

# 'Wake of Vanport 2' To Be Screened Sunday

The Skanner News

This Sunday the Hollywood Theatre will screen "The Wake of Vanport," a new installment in The Skanner Foundation's series of short documentary films about the city of Vanport, a housing development created for Kaiser shipyard workers at the onset of World War II. The development — which included schools, community centers and day cares — housed the first large influx of African Americans to the Portland area, and was at one time Oregon's second largest city.

While segregated by block — with Black families living on one block and White families living on the next — its public facilities were racially integrated. Most families who lived in Vanport came from heavily segregated Southern communities, and businesses in Portland itself were often segregated.

Due to a housing shortage in Portland, many Vanport residents continued to live there after the war ended, though the homes were small and hastily built.

Then on Memorial Day — May 30, 1948 — the city, which at its peak had a population of 42,000 people, washed away in a matter of hours. A Columbia River dam burst and all the major structures in Vanport were destroyed.

"The Wake of Vanport" series features interviews with surviving Vanport residents, most of whom were children at the time of the flood. The collection of 10 short films that will be screened this weekend is the second collection of shorts in the series, and Sunday's screening is a reprisal for anyone who may have missed last November's showing of the new series. Several of the shorts can also be seen at the Hollywood Theatre's airport microcinema at Portland International Air-

port, which opened in February.

Kam Williams, a New Jersey-based film critic and regular contributor to *The Skanner*, described the second series as "a fascinating collection of tributes to a beloved hometown that could have just as easily been forgotten forever after being wiped off the map in a flash."

Sunday's screening begins at 2 p.m. at 4122 NE Sandy Blvd in Portland. The event is free, but space is limited and a reservation is required. For more information, visit <https://wakeofvanport.eventbrite.com>.



The 'Wake of Vanport' was screened at the Hollywood Theatre for the first time in Nov. 2016

The project's sponsors include The Oregon Lottery, Hood to Coast, Sweet Jam, The Mt. Hood Cable Regulatory Commission, The National Endowment for the Arts.

**FREE MOVIE SCREENING**

ONLY A FEW SEATS LEFT!

WAKE OF VANPORT

Digital narratives and storytelling from flood survivors and residents

SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2017 • 2 PM

THE HOLLYWOOD THEATRE 4122 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland, OR 97212

Free to the public. Limited seating. **RESERVATIONS REQUIRED.**

★★★★★ *Together, this touching collection of truly heartfelt remembrances paint a poignant portrait of a short-lived, idyllic oasis* —Movie Critic Kam Williams

**REGISTER ONLINE AT**  
<https://wakeofvanport.eventbrite.com>

PHOTO: Survivors gather on high ground to watch the destruction of Vanport. May 30, 1948. Photo by Allen deLay (1915-2005) ©Thomas Robinson



Stories told by Vanport survivors and others closely related to the era will be screened at The Hollywood Theatre on Sunday, April 30 at 4:30 p.m. The stories focus on life in Vanport and the 1948 Memorial Day flood when a dike broke on the Columbia River. The rising waters completely destroyed Vanport, Oregon, the city built by industrialist and ship builder Henry J. Kaiser. Immediately following the screening there will be a discussion about possible plans for a Vanport memorial.

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