

Arts & Entertainment

Passinart Set to Close the 2023/2024 “Change is Gonna Come” Season With Award-Winning Playwright Philip Kan Gotanda’s Exploration of Marriage, Culture, and Color

The Skanner News

This co-production with Portland Playhouse is directed by Dmae Lo Roberts and stars William Earl Ray and Kathy Hsieh as the long-married couple, trying their best to be their best. The odds are against this intriguing pair. A Japanese wife. A Black husband. This is a story of their struggle against the headwinds of racism and the passage of time that have worn them and their 30-year marriage to the bone. But she’s not

content to toss it all out like a pot damaged in the red-hot kiln. The title Yohen is a Japanese term for the occasional accident that causes unexpected coloration when pottery is fired in a kiln. In playwright Philip Kan Gotanda’s words: “Interestingly the idea that yohen pertains to coloring is . . . appropriate to this American play where we live in a highly racialized world. And where the tradition is to focus on color.” Director Roberts connects with this story in a deeply personal way. “As

the daughter of an interracial family that came from Japan to America,” she says, “our family never found acceptance. My Taiwanese mother and military father got married at a time when it was still illegal in many states in America. I saw firsthand how cultural struggles added to the tensions in their marriage. Yohen reminds me of the fragile yet beautiful connection two people of differing races, nationalities and cultures can find in love and marriage. The metaphor of individualism and uniqueness of Japa-

nese kiln-fired pottery rings true also in interracial relationships and families. Love happens in many ways. The road may not be easy but it is one built on strength and powerful connection, and, yes, love.” **Performance Details** • Previews—March 27 & 28 at 7:30pm • Opening Night—March 29 at 7:30pm • Regular Performances from March 29 through April 21 Tickets purchased at www.passinart.org.



AN EXPLORATION OF MARRIAGE, CULTURE, AND COLOR

A PLAY BY

PHILIP KAN GOTANDA

CO-PRODUCTION WITH PORTLAND PLAYHOUSE
DIRECTED BY DMAE LO ROBERTS

YOHEN



Kathy Hsieh



William Earl Ray

PREVIEWS: MARCH 27 & 28

MARCH 29 – APRIL 21

BRUNISH THEATRE

TICKETS: PASSINART.ORG

Community Calendar 2024

Portland Metro

THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 10AM-8PM

FREE FIRST THURSDAY AT PORTLAND ART MUSEUM: Museum admission is free on the first Thursday of every month from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and programs at the Tomorrow Theater in Southeast Portland are free. Generous support provided by Art Bridges Foundation’s Access for All program. Portland Art Museum, 1219 SW Park Ave

THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 7-9PM

SOCIAL CINEMA PRESENTS BLACK PANTHER: The Carte Blanche weekend with Ruth E. Carter continues as we spotlight her groundbreaking work in Black Panther. Carter was the first African-American woman to win the Academy Award for Costume Design for her groundbreaking work in Black Panther. See King T’Challa (Chadwick Boseman) on the big screen as he returns home to the reclusive, technologically advanced African nation of Wakanda to serve as his country’s new leader. Nojeem Lasisi and Percussionists from Jujuba will perform a set prior to the film. Tomorrow Theater, 3530 SE Division St

SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 7-9PM

2024 YOUNG ARTIST COMPETITION FINALS: Witness the final round for our very first Young Artist Competition featuring vocalists and violinists performing for the chance at prize money as well as an opportunity to perform with the Portland Chamber Orchestra in the fall of 2024. This is a free event - however event registration is encouraged! Register for your spot for free and get entered into a drawing to win free tickets to the March 23 performance of A Feast of Beethoven!

MONDAY, MARCH 11, 9:30-11:30AM

PORTLAND CAREER FAIR: This career fair is a great recruitment event to connect with top employers in the areas of Government, Sales, Retail, Education, Information Technology, Engineering, Healthcare, Financial Services, Management, Manufacturing, Customer Service as well as other career paths. Professional Dress and an updated resume are strongly recommended. Forward your resume to events@careerfairconnection.com today. Our recruitment team can match you to open positions that fit your background and salary requirements. Courtyard by Marriott Portland City Center, 550 SW Oak St

FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 5:30-8PM

BLACK ARTISTS OF OREGON AND BLACK PIONEERS PRESENT JEREMY OKAI DAVIS: Please join us for a panel discussion with artist Jeremy Okai Davis who has spent the last two years working on portraits of Oregon Black Pioneers. Commissioned by the Salem Art Association, six out of ten have been completed so far. The conversation will explore Okai Davis’s own research and process and discuss how the project came to be realized. Space for this free event is limited. A RSVP requested to reserve your seat. Portland Art Museum, 1119 SW Park Ave, Portland, OR 97205

SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 10-11AM

NAACP GENERAL MEETING: The NAACP general meetings are open to all that want to be connected with their community. We welcome you to become a member and join us at our monthly meetings. General Membership meetings are not only an opportunity to hear updates on projects that NAACP Vancouver committees are working on, but an opportunity for members and the public to discuss the happenings in our community. Our meetings are on the third Saturday of every month. Bridgeview Resource Center, 505 Omaha Way, Vancouver, WA

Seattle

THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 10AM-5PM

FREE FIRST THURSDAY AT NORTHWEST AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM: On the first Thursday of each month, enjoy free admission to NAAM, which preserves the history, art, and culture of people of African descent, including roots in American slavery as well as African immigrants from Somalia, Sudan, Ethiopia, and other countries. NAAM especially highlights Pacific Northwest connections and the Black experiences in America through exhibitions, programs, and events. Northwest African American Museum, 2300 S Massachusetts St, Seattle

TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 7-9PM

SMART FILMS SERIES PRESENTS BLACK LUXURY ON BAINBRIDGE: Join us for a screening of Daughters of the Dust and get ready for an enthralling and immersive experience, showcasing a range of perspectives on what luxury means within the Black community. Through the lens of fashion, art, love, and history, viewers will be captivated by the exploration of this concept. This series aligns with the Black & Boujee exhibition, running from January 13 to February 20 at BIMA. Bainbridge Island Museum of Art, 550 Winslow Way E, Bainbridge Island

