

BLACK HISTORY

The Portland Observer

BET Shines In February With Movies And Original Specials

Black Entertainment Television brings you Black History Month in February 1996 like no other network can with movies, documentaries, music specials and stand-up comedy at its best. Following is a list of specials airing in February 1996, all times Eastern Standard.

BET Movie Theater Join BET every Saturday night in February, for two black-themed movies, back-to-back, as BET presents for the first time ever full-length, black classic movies from the 50's, 60's, 70's and 80's. Stay tuned for more details.

Comic View Grandstand Competition and Comic View Awards BET will present its 4th Annual Comic View Grandstand Competition airing Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8:30 p.m., beginning Tues., Feb. 6 and

ending Thurs., Feb. 22 as stand-up comedians from around the nation vie to become one of six finalists in BET's "Comic View Awards Jam." The "Comic View Awards Jam" airs Fri., Feb. 23, 8 p.m. where each of the six Grandstand finalists will perform live to win the title of "The Richard Pryor/Comic-Of-The-Year" award, the honor of hosting "Comic View's" 1996-97 season, and a trip to Mexico. Comedian Michael Colyar hosts with celebrity presenters Bill Duke, "Family Matters" Reginald Vel Johnson and black film legend, Richard Roundtree, joining in for a great evening of comedy only on BET.

"The Making of Once Upon A Time When We Were Colored." Go behind the scenes of BET Pictures' and United Image Entertainment's

new film production of "Once Upon A Time When We Were Colored," on Feb. 8, 6:30-7 p.m., as BET's premier entertainment magazine show, "Screen Scene," takes a look at BET Pictures' first film. "Once Upon A Time ...," which begins a limited theatrical release in January of 1996, is a bittersweet story about love, community and family. The special features interviews with the cast and crew of the film, which includes director Tim Reid, and stars Al Freeman, Jr., Phylicia Rashad, Leon, Salli Richardson and Isaac Hayes.

"The Amazing Grace of Gospel." Join BET on Sun., Feb. 11 at 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. as we celebrate the glory that is gospel music in an encore presentation of "The Amaz-

ing Grace of Gospel." Bobby Jones, BET host and gospel music pioneer, takes a look at the many R&B artists who started in Gospel music. This show features performances by Aaron Hall, Rachele Ferrell, Nancy Wilson, El DeBarge, Stephanie Mills and Howard Hewitt.

"The 'Q' Factor". BET will air the original entertainment special, "The 'Q' Factor," airing Feb. 14 at 11 p.m. "The 'Q' Factor" takes an intimate look at music giant Quincy Jones, his life, his loves and his music.

"A Story of Passage: The Making of Race to Freedom". This encore presentation airing Thurs., Feb. 15 at 6:30 p.m. features exclusive behind-the-scenes footage and interviews with cast members of the film, "Race to Freedom: The Underground Rail-

road."

"Race to Freedom: The Underground Railroad". This encore run of this feature-length television drama airs Feb. 19 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. A three-time CableACE nominee, co-produced by BET, United Image Entertainment and the Family Channel, "Race to Freedom" recounts the story of two young slaves, Sarah and Thomas, and their perilous journey to Canada via the Underground Railroad in the 1850's and stars Janet Bailey, Courtney Vance, Dawnn Lewis and Glynn Turman.

"The Black Caricature". "The Black Caricature" airs Feb. 21, 9:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., a one-hour documentary, narrated by Blair Underwood and Cree Summer, examining the black image in movies,

film, literature and music. The show also features Dr. Camille Cosby, Gordon Parks, Dr. Alvin Poussant, Donald Bogle, Bill Duke and Melvin Van Peebles.

BET is the nation's first and only television network providing a platform for quality programming targeted toward an African-American audience.

BET represents the best in entertainment, music videos, news, public affairs, jazz, specials, off-network sitcoms, gospel, and sports.

BET is owned by BET Holdings, Inc., a publicly traded company on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE: BTV), and is currently available in 43.4 million households, as reported by Nielsen Media Research.

Network Scores Highest Prime-Time Rating Ever; Ed Gordon

Black Entertainment Television's news division last night aired O.J. Simpson's first televised interview since his arrest and acquittal in the murder of his ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman. The company issues the following statement:

"We are obviously pleased with the interview. Ed Gordon asked the questions that needed to be asked, and BET News delivered a very compelling two-and-a-half hours of television.

"We are very pleased with the higher visibility this interview gen-

erated for our network. The interview exposed new viewers to the quality and importance of the programming our news and public affairs division delivers. BET News celebrates its 10th anniversary this year and is finally getting some of the recognition it deserves."

According to Nielsen Media Research, "O.J. Simpson: Beyond the Verdict," which aired 10-11 p.m. EST, achieved an overnight rating of 6.9 within BET's coverage area (more than 3 million cable households) and is the highest rated telecast in the history of the network.

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BET represents the best in entertainment, music videos, news and public affairs, jazz, specials, off-network sitcoms, gospel and sports. BET is owned by BET Holdings, Inc. a publicly traded company on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE: BTV), and is currently available in 44.2 million households as reported by Nielsen Media Research.

A Proclamation By The President Of The United States

Today's schoolchildren are fortunate to grow up in classrooms where they are taught to appreciate all of the many heroes of American history. While previous generations read textbooks that told only part of our Nation's story, materials have been developed in recent years that give our students a fuller picture -- textured and deepened by new characters and themes. African American History Month provides a special opportunity for teachers and to focus on the many African Americans whose lives have shaped our common experience.

This year, our observance emphasizes black women and the strides made to bring their achievements to the fore. From Sojourner Truth's sermons, to Mary McLeod Bethune's speeches, to the contemporary novels of Nobel laureate Toni Morrison, the voices of African American women have called attention to the twin burdens of

racism and sexism and have invited listeners to discover the richness of traditions kept alive in back kitchens and workrooms. In churches and communities, and more recently in universities and statehouses across America, these women have fought extraordinary battles for social, economic, and political empowerment.

Barbara Jordan once wrote, "We the people"; it is a very eloquent beginning. But when the Constitution of the United States was completed on the seventeenth of September, 1787, I was not included in that "We the people."

As we mourn the loss of this great American, let us honor her by seeking to further the progress made since those early days toward true equality and inclusion. During African American History Month and throughout the year, we must embrace the diverse stands of our story so that all children can see themselves in our Nation's past and know that they

have a role to play in seizing the future's countless opportunities.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim February 1996, as National African American History Month. I call upon Government officials, educators in schools, colleges, universities, and libraries, and all the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs that raise awareness of African American history and invite further inquiry into this area of study.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of January, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twentieth.

William J. Clinton

PSU Black History Events

Feb. 15 - Lecture: "African Americans as a Changing Agent in the Criminal Justice System." 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m., Smith Center, free. Okianer Christian Dark, assistant U.S. Attorney for the Oregon district.

Feb. 16 - Soulfood Luncheon with Performance by Ron Steen, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Smith Center Ballroom, \$5 admission. Eat a great soulfood luncheon while listening to the smooth jazz of Ron Steen and friends.

Feb. 16 - R&B, Jazz and African Jazz concert - 9 p.m.-midnight, Smith Center Ballroom, \$5.

Feb. 19 - Lecture and film: Speaker: Tuskegee airman Edgar Bolden; call 725-5660 for details.

Feb. 21 - Brown Bag Concert - noon, Smith Center Parkway Commons North, free. Listen to the smooth sounds of R&B, gospel and hip-hop (rap) during the lunch hour.

Feb. 22 - Panel Discussion: African-American Portlanders & the Million Man March, 6-9 p.m. room 298, Smith Center, free. Discussion facilitator: Angela Wilson, editor, the Skanner newspaper.

Feb. 23-25 - Oregon Black Student Unions Basketball Tournament - 7-10 p.m., PSU gym.

Focus On African Films

Portland Community College in north Portland is hosting the sixth annual festival of African Films as part of Black History Month.

Film showings, all with English subtitles, will take place Fridays at 7:30 p.m. and Wednesdays at 2 p.m. through February in room 122 of Terrell Hall on the PCC Cascade campus, 705 N. Killingsworth St.

All events are free and open to the public. Parking will also be free for festival audiences.

"This is the only festival of its kind and scope in the Northwest, with the focus on Africa," said Michael Dembrow, a faculty member at the campus and one of the event organizers.

"The series has become a bridge between the African-American community and the African expatriate community. It is also a noteworthy event for people who are interested in international affairs."

He said this year's festival was "perhaps our strongest program ever. The six films are from six different countries, including two we have not featured in the past, Guinea-Bissau and Burundi.

"We'll have speakers from these countries as well as handouts and information about the country where the films are shown," Dembrow noted.

For more information, call the Cascade campus office of the Associated Students of PCC at 978-5781.

Black History At PCC

Portland Community College celebrates Black History Month on its campuses with a wide range of activities scheduled throughout the month of February.

Film, dance, gospel music and historical reading are some of the events planned at Cascade, Sylvania and Rock Creek campuses. All events are free of charge and open to the public.

The following are some of the activities at the PCC Cascade campus, 705 N. Killingsworth:

Feb. 20 - Abdi Sherif, R&B and soul music, noon-1 p.m., Cascade cafeteria.

Feb. 21 - "Gito the Ungrateful," an African film from Burundi, 2 p.m., Terrell Hall.

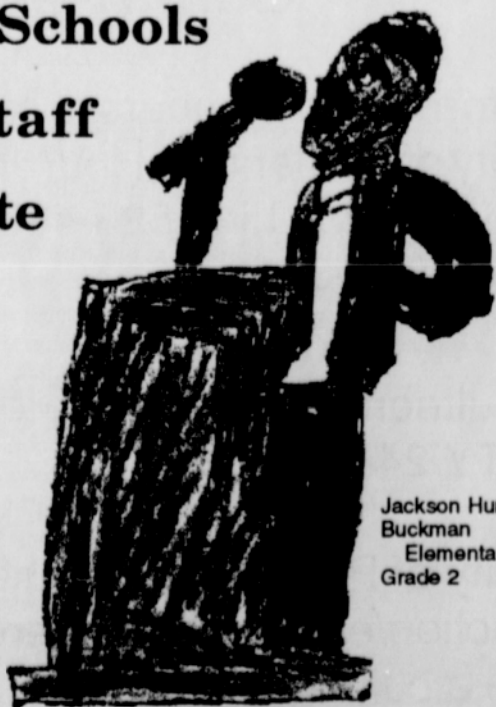
Feb. 23 - Terrence Scott, origins and history of rap music, along with a musical presentation. Scott, a local Portlander, made his way to the top as rapper Cool Nutz. Now a producer, Scott speaks about rap and the music business. Terrell Hall, room 122.

Feb. 23 - "Hyenas," African film from Senegal, 7:30 p.m., Terrell Hall.

Feb. 24 - Family Day, Cascade Festival of African Films, 2 p.m., Terrell Hall, Room 122. Films include "The Good and the Evil," "How Samba Became Viceroy," "The Greedy Child" and "Ramohamy's Son."

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