

# Portland Observer Auto Review

## 2006 INFINITI FX45

By KATHLEEN CARR

When Infiniti designers created the FX, they envisioned what they called "cool fusion", blending the SUV's lower body with the sleek, elegant upper body more reminiscent of a classic sports car. The "cool fusion" concept is the reason you can't keep your eyes off the FX, and it's a heartbreaker. The stylish curved profile is blended with the ferocious V-8 power and tenacious handling in this all-wheel-drive premium crossover from Nissan's luxury division. It has rapidly become a favorite status symbol for the "young up-and-coming" consumers.

Then there's the power. Under the hood is a 4.5-liter V-8 that sprouts 320 horsepower and 335 pound-feet of torque. That's good



**SPECIFICATIONS:** 4.5-Liter DOHC V-8 Engine; 320 hp. 6,200 rpm; 335 lb-ft of torque 4,000 rpm; Five-speed automatic transmission; 14 City- 18 Hwy MPG; \$50,000 MSRP.

for quick takeoffs or a power boost when cruising. The sweet sounding, sport-tuned exhaust, combined with this Infiniti's throaty roar, definitely makes you aware that you've punched the throttle.

The FX45, suspension has been tweaked to offer a smoother ride, along with a new shock absorber design. When it comes to handling the FX45's bubble-like body, aggressive low stance and new 20-

inch wheels keep it pasted to the pavement. There is little body roll and it devours spirited twists and turns, like a hungry beast. In addition to an all-wheel-drive system, the FX45 has a Vehicle Dynamic Controls system for conquering slippery situations, with traction control.

The interior is understated elegance with an overload of standard goods, including a Bose 300-watt, 11-speaker audio system,

dual zone climate control, Bluetooth hands-free phone system, heated front seats, and the intelligent keyless entry system that uses electronic signals instead of a conventional keyless remote. These are just a few of the standard features. The \$6,600 technology package offered by Infiniti will impress even the most techno-savvy consumer, providing a user-friendly navigational system, a DVD system with rear back-up monitor, and lane departure warning system.

The interior space may not meet the needs of most "soccer moms". The sacrificial cost of this aggressive, sporty-body design is giving up abundant passenger and cargo space. The large wheel wells create some issues when getting out of the rear door. The V-8 engine requires premium gas and deep pockets at the gas pump.

If you desire the performance of a sports car, the functionality of a sport utility vehicle and the cushy ride of a luxury vehicle, the Infiniti FX45 crossover is just the ticket. Heed this warning: "Once you get in, you won't ever want to get out".

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# RELIGION

## Jesus Depicted as a Black Man

'Color of the Cross' makes film history

(AP) -- "Color of the Cross," a controversial new film that opened last weekend tells a traditional story, focusing on the last 48 hours of the life of Jesus as told in the Gospels. In this version, though, race contributes to his persecution.

It is the first representation in the history of American cinema of Jesus as a black man.

What Jesus looked like has long been debated by theologians around the world. Different cultures have imagined him in different ways, says Stephen Prothero, chairman of the religion department at Boston University. In Japan, Jesus looks Japanese. In Africa, he is black.

While some black churches have images of a black Jesus behind the altar and others have claimed Christ was black, Prothero says "none of those arguments or images have filtered much into the mainstream."

Filmmaker Jean Claude LaMarre set out to change that with "Color of the Cross." LaMarre, who plays Jesus, wrote, directed and financed the film. It will open in 30 theaters in pre-



Jean Claude LaMarre wrote, directed and stars as Jesus in 'Color of the Cross.'

dominantly black neighborhoods.

"Black people in this country are the only race of people who

worship a god outside their own image," says LaMarre, 38, adding that showing Christ as a black man is "the most poignant way to

deal with the issue of race in this country because it goes to the heart of how we look at the world."

It also provides a positive image of blacks, something that's been scant in the U.S., says the Rev. Cecil "Chip" Murray, long-time leader of L.A.'s First African Methodist Episcopal Church and a producer of the film.

Why does race matter in the story of Christ?

"Jesus isn't in the hands of historians," Prothero says. "What we have now is our own debate and, in that debate, race has to be a factor because race is a big predicament in American life."

Film is a powerful place to have the discussion, says Humphries-Brooks, who calls the medium "one of the last places that is quasi-public for the formation of values in America."

"Artistic and aesthetic views are as important in developing religious values as the words we speak. Everybody goes to the movies. Not everybody goes to the same church."

Filmmaker LaMarre thinks the film can only have a positive effect.

"The message is that color, a colored Jesus Christ, doesn't matter," he says. "That's why the movie is important. When you have one prevailing image out there, it suggests color does matter."

## A Mother Remembered For a Passion to Help

Carolyn Sue Lewis, b. March 9, 1949

Carolyn Sue Lewis, age 57, passed away, Oct. 28, 2006 of a stroke following brain surgery. All who know Carolyn knew of her generous heart and spirit. She will be deeply missed. Carolyn was born in Portland, Ore. on March 9, 1949, to the late Tommie and Mattie Johnson. She was a lifelong resident of northeast Portland, and attended Sabin Grade School and Grant High School Rose Festival court prior to her graduation in 1967.

Carolyn married Bonnie Lewis Jr. in 1971 and is the mother of two daughters, Kirby Danielle Lewis and Dyan Lewis.

Carolyn worked in Human Resources at First Interstate Bank (now Wells Fargo) for several years. While volunteering for the bank as a "Loaned Executive" to the United Way of the Columbia-Willamette, Carolyn found her true calling. She discovered a passion for helping others through giving campaigns spon-



Carolyn Sue Lewis

sored by the agency. She left first Interstate to take a position as a Campaign Director at the United

Way, and remained there for more than 20 years, in various positions, eventually moving to Vice President of Human Resources. Carolyn was past president of Executive Women International, and she also served on boards of many local organizations such as Fish Emergency Services and Self Enhancement, Inc.

Carolyn leaves to mourn her husband of 35 years, Bonnie Lewis Jr. of Portland; daughters Kirby Lewis of Portland and Kelly Lewis of Frisco, Texas; and brother Jackie Johnson and Janet Logan of Portland. She was preceded in death by her oldest brother Bobby Johnson.

Funeral Services for Carolyn Lewis will be held on Friday, Nov.

3, at 11 a.m. at Highland Christian Center, 7800 NE Glisan. The Reverend W.G. Hardy Jr. will officiate. Interment will follow the service at Rose City Cemetery.

Contributions in the name of Carolyn S. Lewis may be made to Self Enhancement, Inc.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Thank you for your presence, prayers, calls, cards, food, generosity, etc. during our hour of bereavement. Your love and kindness were comforting to us in our trying times.

—The Family of Allah Rashaun Bunn

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**"Fight Against Drugs Gospel Concert featuring The Bolton Brothers of Hattiesburg, MS"**, 6:00 pm, Saturday, November 4th, at Vancouver Ave Baptist Church.

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