

FOCUS

Power of Truth and Reconciliation

Film accounts for healing in post-Apartheid South Africa

On the heels of his successful starring role in *Coach Carter*, Samuel L. Jackson stars in a deeply moving film, "In My Country," an account of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission hearings in post-Apartheid South Africa.

A Sony Classics release, "In My Country" opened in theaters on Friday.

Based on Antjie Krog's book, *Country of My Skull*, the film examines the brave attempt by Nelson Mandela and the new leadership to heal the deep division and wounds in the wake of Apartheid.

An unprecedented event, the hearings sought the truth and offered forgiveness to those who heard from the victims and confessed to crimes committed during the Apartheid era. Out of this desire to reconcile the past, the hearings strived to bring closure



Samuel L. Jackson and Juliette Binoche star in the South African drama 'In My Country.'

to the atrocities committed allowing all South Africans to start afresh.

Jackson plays Langston Whitfield, a Washington Post journalist, who meets Anna Malan, played by Juliette Binoche (*The English Patient*, *Chocolate*),

a poet covering the hearings for South African state media.

"This is a story about making the world a little better. It is amazing that through the hearings South Africa, which has suffered so terribly from racism, was now able to teach the world a lesson in

healing," Jackson said. "I was attached to this project from the very beginning. The script was head and shoulders above any other that I had read and it is very real. I hope that this film will engender conversations and debates after people have seen it."



James L. White

'Ray' Writer Honored

James L. White was given special recognition at the 25th Annual Tree of Life Awards for outstanding screenwriting for "Ray" at a black-tie dinner hosted by the Friends of the Black Oscar Nominees.

White received his first Hollywood writing assignment from Academy Award-winner Sidney Poitier in 1992 for a script entitled "Red Money" (a.k.a. *The Better Half*).

Other honorees included Academy Award nominated actors Jamie Foxx and Don Cheadle, Ray costume designer Sharen Davis and "Woman Thou Art

Loosed" producer Reuben Cannon.

The Friends of the Black Oscar Nominees celebration was started by Washington, D.C. business entrepreneur Albert Nellum more than 25 years ago after he was alarmed by the number of black film industry artists and films that were overlooked by the Academy. He felt that if the African American community honored these artists

– not only would the rest of Hollywood sit up and take notice, the artists themselves would be inspired to continue their artistic outreach.

Jazz Returns to Portland State District Grand Opening at LV's Benefits Jazz Institute

During its heyday it was not uncommon to hear the swinging sounds of jazz swirling from downtown Portland hotspots like The Mural Room, Sydney's and the Jazz Quarry, a mere stone's throw from the campus of Portland State College. This week after a long hiatus, jazz returns to Portland's University District with the opening of Leroy Vinnegar's Uptown at University Place.

Portland's newest home for jazz, located in PSU's University Place Conference Center at 310 Southwest Lincoln Street, opened last weekend with an evening benefiting the Leroy Vinnegar Jazz Institute at Portland State University.

Hosted by PSU president Daniel O. Bernstine and Dean of Fine and Performing Arts Robert Sylvester, the Grand Opening will feature fine food from the University Place Grill, a wine tasting, and the music of pianist Darrell Grant and his all-star trio.

Beginning on Friday, March 18, LV's Uptown will showcase the sophisticated sounds of Northwest jazz duos and trios on Friday and Saturday nights from 7 to 10 p.m.

The spring schedule kicks off with LV's house trio led by Darrell Grant. An associate Professor of Music at Portland State, Grant will also serve as the venue's music director, a role he occupied at noted

LEROY VINNEGAR
WALKIN' THE BASSES



Portland jazz spot The Typhoon Imperial Lounge from 1999-2001. Artists scheduled to appear at the new club include Portland favorites Dave Frishberg & Rebecca Kilgore, Tall Jazz, Tom Grant, and vocalists Nancy King and Mary Kaddery. The room will also fea-

ture visiting Northwest artists such as Seattle vocalist Greta Matassa and Brazilian pianist Jovino Santos Netto.

With 41 seats in its lounge area, LV's Uptown will offer an up-close and personal jazz experience.

"That is part of its appeal," says Julie North, Director of Auxiliary Services at PSU. "We hope LV's will provide a comfortable and intimate environment to listen to great music."

The club will also feature an appetizer menu that includes coconut shrimp, fried calamari, burgers and wings, specialty cocktails, a full bar and, a rarity downtown, free parking.



Artis Christy Klep seeks out the 'true individual' in her portraits.

Photographer Focuses on Families

For Christy Klep, photographing a baby doesn't mean it has to be born yet. With her primary subjects being expectant families and their children, Klep will exhibit her art at Milagros from March 31 to May 25.

Klep's photographs seek out the "true individual" in each subject, no matter how young. According to the artist, "even an infant can provide a look that shows us a glimpse of the future."

An artist reception will be held from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursday, March 31 at Milagros at 5429 N.E. 30th St. For more information, call 503-493-4141.

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

SAVION GLOVER



"The finest tap dancing I have ever seen"

-JOAN ACOCELLA, THE NEW YORKER

PRESENTED BY:



An Exhilarating New Show by the Creator of *Bring in 'da Noise* with the Stunning Tap Ensemble *Ti Dii* and a Live Band!

TUES - WED MARCH 29 & 30 7:30PM
Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall

Tickets: \$20-\$52 plus service charge. Discounts for students/seniors/groups.

PCPA Box Office and all [ticketmaster](http://www.ticketmaster.com) outlets, including select Fred Meyer stores. 503-790-ARTS (2787). Info/groups 8 or more: 503.245.1600, ext. 201.

www.whitebird.org

SPONSORED BY:



COMMPLUS Prepaid Cell Phone Service

Airvoice \$39.99
Free Activation
+60min if you mention ad!

503-286-6070 317 NE Killingworth, Ptd

KMHD PLEDGE DRIVE MARCH 19TH—25TH

With your continued financial support along with that of your fellow community radio contributors, we can meet our goal one pledge at a time. We hope to hear from you!

A DONATION IS A TAX DEDUCTIBLE GIFT

CONTRIBUTIONS CAN BE MADE AT ANY TIME BY
•MAIL
•PHONE
•INTERNET at
WWW.KMHD.FM



J Boyd Picture Perfect Landscape

For all your landscape needs

Landscape Design • Decks & Fences • Backflow Tester Retainer wall installation • Ponds & Water Features Sprinkler System install • Aeration & Fertilize Lawn New & Rebuild Landscape Insulation • Weed Control Yearly Maintenance • Play Ground Design & Installed

Reasonable Prices

Call 503-970-5743

In Business in the Portland area since 1989
References available upon demand LCB # 11775



Advertise with diversity in
Portland Observer
Call 503-288-0033