

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Tuskegee Airmen Basis for Lucas Film



Tuskegee airmen of World War II line up in this historic photo. Director George Lucas plans for a movie based on their historic record.

Black vets want accurate portrayal

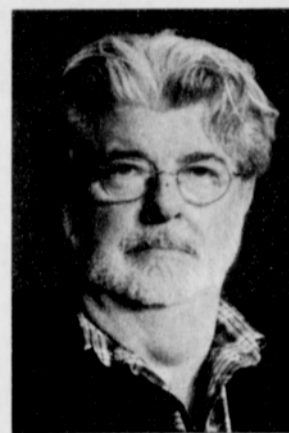
(AP)--The black airmen whose lives will be the basis of a George Lucas movie know the picture will highlight their record of successfully escorting thousands of U.S. bombers in World War II.

They also feel it should tell of the trials they encountered stateside, like seeing German prisoners of war being treated better and afforded rights that were withheld from black American citizens.

Now that "Red Tails" is in preproduction, some of the airmen say they are excited their story is coming to the big screen but torn over how much it should devote to each of their two historic fights — against Adolf Hitler abroad and Jim Crow at home.

Lt. Col. Eldridge F. Williams, 91, wants the film to recount the discrimination they had to overcome in their own country. Williams, who served in the military from August 1941 to November 1963, said a white doctor's false diagnosis of an eye condition kept him from achieving his dream of being a pilot, though he became a navigator.

"I think the story that has not been told is stories like mine in which the home battle that was waged ... shall we say, helped open the door so that the unit



George Lucas

could enter combat and demonstrate its capabilities and be successful," he said.

Col. Herbert Carter, who also was with the airmen in the '40s, said the racism the men encountered should definitely be mentioned but not dwelled upon in the Lucas film.

"So many want the movies to focus in that sense and that's bitter history that has been thoroughly emphasized and publicized," the 88-year-old said in an interview.

He said the real story is how they blew apart the notion that blacks could

not fly planes in war.

Producer Rick McCallum said both elements are addressed in a script by John Ridley that "balances difficult and painful issues with what is, at its heart, the story of men with a dream to fly and serve their country."

Lucas hopes to begin shooting by year's end or early 2009, McCallum said. The movie's title refers to the color of their fighter planes' tails, which were distinctive and allowed U.S. bomber crews to know they were being escorted by the aggressive Tuskegee Airmen.

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

Earth Wind and Fire -- Friday, June 27 at 8 p.m., enjoy the classic R&B sounds of the critically acclaimed Earth Wind and Fire at the Clark County Amphitheater; tickets available through ticketmasters.com or by phone at 503-224-4400.

Totally Gospel II -- Friday, June 27 from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Peninsula Open Bible Church, 8225 N. Peninsula, enjoy the diverse sounds of southern and contemporary gospel in a free concert.

Good In The Hood -- Friday, June 27 thru Sunday, June 29 at the King School Park, 4800 N.E. Sixth Ave., enjoy multicultural music, food and fun at this community celebration. For more information, visit goodinthehood.org.

Dive-In Movies -- Beginning Friday, June 27, Mt. Hood Community College Aquatic Center hosts the family fun summer Dive-In Movie series. The first feature is 'Meet the Robinsons.' For more information, call 503-491-7243.

Last Five Years -- The Last Five Years" is an award winning musical about a nice Jewish boy and good Irish Catholic girl who fall in love and get married and grow apart. Performances scheduled through Saturday, June 28 at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center, 5340 N. Interstate Ave.

Eloise & Ray -- Eloise & Ray, a bittersweet play about a 16-year-old girl who comes of ages by discovering where she stands in the scheme of things. Performances are held through Saturday, June 28 at Theater! Theatre! 3430 S.E. Belmont.

Glass in the Garden -- Currently thru June 30, the Portland Japanese Gardens at Washington Park presents a Glass in the Garden exhibit by six prominent Japanese artists.

Norman Sylvester Band -- Saturday, June 28 at 8:30 p.m., the Norman Sylvester Band will perform at Clyde's in Portland and on Sunday, June 29 they will be performing at the Good in the Neighborhood festivities at King School Park; for more information, call 503-281-5989.

Waterfront Blues Festival -- Thursday, July 3 at the Tom McCall Waterfront Park the four day festival celebrating a "Tribute to Memphis Soul" kicks off; for more information visit waterfrontbluesfest.com.

Totally Gospel -- July 9 thru July 12, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., the Northeast Baptist Church, 6701 NE Prescott St., will host the country and contemporary gospel show under the big tent; for more information call 503-335-3132.

Re-Tilling the Soil -- Saturday, July 12, volunteers are needed for a 9 a.m. clean-up beginning at Jefferson High School, 5210 N. Kirby, and the celebration to be held at Irving Park from noon to 6 p.m.; for more information email posoulet@live.com.

Dinosaurs! -- Prehistoric roars reverberate over lush rain forest canopies as the Oregon Zoo takes visitors back millions of years with its summer blockbuster exhibit, "Dinosaurs!" The life-size animatronic beasts roar, snarl and move with realistic ferocity. Admission is \$4 plus regular zoo admission.

Kids Live Large -- Kids can grab on, push off and glide through the Jurassic in the Dinosaur Revolution exhibit at the Portland Children's Museum. The traveling show runs through Sept. 1 with dinosaur-themed mazes, vivid murals and hands-on, interactive fun.

Newport Independence Day -- Friday, July 4 at nightfall, enjoy the spectacular aerial pageantry of Newport's fireworks filling the night sky. At 7 p.m., the Newport Symphony Orchestra entertains guests with a free concert at Newport High School. On Saturday, July 5, the Nye Beach Clambake features a seafood barbeque and fair with live music, food, arts, crafts and more.

Sea Otter Encounter -- Friday, July 4, the Oregon Coast Aquarium, 2820 SE Ferry Slip Rd. in Newport, will host the educational opportunity for children ages 8 and up; for more information visit aquarium.org.

Troutdale Bite & Bluegrass Festival & Jamathon -- Saturday, July 12 from noon to 9:30 p.m., the family-friendly fundraiser benefiting the Sandy River Rescue Fund will host a mix of Bluegrass performers at Mayor Square and Main Street will be teaming with various foods, shopping and more; \$5 donation. For more information, call 503-491-8407.

International Day Festival -- Saturday, July 12 from noon to 6 p.m. at the Roseway Park Blocks at NE 72 Ave., enjoy the rich cultural diversity of Portland with food, dancing and music from around the world; for more information visit pdixid.com.

Parenting in Multicultural Families Workshop & Magic Show -- Saturday, July 12 from 10:30 a.m. to noon, at the Rose City Nazarene Church, NE 70 and Sandy, this free workshop provides latest techniques for integrating multiple cultures while parenting; the kids will enjoy a free supervised magic show in the adjacent room, for more information visit pdixid.com.

Oregon Brewers Festival Celebrates 21st Birthday -- July 24 thru July 27 from noon to 9 p.m., at the Tom McCall Waterfront Park, beer fans will be able to sample brews from 72 craft breweries; admission is free but requires a 2008 souvenir mug (\$5) for drinking (reusable throughout the festival), for more information call 503-778-5917.

NOPO Car Show and Festival -- August 16, from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the Walgreen's on Lombard and Greeley, enthusiast will enjoy food, music, cars, games, door prizes, rock climbing, face painting, lots of fun under the sun at this meet-and-greet family-friendly event; for more information call 503-764-8259 or 503-841-6291.

Festa Italiana 'Piazza Italia' -- August 21 thru August 24, Pioneer Square will come to life with the rich culture of Italy at the family-friendly Italian celebration of good food and music featuring the Carter Family Marionettes, competitions in pizza tossing, grape stomping, dancing, vino and more; for more information visit festa-italiana.org.

Oregon Zoo Buck Tuesdays -- On the 2nd Tuesday of every month, the zoo hosts 2-Buck Tuesdays when guests can tour the zoo during regular zoo hours for the discounted price of \$2 per person!

Live Jazz -- Every Friday and Saturday from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m., the Third Degrees Lounge at the RiverPlace Hotel, 1510 S.W. Harbor Way, will host the ongoing weekend series featuring Portland's rich jazz scene with no cover or minimum purchase. For more information, visit pdxjazz.com.

OMSI \$2 Days -- The first Sunday of every month can spark your passion for science at the OMSI when admission is just \$2. Exhibits and over 200 hands-on; also offered on \$2 days is a special reduced admissions of \$5 each for the Planetarium, OMNIMAX, and the USS Blueback submarine tours. For more information, visit OMSI.edu.

Portland Police Museum -- This spring the Portland Police Museum, 1111 S.W. Second Ave. offers a hands-on exhibit on crime scene investigation specifically geared toward school-age children. Visitors will be able to operate an actual fingerprint scanning machine and examine evidence, and receive a free child safety kit. Free admission. For more information, call 503-823-0019.

First Thursday Art Gallery Opening -- Every first Thursday in the Pearl, meet the artists and join the street party for gallery receptions and openings introducing the works of many artists; this is a free event.

Music Millennium Free Shows -- The Music Millennium, 3158 E Burnside, host many in-house live performances. Enjoy free music and the opportunity to meet local artists. Call 503-231-8926 for a schedule.

Free First Friday Nights -- The Portland Children's Museum has partnered with Target to provide free admission to everyone on the first Friday of each month from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

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.

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Have you seen me? **Endangered Missing**

Emily Rae Young Age: 14
Date Missing: June 4, 2008
From: Puyallup, WA
Emily was last seen at her home; she has her lower lip pierced twice.

Denim Sylvester Current Age: 3
Date Missing: June 15, 2008
Missing From: Pasadena, TX
The children were playing outside of their apartment when they disappeared.

Randy Sylvester Current Age: 7

Amirr Smith Age: 12
Date Missing: June 13, 2008
From: Essex, MD
Amirr was last seen riding a white BMX bicycle in the Ashbridge Road area of Essex, Baltimore County, Maryland.

1-800-THE-LOST
If you have any information please contact:
The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678)
This public service announcement provided by the Portland Observer Newspaper.