

FOCUS

Coach Carter is True Basketball Story

Film addresses challenges for student athletes

Inspired by a true story of courage and conviction, "Coach Carter" opens nationwide Friday, Jan. 14 from Paramount Pictures.

The film stars Hollywood heavy-weight Samuel L. Jackson and multi-platinum recording artist Ashanti, as well as Robert Ri'Chard, Debbie Morgan, Rob Brown, Rick Gonzalez, Antwon Tanner and Nana Gbewonyo.

Ashanti holds her own among the strong cast of men, giving an impressive performance in her first feature film role. She plays Kyra, girlfriend of Kenyon (Rob Brown), who has a promising future in basketball. He wants to play basketball, keep his grades up and move on to college, however Kyra and he have a real life situation to deal with. They wrestle with her pregnancy and how it will change their future.

"Coach Carter" is an inspirational account of a controversial high school basketball coach, Ken Carter, played by Jackson, in Richmond, Calif. who received both high praise and staunch criticism when he made national news in 1999 for benching his entire undefeated basketball team for poor academic performance.

Parents as well as school officials were outraged - basketball for these kids appeared to be their only hope of escape from the impoverished Richmond streets to attain a better life for themselves.

Carter who had himself attended Richmond High, had been in those boys' shoes. He still held the school's records for scoring, assists and steals after 30 years. His mission was to teach these young men the meaning of sportsmanship while giving them a tangible vision and opportunity to make choices in their lives beyond basketball that would prevent them from succumbing to drugs, gangs, poverty, prison or even death.

He wanted them all to have the



option of attending college, giving them the ability to fulfill their dreams, hopes and destiny. To do this they were going to need more than basketball skills. They needed to learn self-respect, discipline and commitment to make the grades and Coach Ken Carter was determined to be the man to help make that happen.

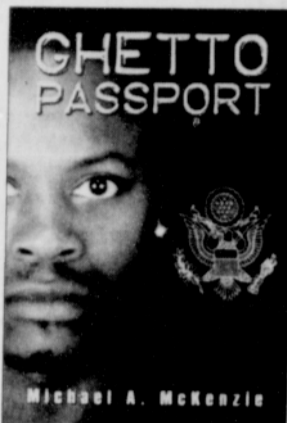
The true story will also speak to Oregonians, who may remember Ken Carter as a college basketball player at George Fox University in Newberg.

Samuel L. Jackson stars as Coach Carter, an inspirational coach who benched his entire team for poor academics.

'Ghetto Passport'

Inside view of poverty, politics and healing

With all the controversy surrounding Bill Cosby's comments about poor minority youth, the release of Michael A. McKenzie's book "Ghetto Passport" is perfect timing. With an overall theme that promotes resiliency and philanthropy, "Ghetto Passport" is a candidly written realistic book that explores and recounts the intricacies of welfare checks, gun fights, drug addiction, political naivety, social retardation, and low socioeconomics while growing



up in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

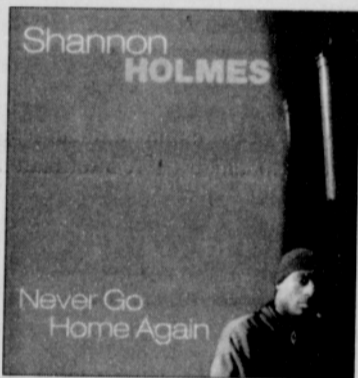
"I wanted to be a voice for not only those that broke the cycle of dysfunctionality, but too, for children that are entrenched in uninspiring environments as we speak," said McKenzie. "I hope this book serves as a means of healing, hope, and understanding. Also, it seems as though the story of poor minority is too often being told by those that are clueless as to what a day to day life of poverty is like."

Ghetto Passport is available everywhere books are sold.

Stories from the Street

Author finds escape from street, prison life

Shannon Holmes — Essence best-selling author of B-More Careful and Bad Girlz, and one of the brightest stars in urban fiction —



returns with a dramatic must-read novel inspired by his own life.

"Never Go Home Again" is the story of Corey Dixon, a young man whose father tries as best he can to steer him away from the lure of the streets. And yet, like so many others in Corey's neighborhood, he finds the temptations of the lucra-

tive drug trade too great to resist. While he makes fast money for a while, it is inevitable that it is he who has to pay, with his time and maybe even his life: by the age of 16 Corey is locked up.

Incarcerated in Riker's Island and then in prisons upstate, Corey lives through experiences that threaten to destroy his body, his mind, and eventually his spirit. But in the midst of his horrific imprisonment he discovers new strength to keep himself together and survive. Corey meets a few kind souls who mean him well, including a teacher who encourages him to get out of prison and make something of himself. The teacher also advises Corey to "never go home again."

Though the homesick Corey does not immediately understand, he ultimately realizes the wisdom of his mentor's words.

Unflinching and riveting, this story is the firsthand account of the brutal, unforgiving inner-city streets and prison life, as well as a difficult lesson in accepting responsibility and moving on.

"Never Go Home Again" is available through Atria Books for \$24.

Hip-Hop Star Raises Funds

(AP) — The U.N. World Food Program released a new music video by Wyclef Jean to help Haitians who have suffered through heavy floods and rising violence.

"Gonaives," the title of the video song with Creole lyrics, is named after the Haitian city stricken by the September floods.

"What we wanted to do was capture the raw essence of Gonaives and what we saw during the floods," Jean said in a statement. "The song is not a song of sadness."

The video shows the 32-year-old hip-hop star, who launched a humanitarian effort in November for his native land, distributing relief food, giving people clean water to drink and chatting with Haitians.

The World Food Program is now feeding more than 600,000



Wyclef Jean

people, including 100,000 flood victims, in Haiti.

Long impoverished, Haitians also have been reeling from violence. At least 100 people, 19 of them police officers, have been killed since September, when supporters of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide stepped up protests to demand his return from exile in South Africa.

FEATURING poet, playwright, actress, director
S. RENEE MITCHELL
Columnist for THE OREGONIAN

TANGOING WITH TORNADOES

A gorgeously written short poem performed by three women of color who dare to tell the stories of women who survive.

Original Music by SHARON WHELAN

Jan. 28 - Feb. 1, 2005

8 p.m. Fridays at the Interstate Finehome Center, 1000 N. Interstate Ave.
TICKETS: 503-733-3333 or www.craigshane.com

A portion of the proceeds support programs that empower domestic violence survivors.

This production is brought to you by...
www.aria.org

A Production of World Arts Foundation, Inc.

The 20th Anniversary
Tribute To:
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Keep Alive - THE DREAM"

Where?
Jefferson High School
School of Champions ~ School of Pride
The Robert G. Ford Memorial Theater
5210 N. Kerby, Portland, Oregon

When?
Monday, January 17, 2005
12:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

Live Broadcast/Simulcast
Jefferson High School
Television Dept./Television Services (PPS), Channel 28
KBOO 90.7 FM

Donation: \$3.00
or 3 cans of non-perishable food

LIMITED EXHIBIT SPACE
AVAILABLE FOR VENDORS

For More Information Please Call:
For program information & event schedule log onto:
www.worldartsfoundation.org

Sponsored by:
Portland Public Schools • Portland Association of Teachers • Killingsworth Little Chapel of Chimes • SMLCO Corporation • Oregon Education Association • Providence Health System • Portland Community College • Enterprise Rent-A-Car • Portland General Electric • KBOO Radio • Portland Community Media • African American Chamber of Commerce

HAP
HOUSING AUTHORITY OF PORTLAND
CHARTERED 1941
MULTIRACIAL

The Housing Authority of Portland supports workforce and contracting diversity.

HAP aspires to realize 20 percent participation of disadvantaged, minority-owned, women-owned, and emerging small businesses (D/M/W/ESB) on HAP projects.

New Columbia
a new mixed-income development in the Portsmouth neighborhood enhancing the lives of residents and neighbors and creating opportunity for community businesses.

The New Columbia redevelopment provides unique opportunities for D/M/W/ESB businesses, HAP resident-owned businesses, HAP residents and others in the North Portland, Northeast Portland and greater Portland metropolitan area.

Final New Columbia contracting opportunities:
Mixed Use Buildings Bids due February 1, 2005
Park Structures March 2005

Homeownership lot sales:
Soon HAP will reissue an offering for the last two blocks at New Columbia. D/M/W/ESB homebuilders are strongly encouraged to reply.

For more information call:
HAP (Elaine Holt) 503-802-8509
Walsh Construction (Carolyn Wilson) 503-222-4375
Housing Development Center:
Contractor Support Program (Jonath Colon) 503-335-3668

Or visit <http://www.hapdx.org/newcolumbia>