

Focus

Biker Boyz Builds from Black Cast

Film is an action packed Western on wheels

Opening nationwide on Friday, Jan. 31, Biker Boyz is a contemporary Western on wheels with desperados who live every day on the edge. Lawyers and city workers by day, they take to the streets in their leather gear to race by night. In the world of underground motorcycle clubs, the undefeated racer known as Smoke is the undisputed "King of Cali." But Smoke's dominance of the set is about to be threatened by a young motorcycle-racing prodigy

called Kid, who is determined to win Smoke's helmet and earn the coveted title.

Biker Boyz stars Derek Luke, who is currently receiving critical and audience acclaim for his performance in the title role of Denzel Washington's "Antwone Fisher." Luke also garnered the National Board of Review Award for Best Male Breakout Performance for his work in the film, which marked his feature film debut. Luke plays Kid, opposite Laurence Fishburne, as Smoke, who earned an Academy Award nomination for his portrayal of Ike Turner in "What's Love Got to Do With It."

The film's ethnically diverse cast

also includes Kid Rock ("Joe Dirt"), Orlando Jones ("The Time Machine"), Djimon Hounsou ("Gladiator"), Lisa Bonet ("Enemy of the State"), Salli Richardson-Whitfield ("Family Law"), Larenz Tate ("Love Jones"), Meagan Goode ("Eve's Bayou"), Brendan Fehr ("Final Destination"), Rick Gonzalez ("The Rookie"), Terence Howard ("Hart's War," "The Best Man"), Eriq La Salle (TV's "ER"), Vanessa Bell Calloway ("The Brothers"), Dion Basco ("Love and Basketball"), Dante Basco ("Extreme Days"), Melissa DeSousa ("The Best Man"), Kadeem Hardison ("Showtime"), and Tyson Beckford ("Zoolander").



Biker Boyz, which opens nationwide on Friday, features a predominately African American cast.

Spike Lee On Civil Rights Icons

(AP) — Filmmaker Spike Lee says he's concerned that young moviegoers will form their first impressions of civil rights icons Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King Jr. from a bitter character in last year's comedy "Barbershop."

The keynote speaker at two events Saturday honoring King's birthday, Lee told hundreds of teenagers at the Lauderdale Boys & Girls Club that he didn't laugh when he heard a character played by Cedric the Entertainer belittle Parks' refusal to



Filmmaker Spike Lee makes a keynote speech during an event honoring Martin Luther King Jr. Lee did not enjoy belittlement of Rosa Parks by Cedric the Entertainer or references to King's promiscuity in 'Barbershop.'

of being sexually promiscuous.

But Lee said too many adults do laugh at those scenes. Instead, he said they should be teaching young children about the accomplishments, challenges and sacrifices of the leaders of the civil rights movement.

"To me, some things aren't funny," said Lee, 46, a native of Atlanta who grew up in Brooklyn, N.Y. "If our young children grow up thinking this, and that's all they know about (Parks and King), then we're in trouble."

move to the back of the bus. Lee, the maker of films such as "Malcolm X," "Do the Right Thing" and the recently released "25th Hour," also didn't find it funny when the character accused King

New Network for Black Viewers

Programming will compete for viewers of Black Entertainment Television

(AP) — Comcast, the nation's largest cable television company, and Radio One Inc. said Monday they plan to launch a television network targeted toward black viewers.

The network, to carry entertainment, news, opinion and sports programming, would

compete with Black Entertainment Television, founded in 1980 by billionaire Robert Johnson and bought by Viacom Inc. in 2000.

The companies said they expect to launch the network by the middle of this year. It will be designed to appeal mainly to black viewers from 25 to 54 years old.

"African-Americans have experienced explosive population and per-capita income growth and are one of this country's most attractive consumer demographic groups," said Alfred C. Liggins, chief executive and president of Radio One. He will be chairman of the network.

Go to Paris without leaving Portland

From Jan. 25 to March 23, the Portland Art Museum will feature 'Paris to Portland: Impressionist and Post-Impressionist Masters in Portland Collections.' The show includes 165 works drawn from private collections in the Portland area and has work by Cezanne, Renoir, Monet, Gauguin, Picasso and prints by Toulouse-Lautrec, amongst others. Some of these works have never before been seen in public. On Sunday, Feb. 2 children and adults can come to 'Festival Parisian' to experience activities and entertainment inspired by the art collection. Kids can learn impressionist tissue painting, how to make art-paper waterlilies, water reflections captured in oil pastels and work on printmaking projects.

IFCC Kwanza celebration show

Over 20 local African American artists are exhibiting textiles, paintings, prints, drawings, photographs, mixed media works and sculptures to reflect on one or more of the seven principles of Kwanza. The IFCC is located at 5340 N. Interstate Ave. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Friday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from noon to 4 p.m. through January. For more information, call 503-823-2070.

Sweet Honey in the Rock anniversary

To celebrate their 30th anniversary and the release of their new CD "The Women Gather" on Earthbeat Records, Sweet Honey in the Rock return to Portland for a performance at Schnitzer Hall on Jan. 31. They will perform their uplifting and powerful a capella music.

Vocal Jazz Concert

The West Linn High School and South Eugene High School jazz choirs will join Genesis, Mount Hood Community College's vocal jazz group, for an evening of great jazz music. In its 36th year of providing jazz entertainment, Genesis has won many awards over the years, including the prestigious "db" award from Downbeat Magazine. The concert will be held Tuesday, Feb. 4 at 7:30 p.m. in the MHCC College Theatre. General admission is \$5 and \$3 for students. For more information, call, 503-491-6923

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

Isaka Shamsud-Din art exhibit

Life-long Portland artist and first ever James DePreist Professor of Art at Portland State University will show an exhibit of work and present a slide show of additional works at Reed College in the Vollum Lounge at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 11. Shamsud-Din was the president of the Black Student Union at PSU in the 60's until he left Portland to work with the civil rights movement in the South. Since his return to the northwest in the 80s, Shamsud-Din has involved himself in mural projects at local high schools and government buildings in an attempt to create a sense of community among African American artists.

Sonia Sanchez poetry reading

African American author Sonia Sanchez will read her poetry and sign any of her 16 books at the Reed College Kaul Auditorium on Wednesday, Feb. 19 at 7:30 p.m. Sanchez, nationally known for her involvement in the Black Arts Movement, has read her poetry and lectured nationwide about her work during the civil rights movement. She is the author of 'Homecoming,' 'We a BaddDDD People,' 'Homegirls and Handgrenades,' 'Wounded in the House of a Friend,' and most recently, 'Shake Loose My Skin.'

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AAMC - In the Community For the Community
Proceeds from this event will benefit the AAMC Scholarship Fund.

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