

# BLACK HISTORY

The Portland Observer

## Conjure Women to air nationally on February 13

On Thursday, February 13, at 10:00 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time), PBS will broadcast *Conjure Women*, a 90-minute performance-based documentary by filmmaker Demetria Royals that explores the artistry and philosophy of four African-American women. These women, born and educated in the West, use their artistic disciplines to reclaim their "Africanisms"—what their forebears had to deny to survive.

In celebration of Black History Month, *Conjure Women* is presented by public television station WQED Pittsburgh and the National Black Programming to public broadcasting stations nationally.

*Conjure Women*, directed by award-winning filmmaker Demetria Royals and produced by Louise Diamond, won the second-place award in the Cultural Affairs Documentary category of the 15th Annual Prized Pieces International Film and Video Competition.

Its world premiere occurred at the 1995 Mill Valley Film Festival, and it has been shown at the Slamdance Festival and other film festivals in the United States and abroad.

The special features vocalist/composer Cassandra Wilson; visual artist/photography Carrie Mae Weems; performance artist Robbie



Carrie Mae Weems

McCaughey; and choreographer/dancer Anita Gonzalez.

Cassandra Wilson performs two of her original compositions from her latest album, *New Moon Daughter*, in a jam session with her band and her own interpretation of "Amazing Grace". Wilson has received widespread critical and audience acclaim for her musical artistry and "has become America's most important and daring jazz vocalist," according to *Time* magazine in a March 1996 review of *New Moon Daughter*, her 10th recording. In December 1996, *Time* magazine and *The New York Times* listed *New Moon Daughter* as #1 on lists of "The Best Music of 1996".



Cassandra Wilson

McCaughey; and choreographer/dancer Anita Gonzalez. McCaughey articulated her artists goals: "Let me say that my primary concern in art, as in politics, is with the status and place of Afro-Americans in our country."

Returning to her hometown of Portland, Oregon, where her family migrated from Mississippi, a 15-year retrospective of her work is presented at the Portland Art Museum and shared for the first time with her family, friends and community.

The exhibit, organized by the National Museum of Women in the Arts, toured major museums nationally during the 1993-94 season and served to "absorb, disarm and ultimately engage in dialogue all but the most intractable bigots" (Washington Post).



Robbie McCaughey

Robbie McCaughey is a celebrated performance artist and theater director whose personal vision has consistently explored the "herstory" of Black women. The presentation of her original work, *Sally's Rape*, winner of a 1992 OBIE Award for Best New American Play (performed by McCaughey with Jeannie Hutchison), examines "the silences around racism in America that have gotten nailed in place" while recounting the life and survival of her great grandmother, a slave on a Georgia plantation.

Anita Gonzalez, a founding member of and performer with the dance/theater company Urban Bush Women, is now artistic director of



Dor Green and Anita Gonzalez

Bandana Women, a performance group. The text and imagery for her dance, *Totem* (performed by Gonzalez with Dor Green)—which marks the transformations in the journey toward "womanhood"—combines her personal dreams with Native-American and southern African-American religious practices in order to, as Gonzalez has stated, "recreate dance in the ancestral sense."

*Conjure Women* is one of three national PBS specials presented by the National Black Programming Consortium in February. *W.E.B. Du Bois—A Biography in Four Voices*, *Facing the Millennium*, produced by Debra Farrar-Parkman, will air February 25 at 10 p.m. on PBS.

## Black History Month at Portland State University

The Black Cultural Affairs Board at Portland State University is sponsoring Black History Month events throughout February, and beyond. For details call 725-5660.

Schedule of events:

Wednesday, February 12: Tribute to Black Women—by black male PSU students. 5 p.m., PSU's Multicultural Center, Room 126 Smith Center, 1825 SW Broadway, Free.

Thursday, February 13: Tribute to Black Men—by black female PSU students. 5 p.m., PSU's Multicultural Center, Room 126 Smith Center, 1825 SW Broadway, Free.

Friday, February 14: Soulfood Luncheon. Past luncheons offered barbecued chicken, greens, potato salad, cornbread, and dessert, set against a performance of live jazz. 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m., PSU Nordic Room, Room 26 Smith Center, 1825 SW Broadway, \$5.

Friday, February 14: Valentines Evening of Jazz. Semi-formal dance sponsored by Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

8:30 p.m.-midnight, Smith Center Ballroom, Room 355, 1825 SW Broadway. Call BCAB, 725-5660, for admission information.

February 17-19: "Keep Your Eyes on the Prize". Documentary series on video about the civil rights movement and issues from the 1960s. Shown 11 a.m.-5 p.m. in the Multicultural Center, Room 126 Smith Center, 1825 SW Broadway, Free.

Thursday, February 20: Discussion: "Brothas and Sistas, Can We Talk?" 5 p.m., PSU Multicultural Center, Room 126 Smith Center, 1825 SW Broadway, Free.

Saturday, February 22: Black History Celebration featuring dance, such as the Pacific Northwest African-American Ballet, solo performers, choirs, oration and plenty of food. Benefits the Bridge Builder organization which improves the lives of young African Americans. Portland Art Museum, Grand Ballroom, 1219 SW Park Avenue, \$25; call 725-5660.

Sunday, February 23: Film Festival. Short films showing African American experience in and on film. 2-5 p.m., Harrison Hall, 1833 SW 11th, \$1.50 general admission, \$1 for students.

February 24-26: Art Show exhibit by local artists including sculptor/muralist Michael Florin Dente and painter/printer Travis Bonneau. 11 a.m.-3 p.m., PSU Multicultural Center, Room 126 Smith Center, 1825 SW Broadway, Free.

Thursday, February 27: Black Panther Party Newspaper Committee. A talk about development and distribution of the Black Panther newspaper, dedicated to the Party's goals and based on theory and teachings of co-founder and chief theoretician, Huey P. Newton. 7 p.m., Smith Center Ballroom, 1825 SW Broadway, Free.

Friday, February 28: Lecture by Bobby Seale, co-founder (with Huey P. Newton) of the Black Panther Party. Currently Seale is founder/director of R.E.A.C.H., an organization that

teaches community organizing techniques 8:30 p.m. (Tentative). Smith Center Ballroom, Room 355, 1825 SW Broadway, \$5 admission.

Saturday, March 1: Black Cultural Affairs Board Dance. Semi-formal attire: dress to impress. Music provided by disc jockey Mix Masta KD 8:30 p.m.-2 p.m., Red Lion Hotel's Maxi's, Downtown, 310 SW Lincoln, \$6.

## African American veterans honored with medals

The nation honored seven African American veterans of World War II today with its highest military decoration for heroism, the Medal of Honor. The seven men, one of whom is still living, are the only African American soldiers who have received the Medal of Honor for World War II.

The President of the United States presented the medals to First Lieutenant Vernon Baker of St. Maries, Idaho, and family members of the six deceased soldiers in a White House ceremony.

The Veterans honored were:



Vernon Joseph Baker

Vernon Baker, St. Maries, ID.

Edward A. Carter, Jr. (Deceased) Home of record, Los Angeles, CA; Family lives in Cerritos, Ca.

John R. Fox (Deceased) Home of record, Cincinnati, OH; Family lives in Houston, TX

Willy F. James, Jr. (Deceased) Home of record, Kansas City, MO

Ruben Rivers, (Deceased) Home of record, Oklahoma City, OK; Family lives in Oakland, CA

Charles L. Thomas (Deceased), Home of record and family, Detroit, MI

George Watson, (Deceased), Home of record, Birmingham, AL

## College contest seeks Cultural Plurism murals

Artistic murals which reflect cultural plurism on the Clark College campus could win cash prizes or donations to a grant fund for students in an art contest sponsored by the College's Cultural Plurism Committee and the Clark College Foundation.

The purpose of the contest is to reward members of the College community whose artwork enhances the recognition of cultural plurism as an integral part of the campus and to develop a significant resource of artwork which symbolizes the ideals included in the College's Cultural Plurism policy.

Submissions may be designed for indoor locations; various art forms are acceptable, including collage, photography, painting, textiles, and mixed media art.

Prizes for any winners who are full-time students will be cash, prizes for other entrants will be donations in the winners' names to the Constance Baker Motley Grant for

Ethnic Minority Students. Deadline for entries is Friday, March 14. Artwork must be delivered by 5 p.m. to the Security Desk in Gaiser Hall. For an application, call 992-2355.

Celebrate Black History Month at the

### Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center

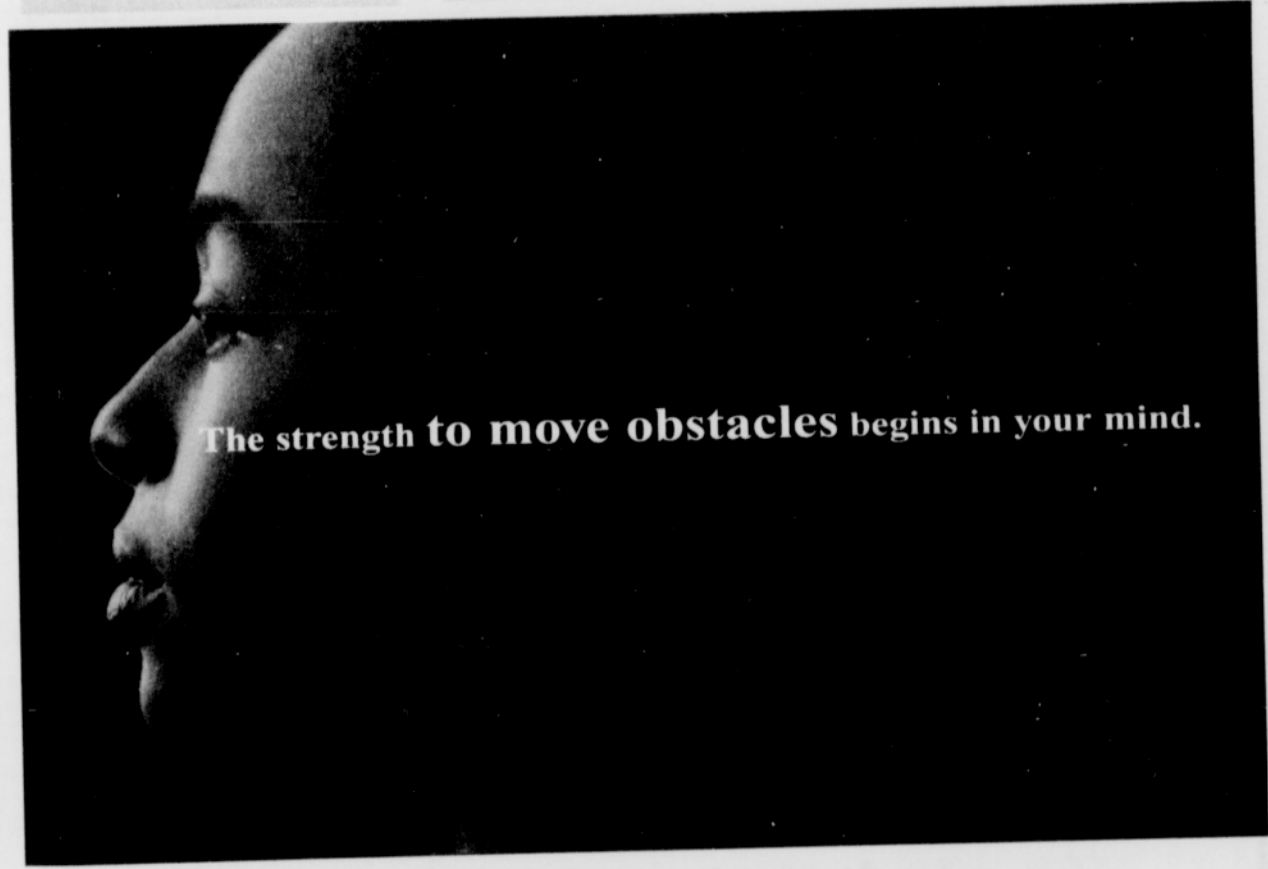
IFCC Gallery presents:  
**Voices in Stone: Art of Zimbabwe**  
Stunning Shona stone sculpture and textiles.  
Monday-Friday noon-5:30 pm through February 28. Free.

IFCC Theatre presents:  
**Driving Miss Daisy**  
Fridays & Saturdays at 8 pm through March 15.  
Tickets \$10-15. Call 287-5929 for reservations.

IFCC Student Matinee Series presents:  
**Driving Miss Daisy**  
For grades 6-12. Thursdays at 9:30 am through March 6.  
Tickets \$4. Call 823-2071 for reservations.

and  
**John Ole Tome, Maasai Tribe Cultural Lecturer**  
For pre-K through grade 8. February 26 & 28 at 10 am & 1 pm.  
Tickets \$4. Call 823-2071 for reservations

**IFCC • 5340 N. Interstate Avenue • 503/823-2000**



The strength to move obstacles begins in your mind.

This is the spirit of Black History Month. Its significance is well-rooted in the belief that no obstacle is impossible to overcome through hard work and perseverance. In celebration of that spirit, Bank of America is proud to salute our great heroes and heroines who have conquered infinite odds; and helped to turn stumbling blocks into stepping stones. It's these people who have taught us all that there are no obstacles too large to overcome as long as our heart is willing and our spirit remains strong.

**Bank of America**

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