

Winfrey conducting 'Live Your Best Life Tour'

SEATTLE (AP) - Oprah for president?

A fan was handing out orange bumper stickers promoting the idea, but don't hold your breath.

The idea doesn't interest Oprah Winfrey - top daytime TV talk-show host, magazine publisher, movie star, honored literacy booster and all-around mover and shaker.

"People say, 'Never say never,'" Winfrey said with a broad smile, her big heart-shaped diamond earrings sparkling. But when it comes to politics, "I can say, 'Never.'"

Winfrey was here Saturday for the second stop in her second "Live Your Best Life Tour" sponsored by O, The Oprah Magazine. The four-city tour, which began May 10 in St. Louis and moves to Tampa and Philadelphia in late June, features a two-hour presentation by Winfrey, offering insights and anecdotes from her own life, followed by three hours of more personal contact.

Tickets were \$185 - the pricetag also covers lunch and a gift bag - and there were

reports of four-figure re-sales on e-Bay.

By 8 a.m., many of the 2,700 ticketholders - almost all women, decked out in their best for the occasion - were in a line that snaked through the downtown Washington State Convention Center to Winfrey's venue upstairs.

"We want to learn how to live our best life," said Teresa Gove, a 38-year-old insurance claims representative who flew up from California for the event.

"We love Oprah," said Dianne Enkerud, 60, a medical transcriptionist from Tumwater. "She has a real gift. She knows how to motivate people - women in particular."

Hydrology engineer Doug Beyerlein, 52, of Mill Creek is hoping to see that gift expanded - perhaps into the national political arena. He came up with the bumper stickers, which he and his wife, Joan, handed out to all and sundry.

"I just don't like what our current administration is doing, both domestically and overseas," Beyerlein said. "I

"Because I could read, I knew there was a world beyond my front porch."
— Oprah Winfrey



feel we need to change our priorities."

He said he has confidence in Winfrey's motivation and values, as articulated on her show and in her magazine.

"I don't care what party she runs for. ... I'd be happy to vote for her regardless," Beyerlein said. And if she's not interested in running, he hopes that the very idea "will get people talking, bring up issues that need to be discussed."

Winfrey shakes her head. She wouldn't discuss the current administration - "I don't talk politics" - and has no interest in becoming a candidate.

Her next goal, she says, is to become an ambassador for the world's children, especially orphans.

Working with 50,000 children during a visit to South Africa late last year "was a life-changing experience," Winfrey said.

"There was a moment when I went, 'Oh, so this is why I was born.' I had a huge 'Aha!' moment over there that I think will lead me to working with the children of the world."

For that, she'd like to sidestep politics, though her estimated TV audience of 21 million a week and monthly magazine readership of 2.2

million do suggest a knack for moving people.

"I want to use my television platform and my media connections, and my access to different people of the world - the presidents of the world - to become a voice for children who do not have a voice for themselves," she said.

Ultimately, Winfrey said, she'd likely work through the United Nations. "But I really want to work with myself. I want to set it up myself so I don't have to go through ... the bureaucracy and all that."

Born poor in Mississippi, she parlayed personal charm and intelligence into a one-woman industry. This year she became the first black woman to make the Forbes magazine list of the world's richest people, with an estimated worth of \$1 billion.

She credits literacy, a gift she works to share through her Oprah's Book Club recommendations and other avenues.

"Because I could read, I knew there was a world beyond my front porch," she said.

Credited with empowering millions, Winfrey says the common denominator in the human experience is the need for validation. Every person she has ever met, she said - regardless of race, color, background or extent of education - "they're all seeking validation."

And she provides it without hesitation.

"You do matter," Winfrey tells one young reporter. "Because you were born, you matter."

Several dozen fans were picked out of line to welcome her. They cheered and called her name when she arrived, a trim, radiant vision in silver and gold delivered by a black Ford Excelsior that also carried staff and cocker spaniels Sophie and Solomon.

Winfrey spent about 20 minutes greeting her public, chatting, posing for photos, signing books and pictures, and promising a ticket to a woman who'd been unable to get one. Every gesture prompted squeals from the dotting crowd, and every squeal was rewarded with an answering smile.

Racist 'Birth of a Nation' remixed into 'Rebirth' movie

NEW YORK (AP) - In 1915, "The Birth of a Nation" changed the art of filmmaking. It also celebrated the Ku Klux Klan as heroes of the Civil War and Reconstruction. Now the movie itself is under reconstruction. The artist and musician DJ Spooky is treating the seminal but racist film like a piece

of music - he's doing a "remix." Spooky's work-in-progress, titled "Rebirth of a Nation," was shown at the American Museum of the Moving Image this week.

Spooky chose D.W. Griffith's "Birth" precisely because it deals with issues of race. By manipulating it, and showing how it can be

changed, he hopes to show how images and ideas about race are mutable as well.

"In one era, race is one thing. In another ... it changes," the DJ said. "There's never one final answer for any of this, it's always a remix."

Carl Goodman, curator of digital media at the museum,

called it "sampling cinema."

"By allowing people to play with and remix and reconfigure the media of the past, it becomes a powerful form of commenting," Goodman said.

On Thursday night, Spooky projected the film onto a large screen, adding layers of visual effects. An image of a fully robed Klansman underlay the scene depicting the South's surrender at the end of the war. An image of a young Southern woman looking at cotton cloth for a dress was followed by an image of slaves picking the cotton.

Spooky also added material, such as images of a dance performance inspired by Southern history. And the soundtrack was of course his creation, a mix that ranged from a rendition of "Dixieland" to the type of beat-driven music one would hear in a club.

Spooky, born Paul Miller, has recorded with musicians ranging from Yoko Ono to Wu-Tang Clan's Killa Priest. His artwork has appeared in the Whitney Biennial, the Ludwig Museum in Cologne, Germany and the Andy Warhol Museum, among others.

Spooky said he planned to travel with the project and was working out arrangements to show it internationally. His ultimate goal is to show it on three screens at a time, accompanied by an orchestra.

"Birth" is a milestone in American screen history, an epic production that changed how movies were filmed and edited with its use of massive numbers of extras, on-location shoots and camera close-ups.

It also outraged many people with its stereotypical, racist portrayals of black people and its embrace of the Klan.

Timothy Shary, an assistant professor of screen studies at Clark University in Worcester, Mass., said Griffith made a movie that was admirable for its artistic innovations, but not much else.

"You have to wonder what Griffith was thinking," he

(See *Rebirth*, Page 8)



LUNCH TIME

Fifth-graders from Dr. Daphanne Thomas's class at Wendell P. Williams Elementary School chill at lunch. The students, clockwise, from left, are Alex Zaragoza, Tottianna Whitney, JoAnn Zermeno and Kimberly Brown were treated to eat at the Culinary Training Center Academy after participating in an etiquette class. Photo by Kathi Overstreet

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