

Black Caesar is a 1973 blaxploitation crime drama film starring Fred Williamson and Gloria Hendry and a musical score by James Brown. The film will play Saturday, Feb. 27 at 7 p.m. with Williamson in attendance as a special guest as part of the fourth annual Portland Black Film Festival at the Hollywood Theater, 4122 N.E. Sandy Blvd.

Black Film Festival

Stars, filmmakers and the black experience

The Portland Black Film Festival returns to the Hollywood Theatre in northeast Portland this week with seven films screening over the next two weeks to showcase the cinematic achievements of African-American stars, filmmakers, and the black experience.

Founded by the non-profit Hollywood Theatre, and Portland writer and filmmaker David Walker, the festival aims to offer diverse perspectives and stories in an art form all too often dominated by white filmmakers.

Seven outstanding programs are scheduled. The festival opens on Wednesday, Feb. 10 with the 1972 classic film "Buck and the Preacher," and will culminate on Saturday, Feb. 27, in a screening of the 1973 Blaxploitation classic "Black Caesar" with star Fred "The Hammer" Wil-

liamson in attendance.

Williamson, aka "The Hammer" is a former professional football defensive back who played mainly in the American Football League during the 1960s. As an actor, he is most well-known for his films in the 1970s and '80s, including "Three the Hard Way," "Bucktown 1990: The Bronx Warriors," "Black Caesar," and "From Dusk Til Dawn."

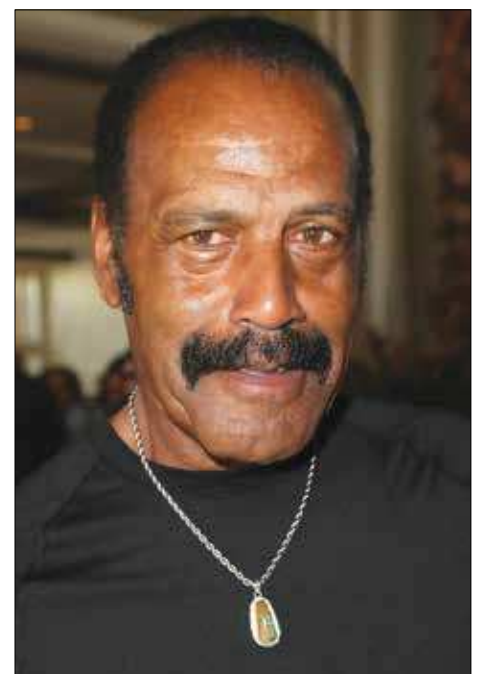
The times and dates for Portland Black Film Festival screenings are as follows:

Wednesday, Feb. 10 at 7:30 p.m.: "Buck and the Preacher," a 1972 film starring Sidney Poitier as Buck, a trail guide leading former slaves to homesteads in the West, and Harry Belafonte, the preacher. When vicious white men and bounty hunters begin to terrorize and stop wagon trains heading west, Buck and the Preacher must

fight back by any means necessary.

Saturday, Feb. 13 at 7:30 p.m.: "Santa Fe Satan (Catch My Soul)," a 1974 rock opera version of Othello starring Richie Havens. Shakespeare's tragedy of revenge and racism this time plays out in the New Mexico desert, with Othello as the pacifist leader of a hippie commune. Long considered lost, this rare 35mm print was only recently discovered.

Wednesday, Feb. 17 at 7:30 p.m.: "Penitentiary," a 1979 movie about a hitchhiker who gets in a fight with two bikers, and one of the bikers is killed. Ending up in prison, he joins the prison's boxing team in an effort to secure an early parole and to establish his dominance over the prison's



Fred Williamson

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