

# FOCUS

## Chris Rock to Host Oscar Awards

Show will set record for black actors

(AP) - Six years ago, Chris Rock joked that the Academy Awards looked like the "million white man march" for its traditional under-representation of blacks.

performer to receive two nominations in the same year, as lead actor for his soul-stirring portrayal of Ray Charles in "Ray" and supporting actor for "Collateral," playing a wily cabdriver who holds his own against a relentless hit man.

In the best-actor race, Foxx's competition includes Don Cheadle for "Hotel Rwanda," in which he plays real-life innkeeper Paul Rusesabagina, who shielded refu-

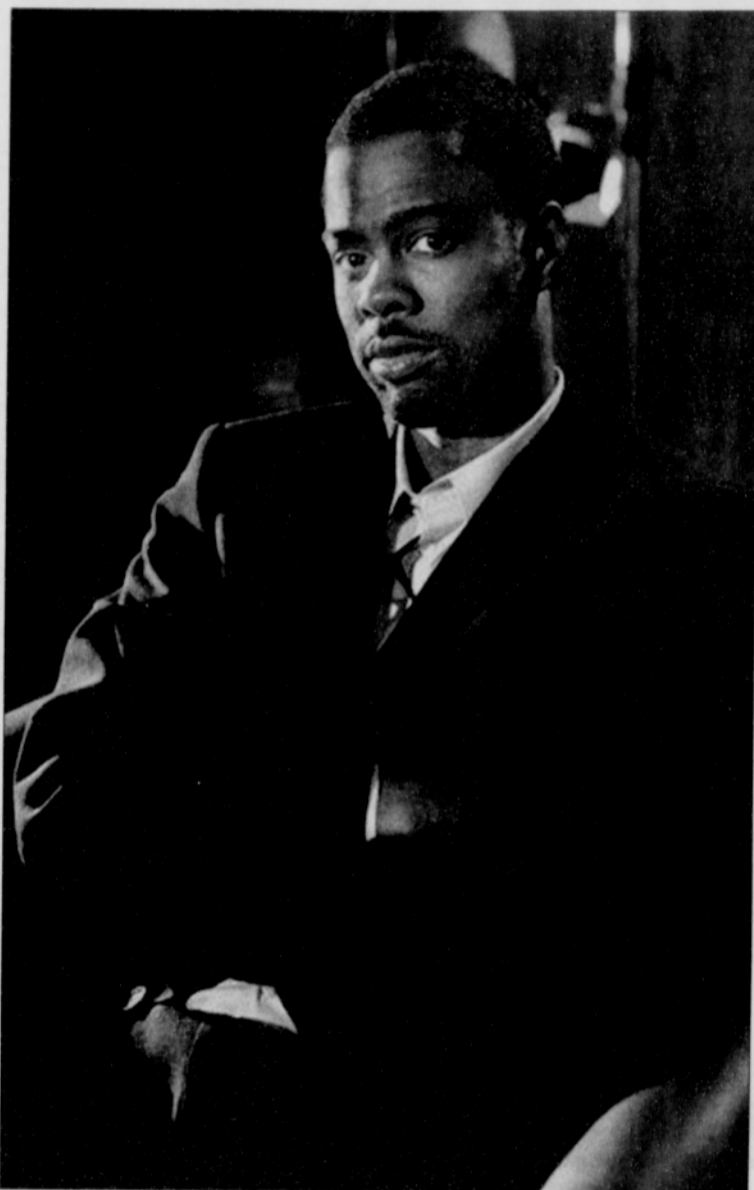
playing an ex-boxer and resident sage of a run-down gym in "Million Dollar Baby."

The wave of nominations comes three years after another historic Oscar celebration for blacks, when Halle Berry won the best-actress award for "Monster's Ball" and Denzel Washington took the best-actor honor for "Training Day." It was the first time blacks won both lead-acting prizes, and with "Ali" star Will Smith also nominated, the first time in 29 years that blacks earned three nominations in the lead categories.

"I think you have to look toward Denzel and Halle for being such great ambassadors," said Foxx, considered the favorite to win the best-actor prize for "Ray." "They made it look good, did they not? It was so great to see them up there holding those statues. Whatever race you are, you couldn't help but think they looked great.

"To be wrapped in that beautiful black skin, it made young actors such as myself want to do more in film and be able to go to that big dance. The opportunities are getting better."

Rock's presence as host will add to the luster for blacks at the Feb. 27 Oscars. The feature-length documentary nominees include "Tupac: Resurrection," a portrait of slain rapper Tupac Shakur, and the docu-



Chris Rock will host of the 77th Annual Academy Awards on Feb. 27. (AP photo)

mentary short-subject category, features "Mighty Times: The Children's March," chronicling anti-segregation efforts in Alabama in 1963.

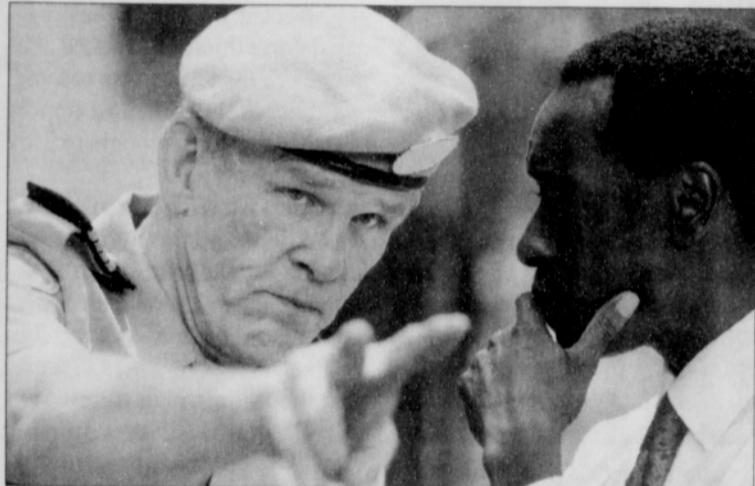
Among foreign-language contenders is the first South African film nominated for an Oscar, "Yesterday," about an HIV-positive woman trying to plan a future for her daughter.

The Oscar attention comes at a time when movies headlined by blacks, Ice Cube's "Are We There Yet?" and Samuel L. Jackson's "Coach Carter," are topping box office sales.

Following in the next couple of months are Will Smith's "Hitch," Queen Latifah's "Beauty Shop," Anthony Anderson's "King's Ransom," Martin Lawrence's "Rebound," Bernie Mac's "Guess Who" and Cedric the Entertainer's "The Honeymooners."

Not a bad spring lineup for an industry that had only a handful of black performers with consistent mainstream appeal before the mid-1990s, such as Richard Pryor, Eddie Murphy and Sidney Poitier.

In the academy's 77-year history, a scant 3.2 percent of the acting nominations have gone to blacks. While that figure has risen, from 2.8 percent three years ago, it remains a weak track record given that blacks make up 13 percent of the U.S. population.



Colonel Oliver (Nick Nolte) and Paul (Don Cheadle) discuss the dangerous conditions outside the hotel in United Artists' drama "Hotel Rwanda."

This time, with Rock taking his maiden voyage as host of Hollywood's biggest party, he will preside over a record Oscar night for black actors, who earned five of the 20 nominations.

Jamie Foxx was the first black

gees during the Rwandan genocide. Sophie Okonedo earned a supporting-actress nomination as Rusesabagina's wife.

Among Foxx's rivals for supporting actor is Morgan Freeman, who earned his fourth nomination,

## BET Show Features New African American Cast



The cast of BET's "College Hill."

"College Hill" launched its 13-week run on BET last week at 9 p.m. in the "Wild Wild West" of the Oklahoma plains at Langston University with a special one-hour series premiere. Featured is a new cast of eight, but with the same saucy, volatile mix of eclectic personalities and on- and off-campus hijinx that marked its debut last season. From classroom to chaos, the network's cameras are there 24/7 to catch all of the action.

## 'Black Hippie' Performs at IFCC

Reflects on growing up middle class

Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center will host David Daniels' touring performance "Black Hippie Chronicles." Developed with the guidance of the late Spaulding Gray, and inspired by Gray's own work, Minneapolis-based performance artist Daniels reflects on his journey through the worlds of peace, love, pot and growing up in Middle Class Black America.

For Daniels it is "a story of assimilation gone wrong."

As the son of a doctor who was



David Daniels

the first African American in Hartford, Conn., to have his own medical practice and a mother who was an educator and Civil Rights activist, David was raised in an environment unknown to many black families in the 1960s.

He describes a socially and reli-

giously conservative home where there was a strong motivation to become "white," to assimilate rather than celebrate the cultural differences of their heritage.

Daniels turned to counterculture as a response to his upbringing, and became a hippie like so many "privileged" young people rebelling from their conservative roots.

Performances will be held on Saturday, Feb. 19 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 20 at 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the IFCC Theatre. Tickets are \$10 general, \$8 students and seniors for evening performances and \$6 general, \$4 seniors and students for the matinee performance. For more reservations, call 503-823-4322.



Caption: Star Jones will host E! Red Carpet for upcoming award shows.

## Star Jones to Host E! Red Carpet

(AP) - Star Jones Reynolds will be back on the red carpet for E! Entertainment Television's coverage of this year's Screen Actors Guild, Grammy and Academy Awards.

Ted Harbert, president and chief executive officer of E! Networks, said he was thrilled Jones Reynolds

would continue as host of E!'s "Live From the Red Carpet" awards specials.

"Her passion and knowledge about the world of entertainment make her the ideal person to represent E! in our showcase event telecast," Harbert said in a statement Monday.

## Peninsula Little League 2005

(Serving the Youth of Inner North & Northeast Portland ages 5-15)  
visit our website at: [www.eteamz.active.com/peninsulalittleleague](http://www.eteamz.active.com/peninsulalittleleague)



### Softball Program

| Level  | Ages    |
|--------|---------|
| Minor  | 7 - 9   |
| Major  | 10 - 12 |
| Junior | 13 - 15 |

Questions contact:  
**Mark Washington** ~  
503-901-1722

**Saturday, February 5, 2005**  
Early Bird Sign-ups (\$10.00 discount, 2/5/05 only)

**Saturday, February 12, 2005**

**Saturday, March 5, 2005**  
Peninsula Park Community Center  
700 N Portland Blvd  
10:00 am ~ 2 pm  
&  
Portland Observer  
4747 NE MLK Jr Blvd  
503-288-0033  
Hours: 10 am ~ 5 pm (Mon ~ Friday)

Participation Fee - \$85.00 (per player)  
\$150.00 Family Maximum (2 or more children)  
The fee includes prepay of fundraiser.

### Baseball Program

| Level  | Ages    |
|--------|---------|
| T-Ball | 5 - 6   |
| Farm   | 7 - 8   |
| Minor  | 7 - 9   |
| Major  | 10 - 12 |
| Junior | 13 - 15 |

Questions contact:  
**Michael Mangum** ~  
503-957-6274

Items to bring to sign-ups:  
Birth Certificate  
Proof of Address  
Doctor/Insurance Information  
Player Fee

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## Mardi Gras at Interstate Firehouse

'Masks, Music and Mayhem' gala Saturday

Mardi Gras is coming to Portland with Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center's third annual Mardi Gras fund-raising gala, "Masks, Music and Mayhem," on Saturday, Feb. 12 from 7 to 11 p.m.

Attendees will be transported to the world of Mardi Gras with authentic foods, live music from jazz band "Everything's Jake," and the crowning of the Mardi Gras King and Queen.

Matt Zaffino, NewsChannel 8 meteorologist, returns for the second year as celebrity host.

Tickets are \$40 per person, or two for \$75.

For information [www.ifcc-arts.org](http://www.ifcc-arts.org), or call 503.823.4322.

## The African American Men's Club

"In the community...for the community"

### AAMC Valentine's Day Dance

**Saturday, February 12, 2005**  
**9 PM - 2 AM**

Ramada Inn at the Airport  
6221 NE 82nd Avenue  
Portland, Oregon  
503-255-6511



**Ticket Price: \$20.00 per person**

Dress: After 5

Dance...Music...Fun...Raffle...Food...No Host Bar

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**Fairly Honest Jon**  
Wed 1/26/05 \$3 cover

**DJ Chata Man**  
Thu 1/27/05 \$3 cover

**Chata Addy & Susuma**  
Fri 1/28/05 \$3 cover



**Randy Star & The Flirt Band**  
Sat 1/29/05 \$3 cover

**Kenney Polson Jazz**  
Sun 1/30/05 No Cover