

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

The Portland Observer

Bruce Caines: Our Common Ground



Bruce Caines (upper left corner); author of *Our Common Ground*, "Portraits of Blacks Changing the Face of America" shown with the books cover illustration. Publication Date: November 16, 1994. Photo Credit: Lisa R. Bernad, 1993

Bruce Caines was born in Jamaica, New York, in 1959, the oldest of three sons. Caines' interest in photography began while he was growing up in Flushing, Queens. Although he was always taking pictures with his mother's Instamatic, Caines wanted to be an illustrator, and he attended the High School of Art and Design in Manhattan with that intention.

"Art and Design is unique because the curriculum is a lot like college," says Caines. "They make you spend time in different departments during your first year; because of this, I was exposed to several different things I wanted to pursue. First it was illustration, then animation, then cinematography." While in the cinema department Caines interned with a fashion photographer because "it just seemed interesting." That experience changed his career.

After graduating from Art and Design as a photo major, Caines attended college at the highly regarded

School of Visual Arts in New York City, where he continued his studies in photography. To help pay his tuition, he worked six to eight hours a night at New York's main post office during the holiday season. "I could barely stay awake in class, so I was forced to quit." During his junior year, Caines began working part-time for dance and theater photographer Lois Greenfield. "Lois was just establishing herself and looking for someone with a strong lighting knowledge to enhance her skills," says Caines. "I was looking for a different experience from the commercial work I had already been exposed to."

On weekends, Caines pursued his interest in music - writing songs, playing lead guitar, and singing in a band with some high school friends. "I realized I was a better photographer than musician, so the odds against starving would be in my favor if I gave up music and pursued a career in photography. It was a tough

decision because I love music."

While at SVA, Caines joined the school's Public Advertising System, which was run by two advertising professionals and staffed by ten select students. They created print and television advertising campaigns for nonprofit organizations.

Caines graduated from SVA with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Photography and then worked in a catalog house for a summer, shooting everything from blenders to shoes. Fashion photographer Palma Kolansky, an instructor he had studied with and befriended at SVA, asked if he would be interested in working as her assistant. Caines jumped at the chance.

For the next several years Caines worked as a freelance assistant to Kolansky and several other top fashion, still-life, and illustration photographers, including Jim Salzano, Rebecca Blake and Jim Barber. As a freelance assistant, he not only photographed food and celebrities in the studio, but also shot from a hot air balloon and the top of the Verrazano Narrows Bridge in New York.

In 1989, Caines went out on his own with clients ranging from *Essence* magazine, *Newsweek*, *Emerge*, and *LA Style*, to fashion designer Rose Marie Woulfe, Columbia Records, and Merrill Lynch. In recent years he has been concentrating less on fashion and more on personalities, both celebrities and noncelebrities. "There's a difference when you shoot people as opposed to models. Models are nice, but they are pretending to be somebody for the shot. When I do portraits of people, I get a real personality on film. I like to shoot informally because then people seem more real, more accessible."

Although he is a workaholic, Caines makes time to volunteer his services as a photographer for the American Cancer Society's "Look Good, Feel Better" program. He also donates much of his time to New York Cares, where he makes himself available to inner-city children for weekend outings and other recreation.

"Gullah Gullah Island," New Children's Show

From Perez Minton Productions Premiered On Nickelodeon October 24, 11:30 A.M.

Gullah Gullah Island, a new participatory, multicultural show from Perez Minton Productions (PMP) will premier on Nickelodeon on Monday, October 24, at 11:30 a.m. The half-hour series is part of Nick Jr.'s preschool programming block, which airs weekdays from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

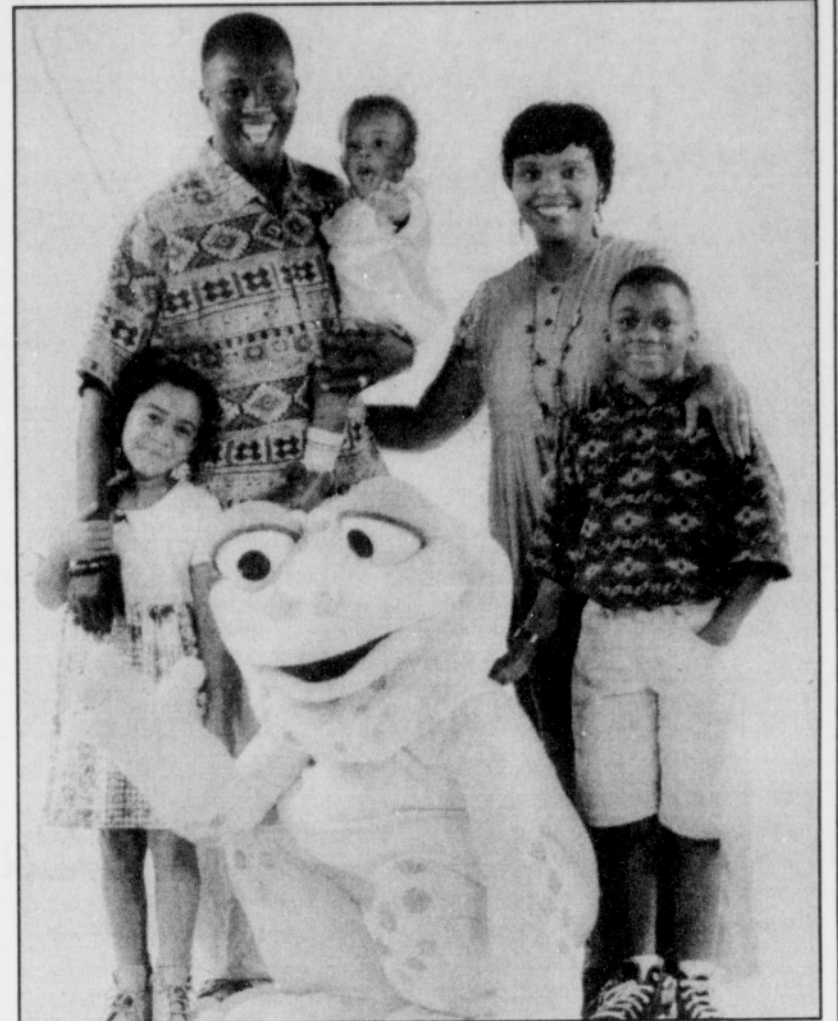
The show centered around a real-life African-American family: Ron and Natalie Daise and their three children Natalie and Ron drew preschoolers into their nurturing, stable family setting, and also use their skills as artists, writers and performers to entertain and educate through stories, music and crafts.

Gullah Gullah Island was executive produced by PMP co-founders Maria Perez and Kathleen Minton. Kit Laybourne, creative director, created the show with Perez and Minton.

"Gullah Gullah Island is emblematic of Perez Minton Productions' approach -- programming that entertains and that reflects the complex, multicultural experience in America from a child's perspective," said Perez, who is also executive producer of *Mama Day* a feature film based on the Gloria Naylor novel, currently in pre-production.

"We're gratified by Nickelodeon's vote of confidence in Gullah Gullah Island. This show represented a unique opportunity for preschoolers to view and participate with a warm and loving family who have a gift for her work as senior producer of the preschool series *Eureeka's Castle*.

Gullah Gullah Island was an imaginary place that was tucked among the real Sea Islands along the South Carolina and Georgia



Ron and Natalie Daise (top left and second from right) invite preschoolers to their home on Gullah Gullah Island for songs, stories, games and laughter with daughter Shaina (Shaina Freeman, bottom left), son James (James Coleman II, right), baby Simeon (The Daises' real life son, held by Ron) and Binyah Binyah Pollywong, a bright yellow tree frog (bottom center), weekdays from 11:30 a.m. - 12 noon, ET/PT on Nickelodeon.

coasts. Based loosely on Gullah, the unique culture that richly blends African and American customs and includes its own distinct language, the show welcomed young viewers into a wonderful world where learning is playing and playing is learning.

The work of Natalie and Ron Daise celebrates the culture of the Sea Islands off the Southern Atlantic

coast. Their careers create natural opportunities for a rich and diverse world to pass through their home, which includes their children James, Sara and baby Simeon. With the Daise family as the heart of the show, friends, relatives, neighbors and colleagues from an extended family -- one that will, by design, included the viewer as well.

Co-Ancor Hired For Newscasts

Cam Johnson has been hired as co-anchor for the weekend editions of Newscenter 6. Johnson will team with current anchor Ken Boddie. In addition, she will anchor the Fox News at 10 weekend newscasts which KOIN produces for KPDX.

Johnson comes to KOIN from KDRV-TV in Medford, Oregon where she anchored their 5, 6 & 11pm weekly newscasts. Prior to that, she was anchor, reporter and producer for the weekend news at KAMC-TV in Lubbock, Texas.

Johnson, originally from Bellevue, Washington, is a graduate of Texas Christian University, where she majored in Broadcast Journalism.

LIVE MUSIC
Friday & Saturday
8pm-Midnight

Wednesday
Jam Session

featuring Louisiana style cuisine at its finest
At Bourbon Street we're proud to offer the finest ribs, freshest seafood, delicious fettucini and blackened dishes. Enjoy the big screen TV in our lounge.

BOURBON STREET
BAR & GRILL
15900 Boones Ferry Road
in Lake Grove, Oregon
636-0017

CJ's Lingerie
For Full Figured Women

Store
503-331-1718

3415 NE Broadway
Portland, OR 97212

Dad's Oil Service

Speedy Service
Friendly Call
For Quote

heating oils

Best Cash Prices
104 NE Russel
Portland, OR 97212
282-5111

Advertise In
The Portland Observer
Call 503-288-0033

The Portland Observer presents Hollywood Pictures

KEENEN IVORY WAYANS
JADA PINKETT

SALLI RICHARDSON

A LOW DOWN DIRTY SHAME

FIFTY COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM THE PORTLAND OBSERVER, 4747 NE MARTIN LUTHER KING BLVD., FOR A THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH SHOWING! TICKETS GIVEN ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS. LIMITED QUANTITY.

La Salle To Present "Nutritious" Entertainment

Wonderful smells of home cooking will fill the theatre on November 11th and 12th, 18th, and 19th. Just call it another one of Mr. C's (Ernie Casciato's) ways to keep his audiences entertained. "The Art of Dining" is a play about Cal and Ellen, owners of a small, elegant gourmet restaurant. Cal's main preoccupation is paying back the \$75,000 it cost to start it up - and that means packing in the customers. Chef Ellen is preoccupied with

the quality of the food - and stopping Cal from sampling the ingredients. This hilarious comedy is sure to be a favorite. Performances are scheduled for 8 p.m. and tickets are \$4 for students and seniors citizens; \$5 for

adults. Tickets may be purchased at La Salle High School prior to curtain. La Salle is located at 11999 SE Fuller Road in Milwaukie, just two blocks west of the Clackamas Town Center between Harmony and Causey.

THE Will Rogers FOLLIES
A Life in Revue

WINNER of More Awards for BEST MUSICAL Than Any Show This Decade!

NOV. 15 - 20
Portland Civic Auditorium
OPENS TUESDAY!

TICKETMASTER CHARGE-BY-PHONE (503) 224-4400
Group Discounts (503) 299-4095