

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Once upon a time...when we were colored



This first BET Pictures movie was released recently, featuring 'Poppa' (Al Freeman) shown left holding his great grandson Clifton (Charles Earl "Spud" Taylor, Jr.). Above they witness a frightening reminder of racial hatred.

Stand with To Kill A Mockingbird

Published in 1960, Harper Lee's first and only novel, *To Kill A Mockingbird* was an instant best seller and remains a beloved and widely read classic to this day. Now, the nationally

acclaimed Northwest Children's Theater brings this stirring and powerful story to the stage October 4 through 20 at the Northwest Service Center.

Today, the novel is regarded as a

masterpiece of American literature winning the 1961 Pulitzer Prize and, of course, most people are familiar with the Academy Award winning film version starring Gregory Peck. NWCT is no stranger to awards themselves, being the national recipient of the American Alliance of Theater and Education's Outstanding New Children's Theater Award in New York City last month.

Diane Englert returns to NWCT's Mainstage after directing last season's *Little Women*. Englert is well known to Portland audiences for her work with Portland Repertory. Theatre where she directed last season's critically acclaimed productions of *Angel Street* and *The Sisters Rosensweig*.

Tobias Anderson stars as Atticus Finch with Don Burns as the malevo-

lent Bob Ewell and Judy Sloane as the cantankerous Mrs. Dubose. Desi Stone is the Finch's housekeeper, Calpurnia and Tracy Conklin is the local sheriff. Young Sara Naon takes on the challenging role of Scout, with Matt Tucker as her brother Jem and Brian Kettler as their neighbor Dill (a character based on Lee's childhood friend Truman Capote). Megg Luckcuck, a stand-out in last spring's *The Hobbit*, plays the unfortunate Mayelle Ewell. Ken Dembo, Lorrain Bahr, Nancy Wilson, and Frank Woodman are also featured with Stephen Rondel as the mysterious Boo Radley.

The production's professional design team includes set designer Jim Weisman, lighting designer Jeff Forbes, costumer Virginia Belt and sound designer Mar LaPierre.

Motown Dresses For Success In Vibe

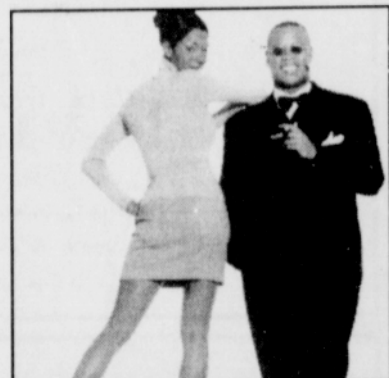
Coined the "Power" issue, VIBE Magazine's September issue fashion spread features some new faces from a familiar name. Titled "Dressed For Success," the eight-page spread sets out to showcase "new stars, new style, and a new spirit of the Motown." The Motown models include:

Johnny Gill -- his long-awaited solo project, "Let's Get The Mood Right," hits the streets October 8th! The title cut is currently burning up the airwaves!

Queen Latifah -- stars in the upcoming New Line Cinema feature film, "Set It Off," this fall. Look for a new album from Latifah early in '97.

Zhane' -- the duo that got everyone saying "Hey Mr. DJ," heat up the pages of Vibe! Zhane can currently be heard on Busts Rhymes and DeLa Soul's albums, as well as on the MoJazz Olympic album, "people make the world go around," coming soon...their sophomore album!

Michael Bivens -- his Motown distributed label, Biv 10, has just introduced a new female-trio, 702, with the chart-climbing single "Steelo." '97 will see the new album from the gold-selling group Subway, who are currently featured on the "KAZAAM" soundtrack.



Motown recording artist Taral Hicks and Motown President/CEO Andre Harrell

Travelling Photo Show

Marylhurst College is hosting a traveling photo-journal exhibit, *Faces of Liberty*.

The free exhibit runs from Sept. 9-26 and will be in the Streff Gallery of Shoen Library on the college campus.

Library hours are from 9 am to 5 pm through Sept. 19, when summer term ends. Monday through Friday, 9 am to 6 pm Saturday and 1-5 pm Sunday. A special voter registration will be held in the gallery on Sept. 24 and 25 from 3-8 pm.

The stories include those of a Gresham firefighter viciously harassed on the job for attending a gay-rights political rally and a Vernonia youth barred from playing junior high football for refusing to compromise his privacy in a mandatory drug test.

Faces of Liberty puts human faces on what can often be complex legal issues related to civil liberties cases that make the news. For more information call the library at 699-6261.

PYP's 73rd concert series

Huw Edwards, Conductor and Music Director, has announced the concert program for the Portland Youth Philharmonic's coming 73rd Season. Three of the four Season Concerts feature soloists. The season will begin with The Fall Concert honoring the 50th anniversary of Portland State University. This concert will include a Mozart piano concerto performed by the winner of the PYP Piano Competition. The Concert at Christmas, entitled "The Fountain of Youth," will present works by and about young people. The Winter Concert will feature soprano Jane Barthelemy, and the West Coast premier of A Winter Solstice by University of Hawaii composer Don Womack. The season ends with the Spring Concert.

Tickets are available by calling FASTIXX (244-5073 or 1-800-992-TIXX outside Portland), at many Fred Meyer stores, or at the Portland Center for the Performing Arts box office at 1219 SW Broadway.

What does Jesse read?

BY JOEY MURPHY

Frederick Douglass read anything he could find. Marcus Garvey read Booker T. Washington. Cornel West read WEB DuBois. But what African-American authors do the African-American leaders of today read?

Without firsthand knowledge, it's impossible to be sure. But it's not impossible to speculate on a couple of books sure to be on the bedside tables of Jesse Jackson and Louis Farrakhan.

Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man* is probably on Jackson's reading list.

The invisible man in Ellison's *Invisible Man* is not seen for the human he is but instead he's seen for the race he embodies. The novel chronicles his search for identity.

Jackson bears a striking resemblance to the narrator in Ellison's novel, most apparently in the episode where the invisible man watches the shooting death his colleague, a more skilled, charismatic African-American orator. After the killing, the invisible man rallies the people and elevates his prominence by speaking about the death.

Jackson fell under similar circumstances 20 years after the book was written. He witnessed the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., a colleague and fellow orator. Jackson then went on national television wearing his shirt stained with King's blood and with the intent to succeed King.

Jackson can relate to Ellison's creation, and sees in Ellison's book many of the ideals Jackson strives for.

Ellison wrote *Invisible Man* to explore the human universals in the African-American experience and the barriers preventing brotherhood among the races.

Likewise, Jackson emphasizes the common ground all races and

cultures share in his speech at the 1988 Democratic National Convention.

"What Does Jesse Want?" Time magazine's cover asked in the 1988 presidential race, where Jackson was a candidate. Jackson, like the invisible man, is caught in a similar conundrum - the traditional media focuses on his race to the exclusion of his message.

Farrakhan's bedside table differs a little. Instead of Ellison, he probably has a copy of Malcolm X's speeches before Malcolm broke with the Nation of Islam. But he probably also reads *The New Negro*, a collection of poetry and essays of the Harlem Renaissance edited by Alain Locke.

The *New Negro* embodies much of the independence Farrakhan advocates.

"Whoever wishes to see the Negro in his essential traits, in the full perspective of his achievement and possibilities, must seek the enlightenment of that self-portraiture which the present developments of Negro culture are offering," Locke writes in the foreword.

Farrakhan speaks of a similar move from the "Old Negro" to the "New Negro" in his Million Man March speech.

"All we've got to do is go back home and turn our communities into productive places," Farrakhan said, "but every time we car-jack...we feed the degenerate mind of white supremacy."

These classic books hold meaning not just for leaders of any race, but for any who read them. Their messages hold power for all.

Joey Murphy is a sophomore majoring in journalism and African-American studies at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. He likes the Observer a lot. But he's still going back to school.

Madame Butterfly opens season

For the third season in a row, Puccini, the master of Italian opera, gets the opening call. So popular is *Madame Butterfly* that a special fifth performance has been added.

Portland Opera opens its 32nd season with one of the most popular operas of all time. *Madame Butterfly*, Puccini's tragic tale of unrequited love, tells the bittersweet story of the fragile but courageous young woman, Cio-Cio-San, and her love for the cavalier--and unthinking--American sailor, Pinkerton.

Featuring the American debut of fast-rising British soprano Susan Bullock as Cio-Cio-San, *Madame Butterfly* spins its audience through a series of emotional events that culminate in her ultimate sacrifice as she chooses death over a life of shame.

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