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**Northwest Film Center Highlights African Films**

The Northwest Film Center is pleased to present a film series called "Out of Africa" throughout the month of May. This is in recognition of all the great African filmmakers that began to emerge in the 1950s and 1960s.

Through their creativity, a rich body of film work has resulted, as diverse as the continent itself, reflecting on everything from pre- and post-colonial history to "tribal" folklore and politics to examinations of the impact of globalization and modernization on traditional societies.

The film showcase features works from Zimbabwe, Gabon, Senegal, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It offers diverse perspectives on contemporary African culture and a broad appreciation of the rich traditions offered to the rest of the world.

All of the films will be featured at the Whitsell Auditorium of the Portland Art Museum, 1219 S.W. Park Ave.

For a listing and schedule of film times, go online to [www.nwfilm.org](http://www.nwfilm.org) or call 503-221-1156.



Premiering in the Whitsell Auditorium on May 30 and 31, 7 p.m. is a film from the Ivory Coast called "In The Name Of Christ" about a born-again prophet who styles himself as Magloire, "the first cousin of Christ."

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**Evening Reception**  
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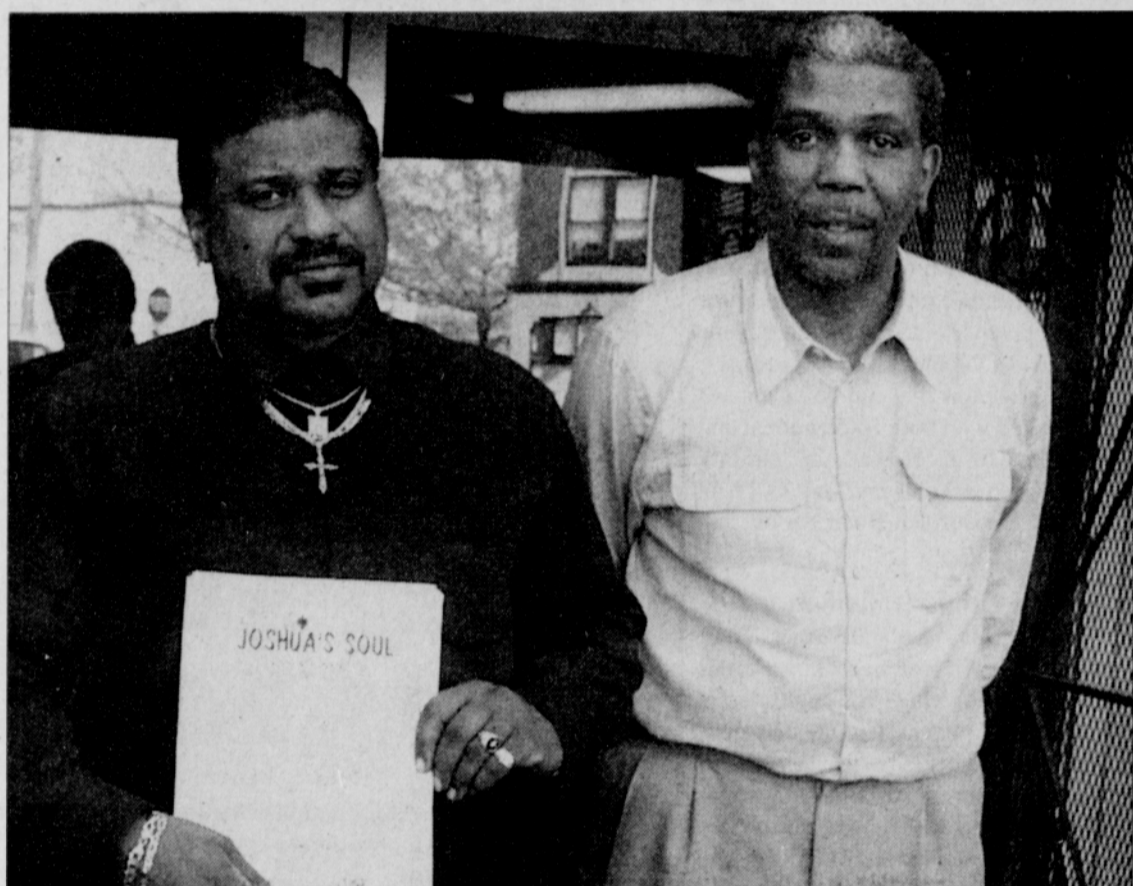
**Special Guests:**



Prince Cedza Dlamini  
grandson of Nelson Mandela



Nontombi Naomi Tutu  
daughter of South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu



Introducing their new film to be released called "Joshua's Soul" are the heads of Hollis Production, (from left) Terry Hollis and Billy Moore.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

**Black Filmmakers Bring Hollywood to Pacific Northwest**

BY BILLY MOORE

Hollywood is creating a buzz with a new movie called "Joshua's Soul" that's based in the Northwest. It's coming to theatres soon and is based on the life of a young man in search of his soul, something we all must take part in while we navigate through life.

Global Theatre Group has recently joined forces with Premiere Pictures and is starting pre-production of "Joshua's Soul" on June 1. As a result of this project, Hollis Production was born and a joint venture relationship developed in order to make some independent film projects.

The vision of Hollis Production was born out of the character actor Jeff Hollis, who wanted to direct and produce his own motion pictures while he worked as a co-star on the popular TV series "CPO Sharkey," which starred Don Rickles. It was through Jeff's burning desire to take his acting career to another level that spawned his dream of owning a production company one day. He shared the dream with his brothers Terry and Criss Hollis.

As an avid basketball fan and college basketball athlete, Jeff's love for the game remained intact. Jeff and Terry shared many late night conversations discussing how they would one day own a production company that would produce independent films.

Jeff Hollis passed away on Jan. 12, 2000 and left Terry with the mission to bring the dream into fruition. Terry later enlisted the services of Don Butler, a "major player" in the independent film world, who is also the president of Global Theatre Group and Totacom Entertainment. Butler has been a good friend of the Hollis brothers for some time. When contacted by Terry about his ambition of developing "Joshua's Soul," Butler was very excited - anything to keep the dreams of Jeff Hollis alive. The script of "Joshua's Soul" was pulled out of a stack of projects Jeff had left his family.

Standing behind this upcoming film are Hollywood heavyweights like the chairman of Phoenix Pictures Mike Medavoy, who will oversee the project. Medavoy's accomplishments include 300 films with 152 Academy

Award nominations, including 15 of those nominated for Best Picture.

Also joining forces with Don Butler and Mike Medavoy is Cassius Weathersby, who is tied to the popular movies "House Party," "The Great White Hope," "The Newlywed Game" and "The Dating Game." Through Weathersby, William D. Moore was enlisted to serve as the Executive Vice President and Creative Finance Director for Hollis Productions.

Complementing the project is the Honorable Prince Sam Nawnti, who served in the development of the production company while he continues to run his campaign for Governor of Imo State in Nigeria.

Once in a while, a heartfelt movie comes along that reaches out, embraces as well as enlightens. "Joshua's Soul" does just that. The essence of the film is Jeff Hollis. It is a tribute to him and a reminder of his passion for life that's rivaled only by his love for basketball and family.

The upcoming film can be seen in major theatres and an exact date of its release will soon be announced.

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**DINOTOPIA**

Dinotopia, Where Dinosaurs and Humans Peacefully Co-exist

Based on the immensely popular books by James Gurney, "Dinotopia" comes to life on television with the upcoming ABC television mini-series by the same name, premiering May 12, 13, and 14 at 7 p.m.

The story begins when Frank Scott, a wealthy American crashes his plane into the Caribbean. He appears to perish, but his two teenaged sons, Karl and David survive, only to find themselves castaways on Dinotopia, a fantastic lost continent where humans and dinosaurs peacefully co-exist.



"Dinotopia" combines many state-of-the-art special effects, making it the most expensively produced movie for television.