



Mississippi
Alberta
North Portland

Vancouver
East County
Beaverton



Otelo Burning is a film that brings to life the Afro-Caribbean Diaspora, one of the fresh and exciting features of this year's Cascade Festival of African Films. The month long series of films and visits from filmmakers take place during February at the Portland Community College Cascade Campus and at the Hollywood Theater.

Curtain Call for African Films

23rd annual
Cascade festival
longest running

Portland Community College's 23rd Cascade Festival of African Films brings 22 films and three filmmakers to Portland during the month of February.

This year's festival is dedicated to the memory of Harold Williams Sr., who passed away last summer. Williams was a long-time member of PCC's Board of Directors and respected community leader.

"Harold was a dedicated champion of PCC's Cascade Campus and believed strongly in the festival's mission of connecting members of Portland's African-American community with their African heritage," said Michael Dembrow, one of the festival's founders and current state representative for northeast

Portland. "We will miss him deeply."

The longest-running annual African film festival in the United States runs from Feb. 1 through March 2 at two locations, the Moriarty Arts and Humanities Building Auditorium on the PCC Cascade Campus, 705 N. Killingsworth St., and the Hollywood Theatre, 4122 N.E. Sandy Blvd.

The festival, which is free and open to the public, shows films ranging from full-length features to documentaries and short films. More than 5,000 people attend the festival annually. Each evening screening is followed by a discussion led by individuals with expert knowledge of the region shown in that evening's film.

"This year begins with African Diaspora films focused on the Caribbean.

"With recent releases of so many fresh and exciting Afro-Caribbean Diaspora films, we seized the oppor-



The film Toussaint Louverture focuses on a slave rebellion that sparked the Haitian Revolution. The Jefferson Dancers will perform prior to the film's screening on Friday, Feb. 1 at the Hollywood Theatre.

tunity to program films like 'Toussaint Louverture,' 'Le Mozart Noir a Cuba,' 'Le Mozart Noir,' and 'Elza,'" said film festival coordinator Tara Foster. "We are excited to open the 23rd season with this significant Diaspora focus."

The Cascade Festival of African Films opens with "Toussaint Louverture" at 6:30 p.m., Friday, Feb. 1, in the Hollywood Theatre. The film's director, Philippe Niang, will be on hand to share his film, which is based on the accounts of Louverture's personal life, military genius, and how he led the slave rebellion that sparked the Haitian Revolution. The Jefferson Dancers will perform prior to the screening.

The final week of the festival is Women's Filmmakers Week to coincide with Women's History Month and features films from Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Mali, Kenya and Ghana.

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