

FOCUS

Speaking for Ourselves

Multicultural Film Fest at Jefferson

BY JAYMEE R. CUTI
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A multicultural film festival at Jefferson High School is allowing diverse cultures to speak for themselves.

That's the goal for Jennifer Doncan, English teacher and coordinator of the fourth annual free film festival for students and the community.

"Every movie has a different cultural base and each culture shown in a documentary is mirrored by the co-facilitator that evening," Doncan said.

After a viewing of the documentary, which is shown the first Monday of each month from October through May, the facilitator hosts a discussion about the film and the culture highlighted.

"I believe it's necessary for every culture to speak for itself and for us not to assume by interaction or association that we are authorities on someone else's culture," said Doncan. "I want to model that for our students and

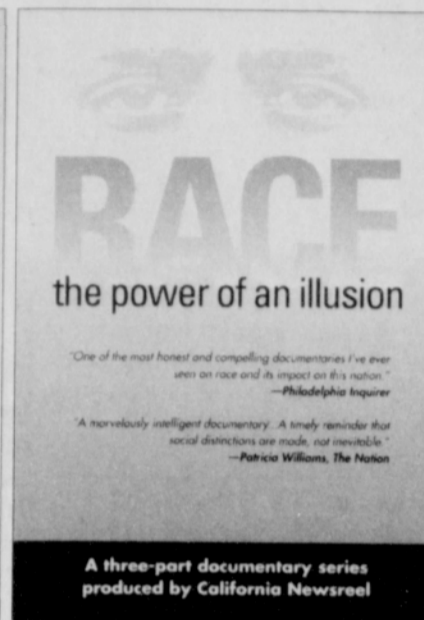


PHOTO BY JAYMEE R. CUTI/
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Jefferson High English teacher Jennifer Doncan (left) invites area residents to enjoy monthly Multicultural Film Festival screenings at the school. The film festival includes "Race, The Power of an Illusion."

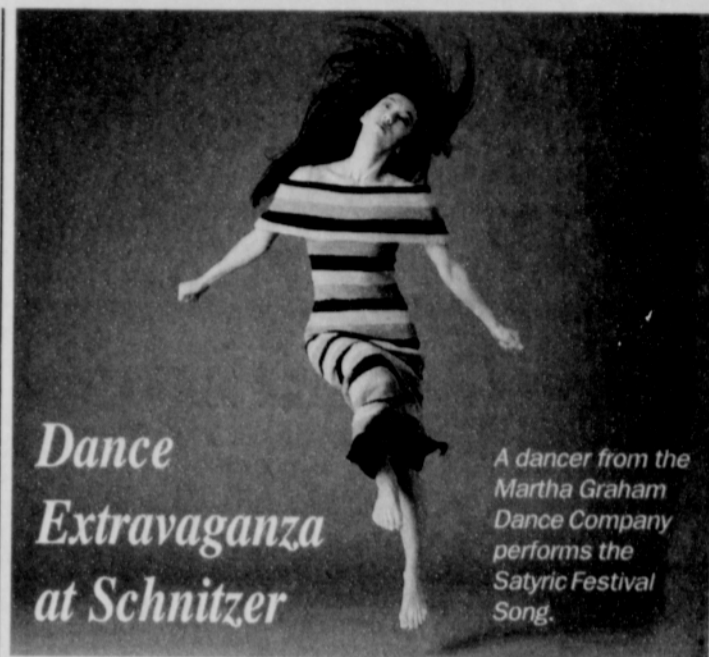
the community." The next viewing from the film festival is called "Natives of the Northwest" on Nov. 1 at Jefferson High School, room C12, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. "Doubles Japan and

America's Intercultural Children" shows on Dec. 6 and "Small Steps, Big Strides: The Black Experience in Hollywood & Midnight Ramble" is on Jan. 3.

The festival is dedicated to rais-

ing awareness about Sudanese people suffering from starvation and genocide in the Ruweng County of southern Sudan.

For information call 503-916-5180 or e-mail jdoncanp@pps.k12.or.us.



The Martha Graham Dance Company is the oldest and most celebrated contemporary dance company in America. Martha Graham (1894-1991) herself was recognized as one of the most influential artists of the 20th century, alongside Picasso, Stravinsky and James Joyce.

Graham founded her company in 1926 and developed a dance technique that "would increase the emotional activity of the

dancer's body." The dance world was forever altered by Martha Graham's vision, which continues to be a source of inspiration for generations of dance and theatre artists.

The Martha Graham Dance Company, presented by White Bird, performs at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall on Wednesday, Oct. 27. Tickets range from \$23 to \$57. Call Ticketmaster or the PCPA box office for tickets.



Mos Def releases 'The New Danger.' Fusion Album Out

Ghetto rock and righteous hip-hop star Mos Def has just released his new solo release, "The New Danger," marking his first collection of original material since 1999's "Black on Both Sides."

A kick-off tour for the CD begins in Seattle, Oct. 18 at Beneryhall Hall. No Portland appearances are scheduled.

Mos Def just marked the television debut of his Black Jack Johnson Band on the Sept. 23 on the Late Show with David Letterman. On Oct. 4, he took the stage at the ACLU's Freedom Concert in New York City.

Rock to Host Academy Awards

(AP) — The Oscars have a piece of the Rock. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced Chris Rock will host the next Academy Awards telecast.

Rock, who's been in the films "Head of State" and "Dogma," is best known for his standup comedy specials "Bigger & Blacker," "Bring the Pain" and "Never Scared."

Rock, 39, has previously hosted the MTV's Movie Awards.

"I am a huge fan of Chris Rock," said Gil Cates, the producer of the Oscars telecast. "He always makes me laugh and he always has something interesting to say. Chris represents the best of the new generation of



Chris Rock

comics. Having him host the Oscars is terrific."

The one-time "Saturday Night Live" regular has won three Emmys for his TV programs and two Grammys for his comedy albums. Rock currently is shooting a remake of "The Longest Yard" with Adam Sandler and recently provided the voice of the zebra in the animated feature "Madagascar," both to be released in May 2005. His other film credits include "Pootie Tang," "Bad Company," "Down to Earth" and "Nurse

Betty." The 77th Academy Awards telecast is set for Feb. 27.

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