

Identities of Color

continued ▲ *from front*

was in Africa that Webb started to become more aware of race, noticing differences, and asking questions.

"Race is not static," said Webb. She compares her experiences in both cultures to a chameleon, passing back and forth between identities of color. Webb pulls layers of her story into her theatrical narrative.

Using sock puppets, Webb references influential childhood icons as diverse as the Little House on the

Prairie series, author Laura Ingalls Wilder, to the television mini-series Roots based on Alex Haley's novel about the an 18th century African sold to into U.S. slavery and his family's descendants.

She hopes her show will help build new associations with images and stereotypes people have about race and identity.

For example, in our culture, people box race into categories, like the "ethnic" hair product section in Fred Meyer or the "Mexican" food cart down the street. Webb says to people who have concerns about



A family photo of Damaris Webb as a young girl.

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having a more diverse culture, diversity is not about boxing "other" races into colors or ethnicity.

The truer diversity, she says, is between people, outside of color.

Sharing her story, she said, is an opportunity for other people to do a little unpacking and breathing around their own varied identity.

"I feel that if we have more of a chance to articulate and tell our stories and take the time to listen to other people," Webb said, "That's going to go a lot further in our evolution of being a more inclusive, supportive, celebrating, diverse culture."

"The Box Marked Black: Tales from a Halffrican-American growing up Mulatto," shows Friday, Feb. 15 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 16 at 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, Feb. 17 at 7:30 p.m.; Friday, Feb. 22 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 23 at 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, Feb. 24 at 7:30 p.m.

Admission is \$15 for adults and \$10 for students and seniors. Tickets are available at the door or in advance at brownpapertickets.com. Ethos/IFCC is located at 5340 N Interstate Ave.

Musical Production a Journey

Local artist Tamara Walker (a.k.a. F.I.Y.A!) is the writer and director of the musical production, "No Man Can Hinder Me," a journey from slavery to emancipation to freedom through storytelling and song.

The community is invited to the show celebrating Black History month at Portland Community Collee's Cascade campus on Sunday, Feb. 17 at p.m. at Terrell Hall, Room 104.

A donation \$7 will be accepted at the door, but no one turned away for their inability to pay.

For more information, contact Tamara Walker at 503-278-8221.



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