

Show probes race issues via lens of Whiteness

NEW YORK (AP) — It's a seldom discussed topic: what it means to be White.

But Whiteness is a crucial part of any conversation about racism, said the curator of a new exhibition that focuses on the subject.

"It's assumed on the part of many White Americans that it's the job of people of color to deal with the issue of racism," said Maurice Berger,

curator of "White: Whiteness and Race in Contemporary Art," which opened Friday at the International Center of Photography.

"What I'm arguing is that since White people are part of the structure of race and racism... that White people and Whiteness itself must come into the dialogue fully, openly, in order for us to have hope that certain kinds of pre-

vailing attitudes and ideas are going to change."

The show, featuring 10 pieces ranging from photo essays to sculpture and video, will be shown at the ICP through Feb. 27.

"Untitled (Men Who Look Like Jesus)," a series of photos by Nancy Burson shows a group of long-haired men — White, Black and Asian — juxtaposed against a compos-

ite image of the Western characterization of Jesus as a White man. The piece raises questions about why the popular representation of Jesus looks the way it does, and what affect that has had on society, Berger said.

In a video presentation called "Heidi," artists Paul McCarthy and Mike Kelly take on the image of the all-American, middle-class White family so often seen in sitcoms. They showcase their vision of the story of the Swiss girl Heidi from the Johanna Spyri children's tale that starts out innocently and gets progressively darker.

Cindy Sherman's works, "Bus Riders" and "Untitled," consist of photos of herself masquerading as different

types of people. One series is of Black and White people she saw on bus rides, the other has her dressing up as different stereotypes of White women, from an upper-class society matron to a young, blonde ingenue.

And in the only piece looking at Whiteness from outside America, William Kentridge produced a series of short films examining racial realities in apartheid-era South Africa, which Berger called "Whiteness in its most virulent form."

The show had previously been seen at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, and Berger said he was in talks to take it elsewhere after its run at ICP.

He hopes it will inspire

thought and discussion during its run at ICP.

"I want people to have an intimate experience ... and to come away from the show thinking about themselves — think about your attitudes, think about the assumptions you've been making, think about your behavior," he said.

This is the second show ICP has held in recent years dealing with race. Director Willis Hartshorn said it was part of the museum's mission to examine visual images and their impact on social change.

"If we don't start talking about it in a different way ... we're going to give the same kind of limited conversations that we've been having for the last 200 years," he said.

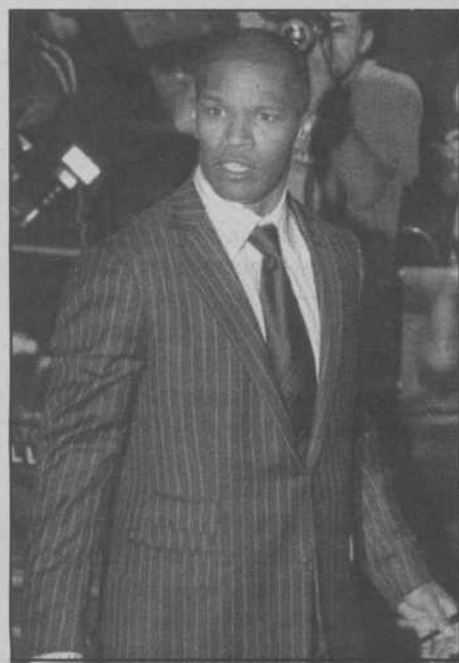
Foxx's trio of Golden Globes sets record for awards show

By Kam Williams
Sentinel-Voice

2004 was certainly the year of the Foxx, Jamie Foxx. Now, with the awards season about to begin, the talented actor better clear some space over his fireplace for the collection of trophies likely to be coming his way in the next few months. For he has received a trio of Golden Globes nominations for his acting work in "Ray" (Best Actor- Musical or Comedy); "Collateral" (Best Supporting Actor) and "Redemption" (Best Actor- Made for TV Movie or Mini-Series).

The announcement was made by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association on Monday, which also happened to be Foxx's 37th birthday. "What a great way to start the day, with three birthday gifts," he beamed. "I am honored to be mentioned in the same categories with such tremendously talented actors."

In a good year for African-American actors, Don Cheadle ("Hotel Rwanda"), Morgan Freeman ("Million Dollar Baby") and Mos Def ("Something the Lord Made") also landed nominations, though no sisters were blessed this year, despite sterling per-



JAMIE FOXX

formances from Kimberly Elise ("Woman Thou Art Loosed"), Regina King ("Ray") and Kerry Washington ("Ray"), to name a few. Wyclef Jean (Best Song—"Hotel Rwanda") was the only other brother nomi-

Jay-Z named president of Def Jam

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jay-Z, who has declared himself retired from his rap career, now has a new job to occupy his time — president and chief executive of the Def Jam record label.

The appointment, rumored for months, was finalized with an announcement on Wednesday by Antonio "L.A." Reid, the chairman of Island Def Jam Music Group.

Officials at the label declined to discuss terms of the agreement Wednesday. But a source familiar with the deal told The Associated Press the rapper signed a three-year contract valued at between \$8 million to \$10 million.

The ultimate value of the deal depends on whether the multi-platinum rapper can meet revenue and market share incentives, the source said on condition of anonymity.

The rapper, whose "The Black Album" was nominated for three Grammys on

Tuesday, will take the helm on Jan. 3. He will also continue to run Roc-A-Fella records, which he co-founded with Damon Dash in 1995 after early efforts to obtain a record deal sputtered.

Def Jam, which owned 50 percent of Roc-A-Fella, also announced Wednesday that it had wholly purchased the rap label, whose acts include the 10-time Grammy nominee Kanye West, Cam'ron and Beanie Sigel, who recently received a one-year prison sentence in Pennsylvania on gun and drug charges.

Def Jam acquired the remaining stake in Roc-A-Fella for about \$10 million, the source said. A dozen Roc-A-Fella employees were laid off as a result of the buyout, said Island Def Jam spokeswoman Laura Swanson.

"I have inherited two of the most important brands in hip-hop, Def Jam and Roc-A-Fella," Jay-Z said in a state-

ment. "L.A. Reid and Universal Music Group have given me the opportunity to manage the companies I have contributed to my whole career. I feel this is a giant step for me and the entire artist community."

Reid praised Jay-Z — who's real name is Shawn Carter — for his business acumen and declared him the perfect candidate to lead Def Jam. It's previous president, Kevin Liles, left in July and became executive vice president at Warner Music Group.

"I can think of no one more relevant and credible in the hip-hop community to build upon Def Jam's fantastic legacy and move the company into its next groundbreaking era," Reid said.

The original joint venture agreement for Roc-A-Fella struck in 1997 with Jay-Z and his partners gave Def Jam until February to proceed with
(See Jay-Z, Page 17)

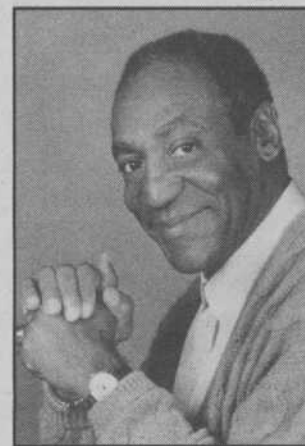
Bill Cosby teaching study skills

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Bill Cosby has a new television audience — students who need help with their homework or a reason to study.

"Dr. Cosby — School of Life" began airing Monday on the Philadelphia School District's local-access cable television station.

The comedian appears on the series he volunteered to develop. The brief episodes will air daily, featuring inspirational messages about study skills, classroom participation and making education part of everyday life.

"Most people may think of him as an actor, a comedian or a television producer, but he is very much an educator," said school district Chief Executive Paul Vallas.



BILL COSBY

Cosby, 67, a Philadelphia native, attended the city's public schools and has a bachelor's degree from Temple University and a doctorate in education.

On Sunday night, Cosby was at Temple to attend the premiere of "Fat Albert," a live-action film based on the

animated series he created about adolescents growing up in Philadelphia.

Stars of the movie, which opens in theaters on Christmas Day, include Kenan Thompson, Alphonso McAuley, Dania Ramirez and Shadrach Anderson. Cosby said he hopes the film industry rewards them with more good roles.

"I just pray for them, that Hollywood will have sense and give them (decent) parts to play instead of some horrible stereotypical mess," the comedian said.

He said he approved of changes director Joel Zwick made to update the story.

"Lines that I thought were hilarious... he changed them and my wife said they're funnier now," he said.



THE GREATEST BOOK SIGNING

Former boxer Muhammad Ali, center, accepts a poem from Russell Outlaw, left, as Hana Ali looks on during her father's book promotional visit in the Harlem section of New York. Outlaw, 79, from Harlem, says he wrote the poem for Ali before his 1974 championship fight with George Foreman in Congo (formerly Zaire), Africa, which Ali won. Ali met with fans to promote his latest book 'The Soul Of A Butterfly,' his spiritual reflections written with his daughter Hana.