

'The Help' has People Talking

Movie on black domestics inspires conversation

Wealthy white mothers mistreating African-American maids who served them in the 1960s has movie-goers whisper-

ing about, "the Help," a film adaptation by director Tate Taylor's of childhood friend Kathryn Stockett's 2009 novel.

On Thursday, Sept. 22 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., the Talking Drum Café and Book Store has invited the community to join in a conversation of the book and movie.

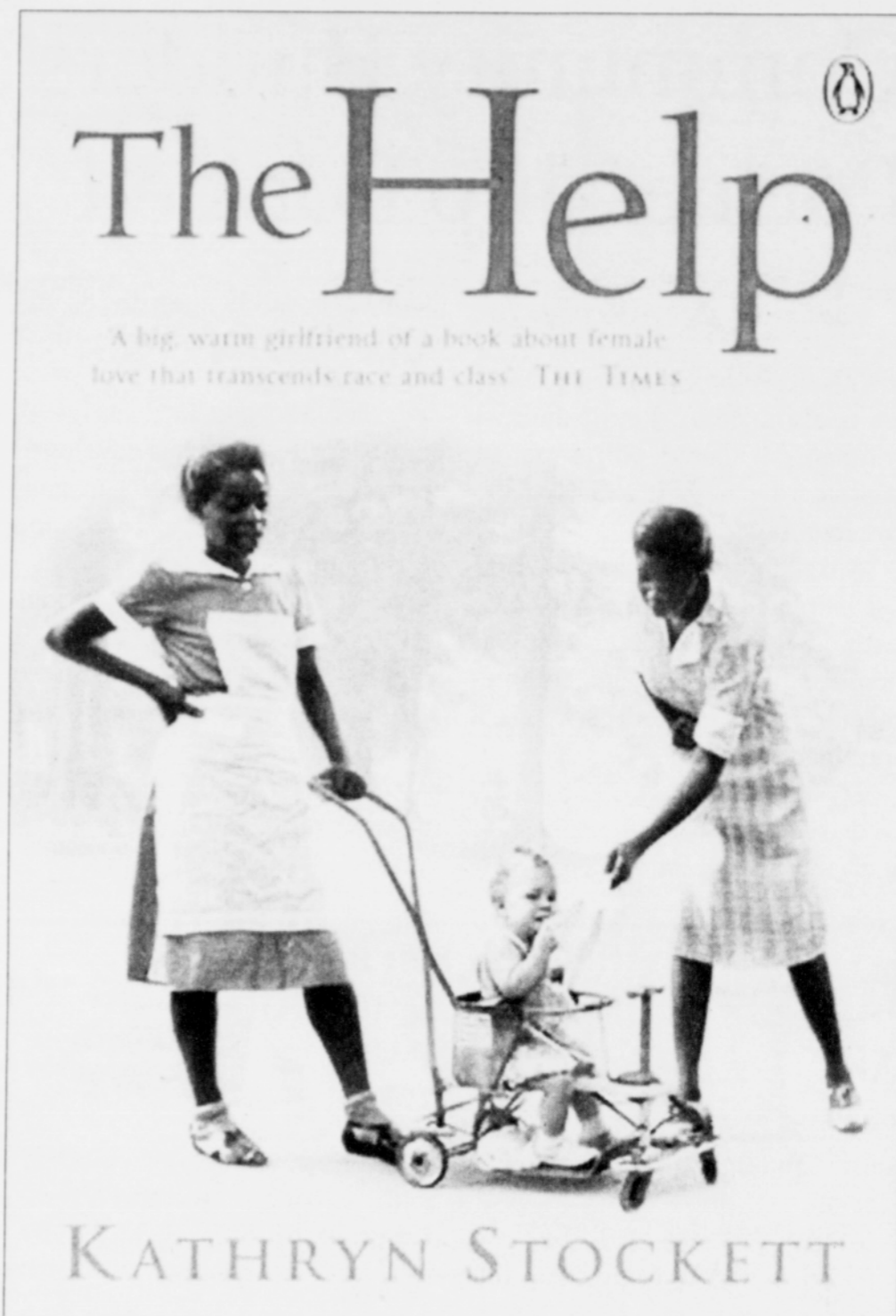
The 2011 comedy-drama is about a young white woman, Eugenia "Skeeter" Phelan

(Emma Stone) who returns from college to her Mississippi hometown as an aspiring writer and finds that her adored childhood maid, Constantine, has unexpectedly left.

Skeptical of the unspoken maltreatment of black domestics within her societal circle, Skeeter decides to write a secret book exposing the racism faced by maids working for white families. She develops relationships with Aibileen Clark (Viola Davis) and Minny Jackson (Octavia Spencer), two African-American maids that give voice to such perspectives.

First reluctant to speak out for fear of losing their jobs, Aibileen, a middle-aged black maid who has raised white children her entire life and recently lost her only son, and Minny, an outspoken black maid who has been fired many times for being a difficult employee, begin to share their stories with Skeeter, who later publishes the book.

If you've read the book or seen the movie, have had a black domestic in your family, were a



domestic, or knew someone who was or are just interested in the topic, join the conversation! Talking Drum Café and Book

Store Located at 446 N.E. Killingsworth. For more information, call 503-299-4106, or email Gloria@talkingdrumbookstore.com.

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Black History at Talking Drum

Many Oregonians may be surprised to learn that black people have played a part in Oregon's history since the 1700's. To share their research with the public, Oregon Northwest Black Pioneers will present the recently published, "Perseverance: A History of African Americans in Oregon's Marion and Polk Counties."



In celebration of their new publication, residents have two chances to attend book signings with Gwen Carr, a major researcher and contributor to the book. The first event one will be held Saturday, Sept. 24, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Talking Drum Bookstore, 446 N.E. Killingsworth St. The second session will take place on Thursday, Oct. 6,

from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Willamette Heritage Center at the Mill at 1313 Mill St. in Salem.

The book is available for purchase through local stores, online retailers, and the website oregonnorthwestblackpioneers.org.