

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Happy 21st Birthday

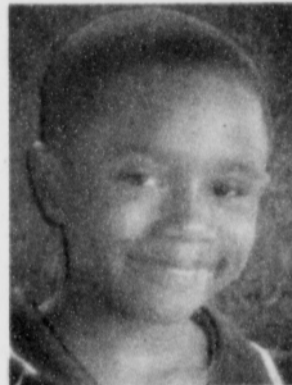
Shay Washington
from your family
and friends



Happy Birthday Gaelan

9 years old on
November 14

from the Booker Family
The ones who love you.



Spinning Straw into Gold

Tears of Joy presents
German tale

What does a girl do when faced with the impossible? She spins straw into gold.

Tears of Joy Theatre presents Rumpelstiltskin, a sparkling adaptation of the classic German tale by the Brothers Grimm.

In the original tale, the central female figure is not even given a name. The heroine is this production not only has a name, Lola, but also manages



PHOTO BY EMILY ALEXANDER
Kathleen "Kat" Reid is giving Rumpelstiltskin a new spin.

to solve her own problems. The songs and magic of this timeless story will delight and enthrall audiences of all ages.

Shows begin Thursday, Nov. 12 and continue through Nov. 29 at Winningstad Theatre, 1111 S.W. Broadway. Puppet making activities will be available before all Saturday and Sunday performances. Showtimes on Saturdays are at 11 a.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.

Tickets are \$14 for children and \$16 adults, plus service charges. For more information, call 360-695-3050 or 503-248-0557 or visit tojt.org.

In Focus: Blacks and the Film Industry

continued from Front

film that I've liked."

Columbia University School of the Arts faculty member and Screen Writer Trey Ellis seems to agree.

"Like every middle-class black person I have ever spoken with, I have a problem with Tyler Perry's overly simplistic aesthetics."

Craig, takes a slightly different stand. He believes Perry must be doing something right, as he is garnering the funds needed to produce his films.

"You're not going to satisfy everybody," he said.

Remarks such as these left me wondering where the state of black film currently lays.

Portland State University Black Studies Professor, David Millner stated, "What I see is black film going backwards."

According to Millner, the most successful participants of



African American films from the 1920s to 1980s speak to life in America.

this arena are throw backs to the once imposed typecasts of blacks, which they are now attaching to themselves and thus preserving those negative stereotypes and experiences.

The roles these thespians take on are "not solely for a personal destiny, but also a racial context," continued Millner.

"[It's] not a [credit or discredit] to their own success, but to the legacy of how blacks

have been [treated] in this industry."

Craig gives the state of black cinema an 8 out of 10. But urges "there should be more mentoring going on."

Walker has worked extensively with the Willamette Week, and produced a number of independent films, while Craig has produced television commercials for the state of Oregon, his own films, as well as

the annual Astoria International Film Festival and Portland African American Film Festival, hosted by McMenamins, which will have its inaugural kick off this weekend.

The Nov. 13-15 festival will showcase films from the 20's through the 80's. Films such as Guess Who's Coming to Dinner, Do the Right Thing, Super Fly, and Imitation of Life. The festival will also host a forum on the 14th to provide insight on what it takes to be in this business.

"[The festival will be] both entertainment and education," said Craig.

To further encourage African-Americans in the film industry, the Oregon Arts Commission (OAC) sponsor the Oregon Media Arts Fellowship grant program, offering multiple grants such as startup and completion grants, and a cash rebate incentive program to encourage film production and the arts in Oregon.

"We are not at liberty to target any one particular [group within this] industry," stated Vince Porter, OAC executive director.

"It's entirely a first come, first served [basis]."

While they are unable to market specifically to any one group classification, with new grant opportunities coming in January, African Americans are encouraged to apply and pay interest in the commission and their offerings.

So, since the emergence of black film, some well and not so well-crafted black movies have been birthed. But despite the quality and maybe even questionable content and humor, as individuals, we like what we like.

And any opportunity I get to sit down and enjoy a good movie, heck, just to sit down, I relish the moment. And it is especially poignant when I am able to see a reflection of myself on that screen.



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Sunday 9am - 1pm

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