



Mississippi
 Alberta
 North Portland

Vancouver
 East County
 Beaverton



PHOTO BY ANTONIO HARRIS

The cast of two plays about the housing, Hurricane Katrina and the American Dream take the stage this weekend for the Vanport Mosaic Festival honoring the struggle and resilience of people displaced from their homes from the African-American perspective.

In the Eye of the Storm

Vanport Mosaic plays take the stage

River levels soar to dangerous heights and break through inadequate manmade barriers, sweeping away a city, leaving a community without shelter, safety and a sense of belonging. The story could be

about the Big Easy succumbing to the forces of Hurricane Katrina more than a decade ago or the Vanport Flood in Portland a half a century earlier.

The Vanport Mosaic Festival this weekend presents two staged readings of one act plays performed by a talented cast of actors about displacement from the African American perspective.

“Hercules Didn’t Wade in the Water,” by Portland-based actor, writer and director Michael A. Jones and directed by Vanport Mosaic Co-founder Damaris Webb takes a look at the unfulfilled dreams of two men struggling to survive on a rooftop in the middle of Katrina.

“American Summer Squash” by Don W. Glenn and directed by Jocelyn Seid tells

the story of a church leader sheltering his congregation from a storm while reflecting upon the loss of culture.

Six performances will run at The Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center in north Portland from Friday, May 26 through Monday, May 29. Admission is sliding scale \$5-\$25. Visit vanportmosaic.org to reserve tickets.