

FOCUS

Freedom Awards Given to Winfrey, Rusesabagina

Humanitarians recipients of top civil rights honor

(AP) - Oprah Winfrey and Paul Rusesabagina, whose heroism in the face of genocide inspired the movie "Hotel Rwanda," were announced last week as recipients of the National Civil Rights Museum's top honors.

The museum, built around the former Lorraine Motel where Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in 1968, said Winfrey and Rusesabagina will receive its 2005 Freedom Awards.

Winfrey, who runs a media company that includes her television show, is being recognized for working to improve the lives of poor children in Africa and helping create a U.S. database of convicted child abusers.

She will receive the museum's National Freedom Award in November. Past recipients include King's widow, Coretta Scott King, and former Presidents Clinton and Carter.

Rusesabagina will receive the International Freedom Award, which also has been given to Nelson Mandela and Bono.

The museum said a new Lifetime Achievement Award for civil rights activism will be given to actress Ruby Dee and her late husband, Ossie Davis.

None of the recipients were at the announcement.

Rusesabagina was managing a Belgian hotel in Kigali, the Rwandan capital, when civil war broke out in



Paul Rusesabagina (Portrayed in "Hotel Rwanda")



Oprah Winfrey (right) arrives at the Legends Ball, an award ceremony hosted by Winfrey honoring women who paved the way in arts, entertainment and civil rights in this Saturday, May 14, 2005 photo in Santa Barbara, Calif.

1994 between the Tutsi and Hutu ethnic groups. An estimated 600,000 to 800,000 people were killed, most of them Tutsis.

He hid more than 1,200 people in the hotel for over three months to prevent their slaughter by Hutu militias.

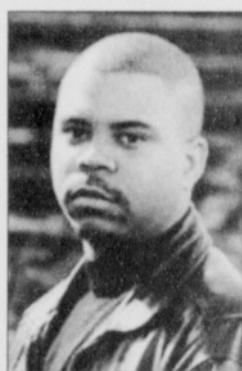
Museum Director Beverly Robertson described Winfrey as "a great humanitarian" who has used her Oprah Winfrey Foundation to provide scholarships and grants to help educate poor children in the United States and abroad.

"She has provided resources and money to build schools for at least 50,000 children in South Africa," Robertson said. "That is phenomenal. She doesn't have to do that."

The museum said it also was honoring Winfrey for her outspoken advocacy of the 1993 National Child Protection Act.

Gripping Suspense Novel

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Brandon Massey

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For more information, visit www.brandonmassey.com.

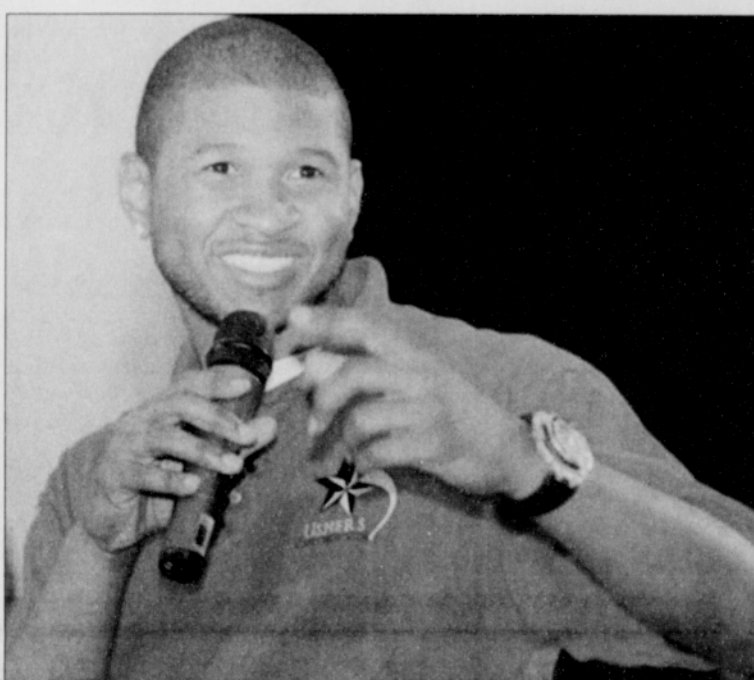
Usher Opens Camp for Young Performers

(AP) - Usher, who began singing at age 6, has opened a summer camp to help some other prodigies-in-training.

Usher Raymond, the 26-year-old R&B star, dropped by for the first day of Camp New Look, an Atlanta program he recently started for minority youth in his home city. 150 campers aged 8 to 18 hole up at Clark Atlanta University for two weeks, honoring their specialties - either singing, dancing, or basketball - and learning about the respective industries.

"This is truly about learning the business side," Usher said Monday. "You're not going to learn it all overnight, but maybe, just maybe, you'll learn enough to change your life."

The children also sit in on panels and discussion sessions with



Usher Raymond, the 26-year-old R&B star and Atlanta native, speaks to kids at his Camp New Look on the Clark Atlanta University campus in Atlanta, Tuesday, July 12, 2005. (AP Photo)

agents, managers and sports executives to learn the financial side of entertainment and sports. Guest teachers will include Denver Nuggets forward Carmelo Anthony and Atlanta Falcons cornerback DeAngelo Hall.

Their lessons will be put to the test July 23, when they are expected to coordinate a charity celebrity basketball game and headline the halftime show.

The camp, Usher said, will be the first of many summers where kids are pushed to aim higher than just playing for a basketball team, but owning one. The singer is co-owner of the NBA's Cleveland Cavaliers.

Usher also asked the kids and counselors to treat him like a family member - albeit one with a burly bodyguard and a camera crew for an unnamed TV project following his every move.

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Murphy Joins 'Dreamgirls' Cast

(AP) - Eddie Murphy, the voice of Donkey in the "Shrek" films, is joining the cast of the upcoming screen version of "Dreamgirls."

The film, an adaptation of the Tony Award-winning musical that first ran on Broadway in the early 1980s, will be directed by Bill Condon and also star

Jamie Foxx and Beyonce Knowles.

"Dreamgirls" follows the rise of a trio of women who form a group called The Dreamettes in the 1960s. Murphy will play James "Thunder" Early, a singer for whom the Dreamettes sing backup before taking over the spotlight themselves. Dream

Works said this week.

Murphy's screen credits also include "Trading Places," "Beverly Hills Cop" and "The Nutty Professor." He has released several albums of soul and pop music.

Eddie Murphy



Come Dance to Jazz Legends and the Miss U's

World-renowned jazz musicians will perform at Hannah Bea's soon. From San Diego is Marshall "Hawk" Hawkins, a lifelong musician with extensive experience in jazz classical music. Bob Boss, a natural-born guitar player, has

performed all over the United States, Europe and Mexico and for over 20 years performed with Marshall Hawkins' and Seahawk.

They'll be playing at the Hannah Bea's Poundcake & More 3969 NE MLK Jr. Blvd. on Satur-

day, July 30 at 10 a.m. Come and enjoy eggs, grits, biscuits and great jazz. Free admission.

Also, the Miss U's, with legendary frontman Tres Shannon Rolling Stones Cover Band" will also be performing at local Portland venues. On Friday, July 29 at Berbat's Restaurant on 19 SW 2nd Ave., jazz begins at 7 p.m., auctioneering at 8 p.m., and Miss U's perform at 9 p.m. Also on Sunday, August 21st, to raise money to support the

"House of Peace and Love" Orphanage Project in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, as a precursor to the 3rd Annual Portland Challenge-Swim Across the Willamette River. Items for bid include: Artwork from Aden Catalani and Mona Super hero, a Gibson ES-135 guitar, a year supply of Voodoo Doughnuts and more! All cost is free and open to the public. 21 & over after 9 p.m.

Contact co-founder Jay Boss Rubinat at (503) 481-1361.

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