The Portland Observer



Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning **Residential & Commercial Services Minimum Service CHG.** \$45.00 A small distance/travel charge may be applied

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Pre-Spray Traffic Areas (Includes: 1 small Hallway)

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Area/OrientalRugs(Wool): \$40.00 Minimum

Heavily Soiled Area: Additional \$10.00 each area (Requiring Extensive Pre-Spraying)

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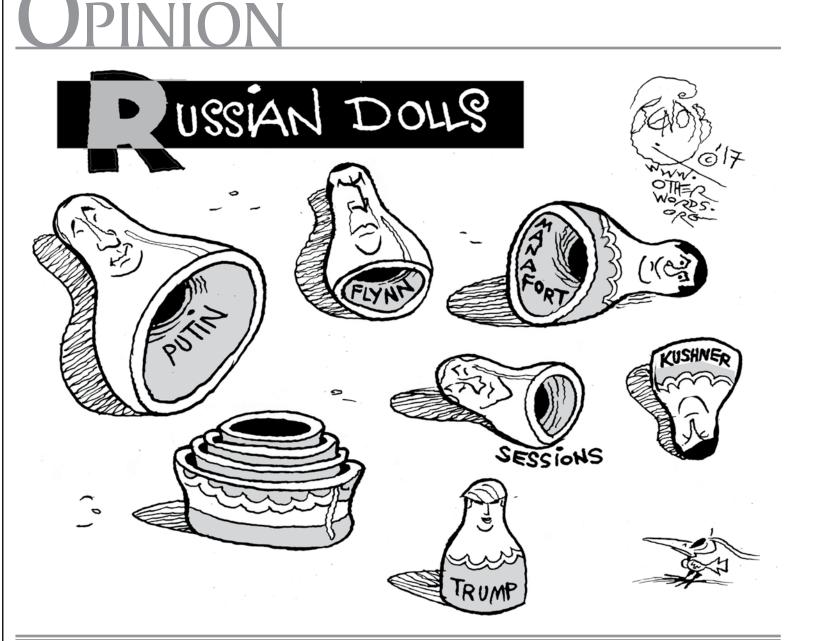
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Historic Talent Earns a Historic Distinction

The triple crown for actress Viola

Davis BY MARC H. MORIAL Acting's crown - Oscar, Emmy and Tony – has been won by only 23 people

in history. Now, the first African-American has achieved that feat: Viola

Davis. It seems fitting that Davis' history-making honor occurred di-History Month and Women's History Month. for she made history way: She also is the most-nominated black actress in Oscar histo-

ry, with three nominations. In addition to her role in Fences, for which she won, she earned nominations for The Help in 2012 and Doubt in 2009. She was nominated twice for an Emmy, winning in 2015 for her role in How To Get Away With Murder. She earned three Tony nominations, winning for King Hedley II in 2001 and Fences in 2010. She's the first black actress to win five Screen Actors Guild awards. She had also won three Drama Desk Awards, a off because I had such enormous

among others. When she was honored with a

star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame earlier this year, much deeper than academia." Davis marveled, "I can't believe my life." Indeed, her own story is worthy of the Hollywood treatment. She was raised in poverty by a

BAFTA Award, a Golden Globe, needs as a child of abject poverty. diversity in the entertainment inand three Critics' Choice Awards, Coming from a background where I was first generation going to school, I had enormous challenges that needed to be met that were

Upward Bound, a summer program where high school students take college prep classes and earn work experience at a college campus for six weeks, opened doors mother who was maid and that eventually led to the Juilliard

Upward Bound, a summer program where high school students take college rectly at the crossroads of Black prep classes and earn work experience at a college campus for six weeks, opened as a black woman in more than one doors that eventually led to the Juilliard School, one of the nation's leading performing arts programs.

> factory worker. She told the New York Times she stole food from the grocery store and garbage cans and wore the plastic clips from bread bags in her braids.

Davis credits a federal anti-poverty program, Upward Bound, with saving her life. She told Essence magazine, "They kind of picked up where public school left

School, one of the nation's leading performing arts programs.

Her success has not shielded her from challenges that she has said result from being "a woman of color, of a certain age, and a certain hue."

Her 2015 Emmy win established her as a role model when she used her acceptance speech to make a welcome statement about dustry: "The only thing that separates women of color from anyone else is opportunity," she said. "You cannot win an Emmy for roles that are simply not there."

She was the first black woman to win the award for Best Lead Actress in a Drama. Only one other black actress has won an acting Emmy: Isabel Sanford, who won for Best Lead Actress in a Comedy in 1981.

Davis' exemplarity extends beyond her stellar talent and bold outspokenness. She's a benefactor for the Rhode Island city where she was raised, Central Falls. Her philanthropic projects include the city's Adams Memorial Library, the Central Falls High School chess team and drama club, and the Segue Institute for Learning, a charter school. She's also the spokeswoman for the Hunger Is campaign, to eradicate childhood hunger.

We at the National Urban League consider Viola Davis a true woman of power; we congratulate her on her historic achievements and her epic journey and are grateful for her generous spirit and sense of community.

Marc H. Morial is president and chief executive officer of the National Urban League.

