

Focus

Serena Williams Gets Part on Showtime

(AP)—Serena Williams will play a reformed gang member on parole in an Oct. 1 episode of the Showtime series "Street Time."

"As a fan of 'Street Time,' I told myself that if given the opportunity, I'd love to be on the show," Williams said. "I am taking this role very seriously, because I want to excel and because I have respect for the series."

The world's top-ranked women's tennis player had the role created for her, said Richard Stratton, the cable show's co-executive producer.

"Anyone that has seen Serena perform on the tennis court understands her commitment to being the best," he said. "We are confident that she will bring that same type of energy and devotion to 'Street Time.'"

Williams has appeared in TV commercials with her sister, Venus, and played a kindergarten teacher last year in an episode of the ABC sitcom "My Wife and Kids."

"Street Time," starring Rob Morrow, begins its second season Aug. 6.



Serena Williams is shown accepting the Best Female Athlete award during the 11th Annual ESPY Awards. (AP photo)

"I am taking this role very seriously."
—Serena Williams on her role in the Showtime series "Street Time."

Harvey Tells Why Black Actors Make Less



Comedian Steve Harvey says the economics of television advertising discriminate against black-oriented shows and those who work on them. (AP photo)

(AP)—The economics of television advertising discriminate against black-oriented shows and those who work on them, says actor-comedian Steve Harvey.

Advertisers pay less for such programs even when the ratings equal or exceed those of other shows, Harvey told a recent meeting of the Television Critics Association.

The result is, "African-Americans don't get to make what they deserve to make when they have a hit show," Harvey said, appearing before TV critics to promote his WB fall series, "Steve Harvey's Big Time."

Advertisers pay lower rates for

programs that attract black audiences because they reason that blacks are among TV's more loyal customers and it's easy to reach them across the TV dial, Harvey said.

That does represent the thinking of the ad community, WB executives said in a later session with TV critics. In contrast, shows that attract harder-to-reach young viewers can command higher ad rates.

"There is a truth in what he's saying, that advertisers are trying to find people that they can't get easily. And they do pay a premium for those people," said Jamie Kellner, WB's chairman and chief executive officer.

Advertise in The Portland Observer call 503.388.0033

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Mt. Hood Jazz This Weekend

The 22nd Mt. Hood Jazz Fest returns to Gresham from 1 to 9:15 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 2 and Sunday, Aug. 3 at Gresham Main City Park (at Southeast Powell Boulevard and Southeast Main Street). Tickets are \$25. Two-for-one tickets are available to anyone riding a bike to the show. For more information, visit www.mthoodjazz.com.

Grassroots Underground

O.A.R., Slightly Stoopid and The Red West perform at the Roseland Theater at 8 p.m., Aug. 18. Tickets are \$14 in advance or \$17 at the door. For more information, call 503-224-8499.

Coco at Roseland

Tommy Castro and Coco Montoya perform at the Roseland Theater at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 25. \$16 in advance. For more information, call 503-224-8499.

Musical Spitfire Grill Premiers

Lakewood Theatre Company presents "The Spitfire Grill" at 8 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and 7 p.m. Sundays through Aug. 17. \$26. The musical with a soulful combination of American folk and country, is temporarily performing at Fir Acres Theatre, Lewis and Clark College, 0615 S.W. Palatine Hill Rd. For more information, call 503-635-3901.

Concerts at Dawson Park

Summer concerts in the park are free, family friendly and begin at 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays at Dawson Park on North Stanton between Williams and Vancouver. For more information, call 503-823-PLAY or visit www.portlandparks.org.

Laser Motown at OMSI

OMSI's Murdock Planetarium features a fun-filled tribute to the Motown sounds of Diana Ross, The Temptations, The Four Tops and more. 1945 S.E. Water Ave. For a schedule of shows, call 503-797-4646 or visit www.oms.edu.

Symphony in Irving Park

Oregon Symphony performs at Irving Park at 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 23 at Northeast 7th Avenue

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

and Fremont at 7 p.m. For more information, call 503-823-PLAY.

IFCC Summer Festival

Interstate Avenue Cultural Center will coordinate music and kids art booths for the Interstate Avenue Fair and Garage Sale from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 16 and 17. The IFCC is located at 5340 N. Interstate. No admission is charged, but donations appreciated. For more information, call 503-823-4322.

"Ceramics: All Levels"

Portland Community College offers high-fire stoneware clay classes this summer. The first class takes place Mondays through Aug. 18. The second class takes place Wednesdays through Aug. 20. Both classes meet at the following time and location: 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in Room 130 of the Terrell Hall Building at PCC's Cascade Campus, 705 N. Killingsworth St. For more information, call 503-978-5143.

Calligraphy Class for all Levels

Sweeping-brush strokes and easy-to-learn shaping make up Portland Community College's italic calligraphy class. The class welcomes the new and those looking to fine tune their Renaissance hand at italic. Class runs Thursdays, and ends Aug. 7. Class sessions run from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. in Room 304 of the Student Center Building at PCC's Cascade Campus, 705 N. Killingsworth. For more information, call 503-978-5143.

Drawing for Drawing Enthusiasts

Capture the human form by learning special drawing techniques from Instructor, Marko Polo -featuring live models. The drawing class meets Saturdays through Aug. 9 from 9:30 a.m. to 12 a.m. in Room 203 of the Terrell Hall Building at Portland Community College's Cascade Campus, 705 N. Killingsworth. The class costs \$105. For more information, call 503-978-5143.

Reparations Thursdays

David Park's band, The Reparations, will play Thursdays at 9 p.m. with DJ Chill and special guest performers and DJs at The Red Sea, 318 S.W. Third Ave. Admission for those 21 and older is \$5.

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For additional Festival information call 503-665-3827 or email info@mthoodjazz.com

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