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FOCUS

Tavis Smiley Begins Second Season

Puts focus on new journalists of color

(AP) — As Tavis Smiley begins the second season of his PBS talk show, his guest list isn't lacking for high-profile personalities.

In the first week alone, actors John Travolta, Don Cheadle and Kevin Bacon, documentary filmmaker Ken Burns and writer Christopher Hitchens are among those scheduled on "Tavis Smiley."

But for Smiley, the public television series each Friday is just one forum — and, to hear him tell it, maybe not even the most important.

Spurred in part by his new relationship with Texas Southern University, where he helped fund a new media studies center, Smiley said he intends to focus on journalism students and what he can teach them.

Part of the lesson, he said, is to prepare for a changing society.



Tavis Smiley

"Somebody has got to talk to this next generation of journalists to let them know of the responsibility they have in this multicultural, multiethnic, multiethnic America," he said.

In a competitive world "they've got to have relationships and appreciation for communities of color and people who live there," Smiley said.

That insight is lacking in the news and entertainment industries, he contends, as exemplified by the hiring of Brian Williams and Craig Ferguson, two white men, to replace two other white men (anchor Tom Brokaw and talk-show host Craig Kilborn, respectively).

The failure to seriously consider and hire women or minorities for such jobs is "wanton hubris," he argued, and something that will ultimately prove costly.

"Television programmers will eventually see the light or feel the heat. Clearly, many of them are going to have to feel the heat" of shrinking viewership in an increasingly diverse America, Smiley said.

Folk Fundraiser

Portland's largest annual folk music event, Winterfolk XVII, is at the Aladdin Theatre at 7 p.m. Feb. 5. This event celebrates Sisters of the Road's 25th year of service to Portland's homeless community. Tickets are \$23 in advance and \$25 at the door, available at Aladdin Box office and Music Millennium.

King Tribute

A tribute and celebration to Martin Luther King Jr. will be at Jefferson High School's Robert G. Ford's Auditorium, 5210 N. Kerby, on Monday, Jan. 17. Many speakers, performers and vendors will entertain participants. A donation of \$3 or three nonperishable food items is requested. For more information, visit www.worlddartsfoundation.org.

Madame Butterfly

Portland Opera presents Puccini's "Madame Butterfly," opening Feb. 5 through 12. Tickets range from \$35 to \$127. Tickets can be purchased by calling 503-241-1802 or visiting www.ticketmaster.com.

Random Dance

The Portland debut of Britain's explosive dance company, Random Dance, is from Jan. 13-15 at 8 p.m. at Lincoln Performance Hall, Portland State University. Tickets are \$14 for students and seniors and \$25 for adults. For tickets, call 503-725-3307, Ticketmaster outlets or visit www.whitebird.org. For more information, call 503-245-1600.

Love a Drama

Love can be a drama with the Nappy Roots production of "Tangoing with Tornadoes" at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center from Jan. 28 through Feb. 5. For more information, call 503-381-9088.

Gypsy Classes

Caravan Studios offers classes in belly dance, African dance and more. Visit www.gypsyncaravan.us.

Make Art on Alberta

Make art and enjoy art on Alberta through Portland Community College. A variety of classes from art making to art appreciation are available. For more information, call 503-731-6622.

Reel Music and Cinema

The Reel Music Festival, featuring music cinema, is from Jan. 7 through Feb. 13 at Guild Theatre, 829 S.W. 9 Ave, and Whitsell Auditorium, 1219 S.W. Park. For details, visit www.nwfilm.org.

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ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

Ski Weekend Set

A Winter Carnival is held from Jan. 13-17 by the Ebony Rose Ski Club and National Brotherhood of Skiers, Western Region at Whistler, BC, Canada during Martin Luther King's birthday weekend. For details, visit www.nbs.org or call 503-475-9003.

Have a Ball

Kids will have a ball at OMSI's new Innovation Station by exploring the human side of technology. For more information, visit www.omsiedu.

Write Around Portland

Write Around Portland's free creative writing are at various locations around the city. For more information and locations, visit www.writearound.org or call 503-796-9224.

Amusement At Oaks Park

Celebrating 99 years of fun, Oaks Park in southeast Portland offers rides, picnic grounds, roller-skating and family games in the shade of 100-year-old oak trees on the banks of the Willamette River. Rides and roller-skating are open daily. For more information, call 503-233-5777.

Glacier Run

The Oregon Zoo presents Glacier Run, a simulator ride worth bundling up for. For more information, visit www.orgonzoo.org.

Laugh Factory

Comedy returns every second Wednesday of the month at the upscale Bacchus Restaurant, thanks to EEI International. For more information, call 503-223-5236 or visit www.eei-international.com.

On the Radio

Groove to soul and hip hop with Kevin Berry from 7 to 9 p.m. Mondays at 90.7 FM/KBOO. Check out the Community Potpourri talk show from 7 to 8 a.m. Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays at 1480 AM/KBMS. Count your blessings with Melodies from Heaven from 6 to 10 p.m. Mondays through Fridays at 1290 AM/KKSL. Tune in to African American Health Radio Wednesday nights on 1290 AM/KKSL.

Laughing Through It

A Portland Jam Night plans to heal the community's ills through laughter at the Wave Theatre in north Portland. The live music and clean sketch improv comedy is at 9 p.m. Fridays. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$4 for kids. For more information, call 503-735-4184 or visit www.jam-night.com.

Trippin' through Town

Take a trip through time to find the hottest poetry, hip hop and soul influencing Portland on Wednesdays at the Ohm. \$7 cover. 31 N.W. First Ave.

Local Artists Featured at Abbey Cafe

The Abbey Cafe, 441 N. Killingsworth St., invites musicians to sell their CDs and perform on Fridays and Saturdays. For more information, call 503-286-4847.

Ongoing and Upcoming Music

- The Blue Monk on Belmont plays live jazz. For a schedule, visit www.thebluemonk.com.
- Interstate Bar and Grill has mature live music at 4234 N. Interstate.
- The Black Notes play Thursdays at the Candlelight Room.
- Mel Brown plays jazz at Jimmy Maki on Tuesdays and Thursdays and Fridays and Saturdays at Salty's on the Columbia.
- A Community Unity Breakfast is held every third Thursday at SEI at 7:30 a.m.
- Skip Elliott Bowman Jazz Trio plays Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon at Hannah Bea's, on north-east MLK Jr. Blvd. and Shaver.
- R&B and live funk bands perform weekends at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center.
- After work, stop by The Red Sea, 381 S.W. 3rd Ave. from 5 to 9 p.m.
- Wednesdays.
- Don't miss Reggae Thursdays at Savannah's at First Thursday celebrations at 8 p.m.
- DJ OG ONE spins R&B at Savannah's on Fridays. Savannah's Restaurant welcomes Ron Steen Jam Session Sundays at 8:30 p.m.
- Live Reggae Fridays and Saturdays at Montego Bay, 1239 S.W. Jefferson.
- Politics and Poetry is every first and third Thursday at AJ Java's Internet Cafe from 6 to 8:30 p.m.
- Chicago Style Steppin is from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Fridays at Matt Dishman Community Center and Sundays from 7 to 11 p.m. at Flirts Holiday Inn Airport.
- DJ Vance spins on Saturdays at Bookies Sports Lounge on North Lombard and Albina; no cover before 10 p.m.

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