Independent Black Filmaker Starts Up a Movie Studio

Tim Reid, actor, director, producer and Daphne Maxwell-Reid, co-founders of New Millennium Studios, the only Black owned movie studio and distribution center in the past 50 years, will be in Portland, May 26, to premiere their latest film, "Asunder."



Tim Reid, former actor turned director and producer, will introduce his new film entitled "Ausnder" at Portland's McMenamin's Kennedy Center on May 26.

Through a joint outreach effort of Portland Cable Access, Portland Community College-Cascade, McMenamin Kennedy School, and Sabin Community Development Corporation, the Reids will meet with the public during a VIP Gala Fundraiser held at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center on May 26. The premiere screening of "Asunder" will be at the McMenamin's Kennedy School later that evening at 8 p.m.

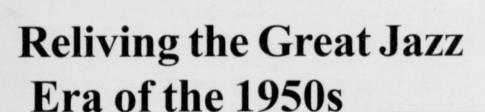
The plot of "Asunder" revolves around two characters, Chance and Michael who are such good friends that they are like brothers. Despite their long-term friendship, successful careers and beautiful wives...secrets and betrayal haunt them.

When the friendship goes bad...love, trust and courage are tested to the maximum. Tragedy opens the door to the darker side of friendship when Chance's wife is fatally killed in an accident.

Jelousy replaces mourning as Chance blames his best friend for this loss.

Secrets from the past begin to destroy the fragments of their trust. Michael's wife had a torrid affair with Chance leading to her pregnancy and subsequent abortion.

The tragedy and loss of friendship repairs Michael and Lauren's faltering marriage. Foregiveness forges a new life, and a new pregnancy. But Chance wants to conquer and destroy his friend's most precious possessions – his wife and unborn child.



Artists Repertory Theatre will present Warren Leight's *Side Man*, winner of the Tony Award for Best Play of 1999, May 20 – July 1, 2000.

Side Man is a family drama spanning 35 years as well as a poignant tribute to the 1950s era of jazz. "Like the best memory plays," says director Jon Kretzu, Side Man has enormous heart and soul, full of laughter and tears. It balances scenes of great joy, love and compassion with scenes of naked emotional pain and heartbreak. "Written in the magical, improvisational style of jazz, the story is constantly shifting as it unfolds, a melancholy blues with occasional undertones of joy and exuberance."

Warren Leight, who describes his play as "autobiographical enough," draws from his own childhood in Manhattan's Upper West Side. His father, Donald Leight, was a trumpet player who worked with Woody Herman, Claude Thornhill and other band leaders through the 1950s. Side Man follows son Clifford as he sifts through the wreckage of

his parent's disastrous marriage. These itinerant musicians backed up the big bands, often sacrificing stable home lives.

Describing this scene to the audience, Clifford tells the story of his family's gradual demise: his father Gene's joy when Clifford claims his unemployment check; his mother Terry's plunge into depression and subsequent suicide attempts following Gene's lengthy absences; and Clifford's increasing role as the center of the household. Gene's failing relationship with his wife and son is contrasted with the camaraderie he feels for his fellow sidemen, who become his "real" family.

Previews of *Side Man* runs at 7p.m., May 20-24 (Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday). The play opens Friday, May 25 at the Artists Repertory Theatre, located at 1516 S.W. Alder St. Forticket information, call 503/241-1ART.



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