

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Coffee Trade's Tangled Trail of Tyranny

'Black Gold' screens at multicultural film fest

"Black Gold" asks us to face the unjust conditions under which our favorite drink - coffee - is produced and to decide what we can do about it.

The award-winning documentary will be screened Monday, March 3 as part of the free community Multicultural Film Festival at Jefferson High School starting at 6 p.m. in room C-39.

Black Gold traces the tangled trail from the two billion cups of coffee consumed each day back to the coffee farmers who produce the beans. In particular, it follows Tadesse Meskela as he tries to get a living wage for the 70,000 Ethiopian coffee farmers he represents. In the process Black Gold provides the most in-depth study of any commodity on film today and offers a compelling introduction to the "fair trade" movement galvanizing consumers around the globe

In Ethiopia, for example, 15 million people are dependent on the coffee industry; 67 percent of its foreign trade is in coffee. Between



Ethiopian coffee packers work under harsh conditions in the documentary "Black Gold" coming Monday, March 3 to the Multicultural Film Festival at Jefferson High School.

2001 and 2003, when the price for coffee hit a 30 year low, farmers could no longer feed themselves, famine spread and feeding stations had to be established throughout the coffee

region. School teachers went unpaid and many farmers, in desperation, tore out their coffee trees and replanted their hillsides in chat, a narcotic widely used in East Africa.



Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf

Iron Ladies of Liberia

The Portland Community Cinema series presents "Iron Ladies of Liberia, followed by panel a discussion, On Wednesday, Feb. 27 at 8 pm. At St. John's Theater, 8704 N. Lombard St.

With unprecedented access, this intimate documentary goes behind-the-scenes with Africa's first freely elected female head of state, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, president of Liberia.

The film explores the challenges facing the new president and the extraordinary women surrounding her as they develop and implement policy to rebuild their ravaged country and prevent a descent back into civil war.

Follow Johnson-Sirleaf through her first year in office as she faces angry mobs, ambitious political rivals and high-ranking members of the international community. Her story is inspiring a new generation of leaders in Africa and around the world.

Who's in Hare's House -- Currently through March 9, the Portland Children's Museum presents whimsical puppets of "Who's in Hare's House," with Sunday performances by the Tears of Joy Theatre and a puppet scavenger hunt. For more information, call 503-223-6500.

Emergence-See -- Daniel Beaty's "Emergence-See!" is presented Thursday, Feb. 28 and Friday, Feb. 29 at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center. The one-man, multi-character show centers on contemporary black America as a slave ship rises out of the Hudson River in front of the Statue of Liberty. Fortickets, call the IFCC box office at 503-823-4322.

Movie Madness -- Saturday, March 1 at 8 p.m., the Portland Gay Men's Chorus will don their top hats and canes to perform favorites from "Footloose," "Fame" and other great movies; the single performance will be at the Newmark Theatre-Portland Center for Performing Arts; to purchase tickets call 503-226-2588.

Portland Jazz Band and Choral Union -- Sunday, March 2, at 7 p.m.,

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enjoy the University of Portland's hot jazz ensemble performing jazz and pop at the Buckley Center Auditorium, 5000 N. Willamette Blvd. This free concert is open to the public.

'Dreamville' Tour -- Thursday, March 13, from 7 to 9:30 p.m., enjoy the silky sound of Ginger Berglund and the trombone mastery of Scott Whitfield along with the Gary Hobbs Trio, performing at The Old Church, 1422 S.W. 11th Ave.

St. Patrick's Dance -- Saturday, March 15 at 7 p.m., dance the night away at the historic Linnton Community Center, 10614 N.W. St. Helens Rd., featuring the sounds of the Prime Time 16 Piece Big Band, an authentic Irish corned beef and cabbage dinner, raffles and more. For more information, call 503-286-4990.

Sliders Grill -- Sliders Grill, 3011 N. Lombard, features an eclectic assortment of performers on the main stage, accompanied by delicious food. Call 503-459-4488 for more information.



Sunday Night Jazz -- Jazz enthusiasts can enjoy listening to the cool sounds of Mel Brown, in the Rogue River Room at Chinook Winds Casino Resort in Lincoln City. No cover charge.

Hip-hop Dance Classes -- Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation is hosting family friendly hip-hop dance classes for ages 5 to 18. Various lessons teach rhythm, technique, coordination, agility and teamwork through urban dance moves. For more information, call 360-696-8236.

Open Mic Night -- Every Wednesday night at 7 p.m., Proper Eats Market and Café, 8638 N. Lombard St., host open-mic night.

Sea Monsters -- Spectacular photo-realistic animation brings creatures of the deep to life in the new National Geographic Ominimax film Sea Monsters: a Prehistoric Adventure, now playing at OMSI.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH • FEBRUARY 2008

THE FOLLOWING PUBLIC AGENCIES IN THE PORTLAND METROPOLITAN AREA SALUTE

The Achievements of Black American Scientists & Inventors

Many skills and talents are needed to build a great country. Throughout American history, often under adverse conditions, African American scientists have advanced our nation through their research, inventions, patents, and innovations in technology. Here are a few examples:

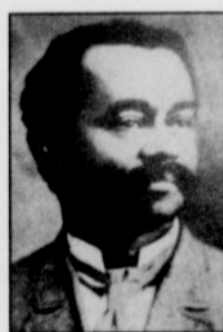
DR. DANIEL HALE WILLIAMS

(1856-1931) Daniel Hale Williams is credited with having performed open heart surgery on July 9, 1893 before such surgeries were established. In 1913, Daniel Hale Williams Williams was the only African American member of the American College of Surgeons.



MADAME C. J. WALKER

Inventor and Entrepreneur (1867-1919) created hair care products and a national product distribution model that revolutionized the hair care and cosmetic industry for African women in the 20th century. She was the first American female self-made millionaire.



DR. CHARLES HENRY TURNER, Ph.D.

(1867-1923) was one of the very first African-American researchers in animal behavior. He published over 50 papers in the areas of physiology, invertebrate ecology and morphology. Dr. Turner is best known for his pioneering work demonstrating hearing in insects.

DR. PERCY JULIAN, Ph.D.



(1899-1975) Dr. Julian was a chemist who synthesized physostigmine for treatment of glaucoma and cortisone for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. Among his many research achievements, Dr. Julian developed and held a patent for a fire-retardant foam used to extinguish gasoline and oil fires.



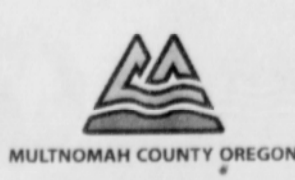
DR. NEIL DEGRASSE TYSON, Ph.D.

(born 1958) Dr. Tyson, an astrophysicist, is the Director of the Hayden Planetarium at the American Museum of Natural History, and Visiting Research Scientist and Lecturer at Princeton University. His research interests include star formation, exploding stars, dwarf galaxies, and the structure of our Milky Way. Dr. Tyson hosts the PBS Nova television series, Nova Science Now.



DR. MAE JEMISON

(born 1956) Dr. Jemison earned her medical degree from Cornell University, and practiced international medicine before answering NASA's call. She became the first African American woman to enter space as a mission specialist with the Space Shuttle Endeavor in 1992. She now heads the Jemison group, with projects that include improving health care in Africa and advancing technology in developing countries. She is fluent in four languages.



Please contact the following agencies about contracting and consulting opportunities:

Multnomah County - Gail Rubin • 503-988-5111 ext. 22651 • gail.h.rubin@co.multnomah.or.us • www.multcopurch.org

Metro - Angela Watkins • 503-797-1816 • watkinsa@metro.dst.or.us • www.metro-region.org

City of Portland / Bureau of Purchases - Greg Wolley • 503-823-6860 • gwolley@ci.portland.or.us • www.portlandonline.com/omf.purchases