

# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

## Vanport's History

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worked at Vanport. The city had four African American police officers, as well.

"It changed the nature of work and boosted salaries if you're looking specifically at black people," Harrison told the Portland Observer.

"Before that about 90 percent of blacks in Portland worked with the railroad," he said. "There were very few professionals. In fact, there was only one black doctor who was brought in specifically to minister to the railroad workers, but also to anyone else in the city."

But Vanport wasn't a utopia for African-Americans, Harrison said. The Housing Authority of Portland, for example, imposed de jure segregation. Portland's fear of outsiders and racism influenced the attitudes many people and politicians took towards the city and its residents.

Harrison traces his interest in history to being a student in high school in Harlem when he poured over books by African-American authors like Harlem Renaissance writer and poet Langston Hughes. Author Frederick Douglass, an escaped slave who taught himself to read and became an advisor to presidents, became his personal hero.

He began doing his own research in African-American studies in college and graduated from Hunter College in New York in 1967. He taught for almost 20 years at Portland area high schools before becoming an instructor at PCC.

## Stand Up Comedy Showcase

An actor and comedian making a splash on the national stage will land in Portland this holiday weekend for *Minority Retort*, one of two Hollywood Theater stand-up comedy showcases planned for this year featuring comedians of color.

David Gborie will perform on Friday, May 26 at 7:30 p.m. at the historic theater located at 4035 N.E. Sandy Blvd.

Gborie made his TV debut last year on the Viceland TV series *Flop House* and has since appeared on *Conan*. Originally from San

Francisco, he has appeared at The Bridgetown Comedy Festival, the SF Indie Fest, and Denver's Too Much Funstival, as well as the SF Punchline, The Denver Comedy Works, and other impressive venues.

Hosted by Jeremy Eli, the *Minority Retort* show will also feature popular Portland comedians Mohanad Elshieky, Debbie Wooten and Anthony Lopez.

Tickets are \$12. Call 503-281-1142 or visit [hollywoodtheatre.org](http://hollywoodtheatre.org).



David Gborie



## Touching and Heartbreaking

The NW Film Center at the Portland Arts Museum continues its 'Constructing Identity' black cinema series with a screening of 'Tongues Untied!' a 1990 documentary that is one of the most important films on black gay life in the U.S. Among filmmaker Marlon Riggs' touching and heartbreaking topics are remembrances of his own sexual awakening and of friends lost to AIDS. Shows on Saturday, May 27 at 4:30 p.m. For more info, visit [nwfilm.org](http://nwfilm.org).



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# CALENDAR May 2017

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
<div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">22</div> Victoria Day in Canada Buy-A-Musical Instrument Day	<div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">23</div> Peter Parnall born, 1936 Penny Day	<div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">24</div> First Morse Code Message Sent from Washington DC to Baltimore, 1844	<div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">25</div> ● National Missing Children's Day National Tap Dance Day	<div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">26</div> Blueberry Cheesecake Day	<div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">27</div> Ramadan Begins Golden Gate Bridge Opened in 1937	<div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">28</div> Jim Thorpe Born in 1888
<div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">29</div> Memorial Day John F. Kennedy Born in 1917	<div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">30</div> Ice Cream Freezer Patented In 1848 by William Young	<div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">31</div> Jay Williams born, 1981 World No Tobacco Day				