

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

My Walk Has Never Been Average

On stage with black women in non-traditional jobs

What is it like to be a black woman working in the construction trades in America? And if I'm not that woman, why should I care? How does her life impact mine?

The answer to that question will become apparent when you join the August Wilson Red Door Project and Portland Playhouse, who are co-hosting *My Walk Has Never Been Average*, a multimedia presentation based on the lives of women whose stories are rarely told.

Adapted for the stage from in-depth, first-person interviews with black women in all aspects of construction, the production will take place as part of Portland's Fertile Ground festival, on Saturday, Feb. 1 at 7:30 p.m. at Portland Playhouse, 602 NE Prescott St. The stories reveal great inner strength and accomplishment in the face of the multiple oppressions facing black working class women in America. These are stories of families and communities, of fighting for survival and achieving success, and of relationship dynamics when women move out of nontraditional roles.

The interviews were conducted by Roberta S. Hunte, who teaches Black Studies and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Portland State.

Walk is directed by Catherine Ming T'ien Duffly, who teaches theater and performance studies at Reed College.

When asked why she was drawn to the project, Professor Duffly said, "What I love about the intersection of theatre and social change work is that it allows audiences to experience a given issue in a new way, and to offer new insight and new solutions to long-established problems."

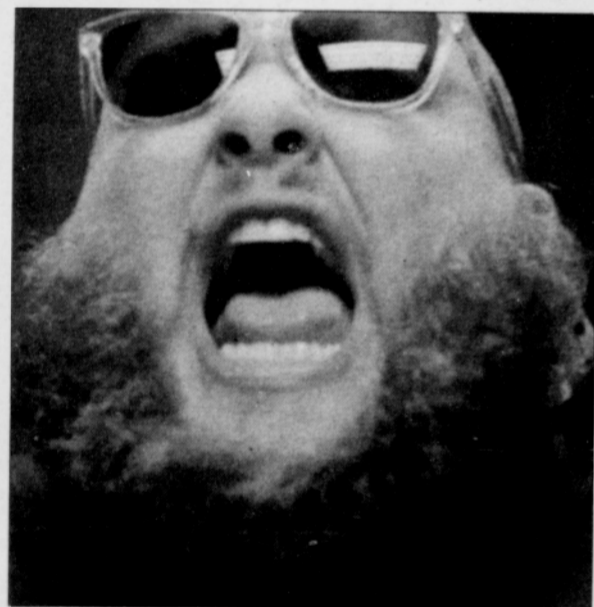
Bonnie Ratner, who adapted the material into a stage piece, is also the executive director of the August Wilson Red Door Project. The Red Door's mission is to use the arts and dialogue to change the racial ecology of Portland.

My Walk Has Never Been Average stars Roslyn Farrington, Shelley Matthews, Angela Bonilla, Wanda Abioto, Angela Freeman, Skeeter Greene, Aiyanna Cunningham and Josie Seid. Tickets are \$5 and are available through boxofficetickets.com or calling 503-445-6658.

The August Wilson Red Door Project will host a talk back following the performance. The performance is sponsored by Oregon Tradeswomen, Inc.



My Walk Has Never Been Average, a multimedia presentation based on the oppressions black working class women face, will take place Saturday, Feb. 1 at 7:30 p.m. at Portland Playhouse, 602 N.E. Prescott St. The event is co-hosted by the local theater group and the August Wilson Red Door Project as part of Portland's Fertile Ground Festival.



Action Bronson

Ex-Chef Rapper in Portland

Ex-Chef Action Bronson, a rapper from Queens, New York, who has gained fame for leading the city's hip-hop reawakening, is coming to Pete's Room at the Roseland Theater on Monday, Feb. 3.

A hefty ex-chef, he's got a style like Ghostface Killah. He is signed to Vice Records and Atlantic Records and is currently working on his first major label studio album.

Bronson's father is an Albanian immigrant and his mother is a Jewish New Yorker. Before entering the rap scene, he was a respected fire-flame gourmet chef in New York City. He frequently raps about food in his songs and hosted his own online cooking show entitled "Action in the Kitchen."



High school musicians perform at the annual Clark College Jazz Festival.

Line Up for Clark College Jazz

The community is invited to enjoy three days of exciting big band jazz at the 52nd Annual Clark College Jazz Festival, Thursday Jan. 30 through Saturday, Feb. 1 in Gaiser Hall on the college's Vancouver campus.

Sixty middle and high school jazz ensembles are scheduled to perform with trophies presented to the top three jazz ensembles for all divisions. Individual outstanding musician awards will also be presented at the end of each day's preliminary competitions. The Dale Beacock Memorial Sweepstakes Award will be presented

to one outstanding band selected from the entire festival.

Preliminary competitions will run from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. Finals competitions will begin at 7 p.m. all three evenings with trophies presented at the end of the evening.

The Clark College Jazz Ensemble will perform at 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, noon and 8:30 p.m. on Friday, and noon on Saturday. The festival's 2013 Sweepstakes Band, Roosevelt High School Jazz I from Seattle will hold the spotlight on Saturday at 8:30 p.m.

Admission is \$5 per day.

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