the Great Depression.

Hosted by award-winning theatre and television actress Esther Rolle, the programs use folksongs from the Library of Congress, eyewitness accounts, archival recordings, and rarely heard period blues in its presentation of black social history in the '20s and '30s.

Now in its fifth season, the renowned series AFROPOP WORLD-

WIDE presents four special programs in addition to its regular, weekly offerings. From gospel in Alabama to soca in Trinidad, from Afro-Atlantic women vocalists to soukous from Zaire, AFROPOP WORLDWIDE will demonstrate the global influence of African-rooted musical styles. George Clinton, Bob Marley, Ladysmith Black Mambazo and

Kanda Bongo Man are among the diverse performers featured on these special AFROPOP WORLDWIDE programs throughout the month of February.

In another NPR special, The United States Marine Band pays tribute to African American composers. Under the direction of Colonel John R. Bourgeois, "The President's Own" will perform Fela Sowande's African Suite, Marvin Curtis' "The City on the Hill" (with the Philander-Smith College Choir), "Solemn Prelude" by Ulysses Kay, and Ronald Hockett's arrangement "From Ragtime to Swing" featuring works by Scott Joplin "Jelly Roll" Morton, Duke Ellington and Fats Waller. This hour-long program is produced by Andy Trudeau.

Bringing together the music of the house party, the roadhouse and the church, "Juke Joints & Jubilee" features an exuberant blend of secular and sacred music created by black Americans. Hosted by NPR's Vertamae Grosvenor, this two-hour special showcases the talents of the soulful, hard-rockin' Holmes Brothers, singer/pianist Fontella Bass, North Carolina bluesman and juba dancer John Dee Holeman, and the dynamic gospel quartet, The Birmingham Sunlights. "Juke Joints & Jubilee" is produced by NPR and the National Council for the Traditional Arts.

National Public Radio has been producing culture and information programs on and by African Americans since the mid-1970s and has displayed its commitment to the celebration of Black History Month since 1979. NPR has won numerous awards for its ongoing effort to present diversity in American life. There are nearly 490 member station nationwide.



R. Dee as Templeton the rat and Teresa Keffner as Fern in the Oregon Children's Theatre Company production of "Charlotte's Web." Photo by Owen Carey

E.B. White's delightful tale of barnyard comradery, Charlotte's Web, will take the stage at Civic Auditorium in January. Launching Oregon Children's Theatre Company's sixth season and featuring the talents of local professional actors and theatre technicians, Charlotte's Web will play to a sold-out audience of 39,000 from January 6-14, with two public performances scheduled for Sunday, January 9 at 1 PM and 3 PM. Suitable for the whole family, the production will introduce audiences to an imperiled pig named Wilbur; Templeton the rat; Fern, the young girl who tries to protect Wilbur; and Charlotte, the feisty spider who uses her wits and her web to save him from the slaughterhouse.

Charlotte's Web is under the direction of Stan Foote, well known to Portland audiences for this work with Triangle Production and his direction of dozens of musicals for Lake-wood Theatre Company, including the recent acclaimed production of Sondheim's Into the Woods. The cast features Mars Westin as Charlotte, Alan H. King as the reporter/narrator, Eric James Hadley as Wilbur, and R. Dee as templeton. Teresa Kuffner,

a sophomore at St. Mary's Academy, is Fern, and Josh Nielsen, a fourth grader at Stafford Primary School in West Linn plays her brother Avery. Their parents, the Arables, are played by Rene Nichols and Mitchel Evans, a regular on the ABC/Jim Henson production Dinosaurs who is currently appearing in comfort and Joy for Stark Raving Theatre. A trio of baby spiders will be portrayed by Nicole Connolly-Smith, a first grader at Hallinan Elementary School, five year old James Stone, and Hayley Maureen Barrett, who has appeared in the movie Single Dad. Fanciful Critter costumes for the show are being constructed by designer Billy Rose.

Oregon Children's Theatre Company continues its tradition of quality live theatre at affordable prices for students and families. Tickets for the public performances are \$7.00 to \$12.00, and can be purchased at GI Joe's, the PCPA Box Office or by calling Charge-by-Phone at 224-4400. A special subscription rate for the season, which also includes The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe on May 1, is available through OCTC at 228-9571. ARTSCARD tickets can be purchased through the PCPA Box Office.

"SISTER ACT 2: BACK IN THE HABIT"

Top: When Deloris Van Cartier—alias Sister Mary Clarence (Academy Award winner Whoopi Goldberg)—is confronted with a classroom full of unruly teenagers, she gives them a lesson they'll never forget and sets out to turn the troublemakers into a first-rate hip-hop gospel choir, in Touchstone Pictures' new comedy with music, "Sister Act 2: Back in the Habit." Below: Inspired by Deloris' personal brand of wisdom, the nuns at St. Catherine's, including (left to right) Sisters Mary Lazarus (Mary Wickes), Mary Robert (Wendy Makkena) and Mary Patrick (Kathy Najimy) prepare to send their less-than-angelic hip-hop gospel choir on the road. (Right) Whoopi Goldberg stars as Deloris Van Cartier who goes undercover as Sister Mary Clarence to help her old friends, the nuns at St. Catherine's Convent. James Coburn and Maggie Smith also star. A Touchstone Pictures presentation, "Sister Act 2: Back in the Habit" is directed by Bill Duke from a screenplay written by James Orr & Jim Cruickshank and Judi Ann Mason, based on characters created by Joseph Howard. The film is produced by Dawn Steel and Scott Rudin and the executive producers are Laurence Mark and Mario Iscovich. Co-executive producer is Christopher Meledandri. Buena Vista Pictures distributes. Photo by: Suzanne Hanover



THE CULTURAL BAND

BY DAN BELL
There is a little known band comprised of middle school students that has not had much publicity. This is an interesting band due to the fact that most of the students involved in this band come from our own community. The band in question is the Cultural Recreation Band.
The band evolved from the results of a community survey in which children were asked if there was an alternative to athletics, such as baseball, basketball and football, and this alternative was music would the child be interested in becoming involved. The answer was a categorical yes.
The program began in June of 1992. It ran five days a week at Ockley Green Middle School. The program was funded by private donations, and other entities such as Black United Fund, and the Metropolitan Arts Foundation.
The 150 member band is com-

prised of two divisions. 1) The advance band in which there are 45 members, and 2) the beginning band.
The Cultural Recreation Band is a concert band made up of woodwind and brass instruments. The material they play is classical and some military pieces.
By playing this material in their repertoire, the students are introduced to music outside of their normal experience. The staff has a unique approach to working with the children under their tutelage.
Ronnie Harrison, Assistant Director for the band states that if a child gets caught stealing instead of expelling him or her from the band they find more things for them to do. Every child is embraced and the staff, unlike most agencies, is committed not to abandon anyone.
Barry Stevens, is a 13 year seventh grade student at Whitaker. He has been playing with the band since

he was eleven.
He comments that he loves to play clarinet and most enjoys classical music. When commenting about his peers who are involved in gangs, he says that gangs do not get much out of their activity, and that in the long run if you get into trouble that you have to suffer the consequences by yourself. Because the gang members aren't going to help. Barry gets good to average grades, but he says playing in the band motivates him to achieve.
The Cultural Recreation Band is under the World Arts Foundation umbrella. Michael Grice of World Arts Foundation, the Portland Park Bureau's, Charles Jordan and David Jordan work together to see to the Cultural Recreation band administrative needs.
The day to day staff are Greg McKelvey Director, Ronnie Harrison Assistant Director and Thara Memory Head Brass instructor. There is also 8

students instructors who work with the staff.
Mr. Harrison further commented on the need for community support. Primarily in the manner of attending the various public concerts. He sites that the band is a community treasure that for the most part works with children within the community. He said there is also a need for financial support as well. For those interested they may make their donations to the World Arts Foundation.
Mr. Harrison also says that the Cultural Recreation Band is in need of a permanent location.
Unlike sports where the emphasis is on personal achievement to participate, the Cultural Recreation Band provides young people an opportunity to participate in a group activity regardless of level of expertise.
Attend one of their future concerts. Remember children are our most important resources.

"The 'COOL RUNNINGS' of basketball films."
—Paul Wunder, WBAI-FM

Jimmy Dolan went to Africa to recruit a new player. What he found was a whole new ballgame.

KEVIN BACON
THE
AIR
UP THERE

BUENA VISTA PICTURES PRESENTS
A WALT DISNEY PICTURES PRODUCTION
"COOL RUNNINGS" STARRING KEVIN BACON, JOHN GUTENBERG, AND JIMMY DOLOAN
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