

Film Review:  
‘Welcome to Leith’

Race Hate Documentary Chronicles Neo Nazis’ Relocation to North Dakota



“Welcome to Leith”

By Kam Williams  
Special to *The Skanner News*

Does the name Craig Cobb ring a bell? It didn’t for me either. But the notorious white supremacist is on the Southern Poverty Law Center’s watch list of the Top 10 most dangerous racists in America. He also mentored Frazier Glenn Cross, the anti-Semite recently convicted of hunting for Jews during a deadly rampage around Kansas City in April of 2014.

Well, there aren’t exactly a lot of cities likely to roll out a red carpet for his ilk, which explains why Cobb and his followers decided to settle in Leith, North Dakota. In 2012, they purchased their first piece

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of property in the tiny town of three square miles, at a time when only a couple dozen people resided there.

The hate monger’s diabolical plan was to turn the quiet hamlet into a mecca for bigots, and to wrest control of the municipality’s government via a combination of importing allies and scaring locals into leaving.

After all, the real estate was cheap enough. He bought his first house for just \$500, that’s right just \$500.

Furthermore, there were excellent paying jobs not far away, thanks to the state’s oil boom.

So, Cobb and his henchman, Kynan Dutton, moved in and immediately set about terrorizing their new neighbors by hanging big Confederate flags in front of their homes and brandishing shotguns as they strolled down the street spouting racist rhetoric. They proceeded to harass Leith’s Mayor, Ryan Shock, by disrupting city council meetings with chants of “Heil Hitler!” while routinely referring to Bobby Harper, the

only African American resident, as “boy.”

Despite the inveterate racists spouting rhetoric advocating the extermination of blacks and Jews, the tight-knit community would not be intimidated.

Instead, they responded by employing tactics designed to force the invaders out before they could take root.

And they enlisted the assistance of a nearby tribe of unamused Native-Americans in this endeavor.

Cobb and his minions soon found themselves being hounded by honking car horns outside their windows and confronted by angry citizens also armed to the teeth. Their cars were spray-painted with graffiti identifying them as Nazis, too. Eventually, the police found a good excuse to arrest Cobb

and Dutton and, the next thing you know, their homes were burned to the ground while they were sitting behind bars.

A textbook primer on how a united community

ought to respond to the arrival of racist bullies before the creeps have a chance to ruin the neighborhood.

Excellent ★★★★★  
Unrated  
Running time: 85 minutes  
Distributor: First Run Features



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Forest Whitaker, Anika Noni Rose  
join A & E ‘Roots’ Remake Cast

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Forest Whitaker and Anika Noni Rose are joining the cast of A&E Networks’ “Roots” miniseries remake.

Others in the cast will include Anna Paquin, Jonathan Rhys Meyers and newcomer Malachi Kirby as the central figure Kunta Kinte, A&E said Wednesday.

The network had previously announced that Laurence Fishburne will play writer Alex Haley, whose novel about his African-American ancestry was the basis of

the original miniseries.

The new project will draw on the late Haley’s book along with new research, A&E said. The 1977 ABC version was a ratings sensation.

Mario Van Peebles and Bruce Beresford were added as directors for the project, which is in production in New Orleans.

No air date has been announced for the “Roots” remake that will debut on the History, A&E and Lifetime channels.

Lionel Richie to Launch Las Vegas  
Residency Next Year with 20 Shows

NEW YORK (AP) — Lionel Richie is ready to go all night long in Las Vegas.

The singer announced Wednesday that he will launch a residency called “Lionel Richie — All the Hits” on April 27 at The AXIS at Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino.

Richie will play 20 shows in April, May, September and October.

Tickets, which go on sale Friday, range from \$59 to \$199, not including service charges.

Richie says he decided to launch a Vegas residency after speaking to his 21-year-old son, Miles.

“I asked him, ‘So Miles, what do you think about Vegas? Should I do it?’ He goes, ‘Oh my God, dad. We are going to have the great time. WE are going to have the greatest time,’” Richie said in an inter-

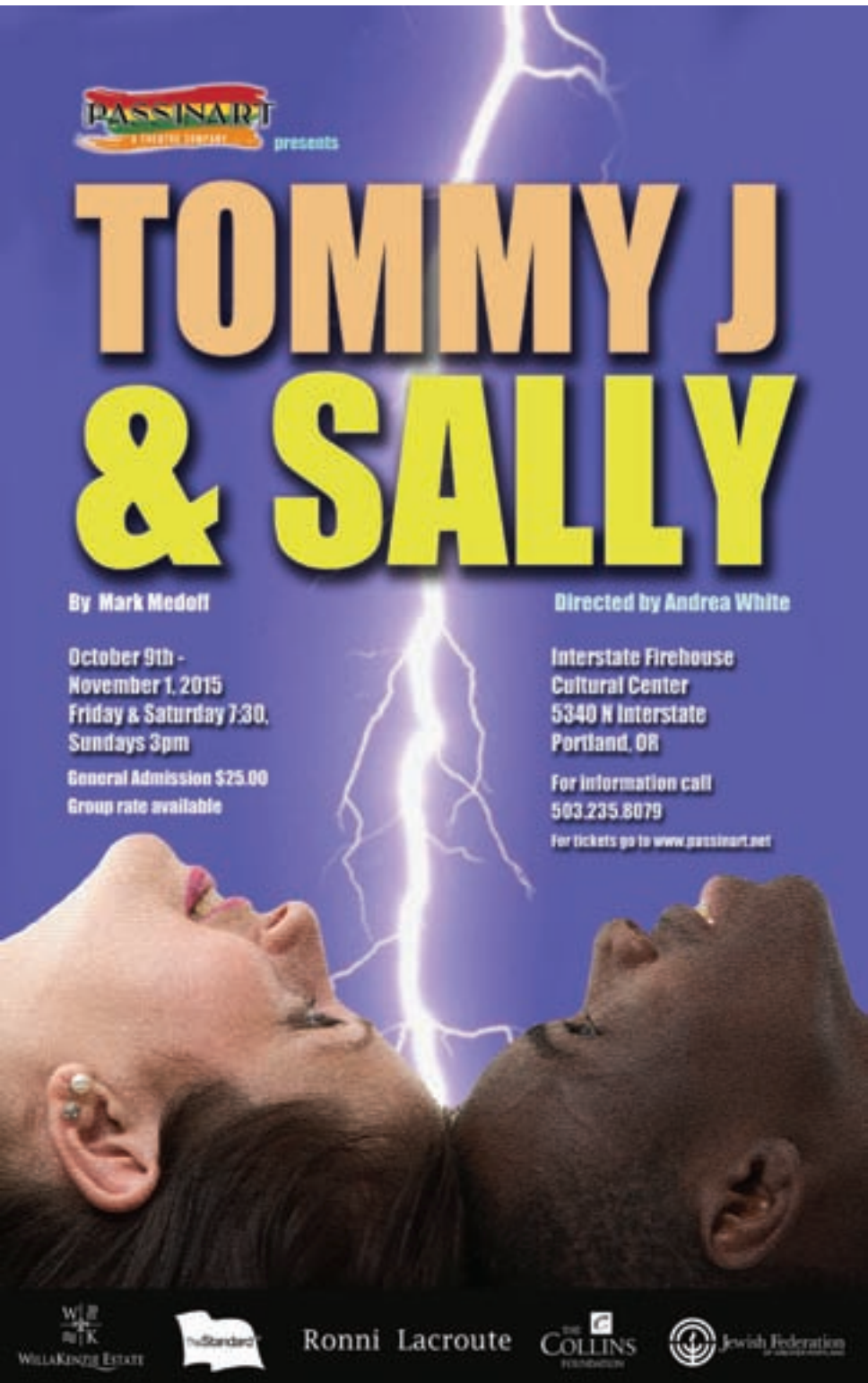
view Wednesday.

The shows will include hits such as “All Night Long (All Night),” “Hello,” “Stuck on You,” “Say You, Say Me” and “Dancing on the Ceiling.”

In addition to the residency, 66-year-old Richie will be honored by The Recording Academy next year as its MusiCares person of the year. Performers at the Feb. 13 gala include Pharrell Williams, Luke Bryan and Lady Antebellum.

“I don’t know who else is coming. I think Stevie (Wonder) is coming maybe, but first of all, let me tell you, what a great honor,” Richie said.

“That’s what I call ... really high cotton when you’re in that group of honorees. When you start thinking about Dylan and Streisand and stuff ... that’s quite an accomplishment.”



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