

# ARTS & LIFESTYLE

## Of Interest ...

### Broadcasters make final push to announce DTV switch

With just a few weeks until the nationwide transition to all-digital television, America's kicked off a major on-air campaign signaling to viewers the impending June 12 deadline.

Full-power television stations that have yet to switch to digital will air a new series of television spots counting down the final three weeks until the transition date. Produced by the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB), each spot is 15 seconds in duration and designed to mark the remaining three weeks, two weeks, seven days, six days, five days, four days, three days, two days and less than 24 hours from the deadline.

The series is aimed at alerting viewers to the nearing deadline and urging them to upgrade their TV sets in advance. Additionally, broadcast television stations will continue airing a rotation of spots that highlight the importance of antennas, rescanning for channels and tips for installing converter boxes.

As part of the final push, NAB has distributed to stations an updated half-hour educational program covering the basics of the transition to digital television (DTV), which stations are required to air at least once before June 12.

By law, full-power television stations must broadcast exclusively in digital after June 12, 2009. Over-the-air television households risk losing reception after that date unless they upgrade their TV sets to DTV.

### 'View' co-host gets series

Lifetime Television, the nation's top women's network, has picked up 12 episodes of the all-new, multi-camera comedy series "Sherri," starring comedienne and "The View" co-host Sherri Shepherd.

"Sherri" centers around a newly single mom, paralegal and part-time comedienne/actress who tries to get back into the dating scene and move on with her life after divorcing her cheating husband. Sherri finds solace and support among her girlfriends at the office while juggling her hectic life. Also starring in the series are Tammy Townsend (Lincoln Heights), Kali Rocha (Grey's Anatomy), Elizabeth Regan (The Black Donnellys) and Kate Reinders (Ugly Betty).



Shepherd

Shepherd, who will continue to co-host the hit ABC daytime talk show "The View," will serve as a co-executive producer. The comedy reunites Shepherd, Minsky, Wass and Stein, who last worked together on the ABC sitcom "Less Than Perfect."

"Sherri" will join Lifetime's family comedy "Rita Rocks," starring Nicole Sullivan as Rita Clements. Other comedies that currently air on Lifetime include reruns of "How I Met Your Mother," "Reba," "Will & Grace" and "Frasier." The networks summer shows will begin airing May 30.

### Townsend launches online series

One Economy Corporation and award-winning actor, director and producer Robert Townsend, the man behind "Hollywood Shuffle," "Meteor Man" and "The Five Heartbeats," has launched "Diary of a Single Mom," a ground-breaking online series that chronicles the lives of three single mothers trying to get ahead despite obstacles that all single mothers face, such as childcare, health, education and finances.

It will be aired exclusively on One Economy's Public Internet Channel. The series centers around 27-year-old Ocean, played by Monica Calhoun ("Sister Act II," "Love and Basketball"), who juggles raising her son, daughter and teenage niece with earning her GED, finding a new job, and coping with an illness during the show's first season.

The show spotlights One Economy's innovative efforts to connect low-income families with online resources to help them improve their lives. Townsend's experiences growing up in a single-parent household in Chicago inspired the seasoned director to create this Web series in partnership with One Economy.

For example, as viewers watch a character work to obtain her GED or struggle to find a job, they can immediately click on the Web site's "Make It Easy Toolbox" to access resources in their own communities addressing those very issues. The episodes can be seen at [www.pic.tv](http://www.pic.tv).

### Tony winner to speak to grads

Tony winner Kristin Chenoweth will speak at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts (UNCSA) commencement ceremony for college graduates on May 30.



Chenoweth

J.T. Rogers, an award-winning playwright and UNCSA alumnus, will speak to high school grads. The ceremonies, slated to take place at the Stevens Center, are not open to the public.

Chenoweth won a Tony for her performance as Sally Brown in "You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown." She was nominated for her role of Glinda the Good Witch in

"Wicked."

Rogers, who graduated from the UNCSA School of Drama with a B.F.A. in Acting in 1990, is the author of "The Overwhelming," "Madagascar," "White People," "Murmuring in a Dead Tongue" and other plays.

## High Point community wins grant

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The High Point Historic Preservation Commission is one of the agencies that has received funding from the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources.

The state agency announced last week grants totaling \$84,164 to support 10 historic preservation projects in eight counties around the state.

The High Point Historic Preservation Commission will get \$6,000 to go toward its efforts in the Washington Drive Historic District. The District was the heart of the African-American business community in High Point during the first half of the 20th century.

The High Point Historic Preservation Commission will use the grant funds to hire a historical consultant to complete a National Register nomination for the District. Listing the district in the Register will provide financial incentives for the rehabilitation of the historic buildings, and raise awareness about the historic importance of this area.

Other projects that received funding include GIS mapping



High Point Historic Preservation Commission Photo

A view of the heart of the Washington Drive community.

of historical areas in the Pitt County city of Greenville and redevelopment work in a historic African-American neighborhood in Durham.

"May is National Preservation Month," said Cultural Resources Deputy Secretary Dr. Jeffrey Crow,

who also serves as the state's Chief Preservation Officer. "This year's theme is 'This Place Matters,' and these grants will help these communities assure that their vital heritage is cared for and shared."

To further mark National

Preservation Month, Crow and Cultural Resources Secretary Linda A. Carlisle were slated to be in Wilmington on Tuesday to announce the Historic Wilmington Foundation's 2009 Most Threatened Historic Places list.

## Jamie Foxx bringing tour to Greensboro

Tickets now on sale for July 19 show

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Greensboro is a stop on actor/singer Jamie Foxx's 50-city Intuition Tour, which will officially kick off July 3 in Las Vegas.

The show at the Greensboro Coliseum will be Sunday, July 19 at 7:30 p.m.

Still best known as an actor, Foxx won an Oscar for his role as Ray Charles in "Ray." He starred alongside Tom Cruise in "Collateral" earning Oscar, Golden Globe and SAG nominations for his performance. Some of his other films include, "Dreamgirls," "Miami Vice," "Jarhead" and "The Kingdom."

On the music front, Foxx just set the all-time record for 12 consecutive weeks at #1 on the Urban Mainstream chart with his hit single "Blame It." The song is from his platinum album "Intuition," which was released last December. On the disc, he collaborates with artists such as T.I., Lil Wayne, Kanye West and Ne-Yo.

Foxx was just named as host of the 9th annual BET Awards, which will air live on June 28 from the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles. He is up for three BET Awards, including "Best Male R&B Artist" and "Best Collaboration" with T-Pain for "Blame It."

Tickets to the Greensboro show are available online at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com), at the Greensboro Coliseum Box Office. Charge by phone at 1-800-745-3000. For event information call 336-373-7474. Tickets are \$49.75 - \$59.75.



PR Photo

Singer/actor Jaimie Foxx.

## Simmons to help effort to erect slavery memorial

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Hip hop entrepreneur Russell Simmons has been appointed "Goodwill Ambassador For The Permanent Memorial To Honor The Victims Of Slavery And The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade."

It happened last week at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

Nations of the Caribbean are leading the effort to erect such a memorial and to re-engage the attention of the international community on the horrific nature of slavery, the Trans-Atlantic slave trade and its legacy of discrimination.

"It's humbling to be invited to join the UN Community in this role as Goodwill Ambassador," Simmons said. "In recognizing the past, we understand the stakes in ensuring that something as devastating to the human condition as the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade will never happen again."

Best known as a leading entrepreneur and hip-hop pioneer, Simmons' groundbreaking vision has influenced music and the recording industry, fashion, jewelry, finance, television and film, as well as the face of modern philanthropy. As chairman and CEO of Rush Communications, he has consistently leveraged his influence in the media and popular culture to benefit and acknowledge disadvantaged communities.

The permanent memorial honoring the memory of the victims of slavery, will be administered through the Permanent Memorial Fund by the U.N. Office for Partnerships (UNOP). The completion date is set for 2012. So far, the project has received \$250,000 of the projected \$3.5 million cost from 25 of the 122 UN Member States.



Simmons

## UNCSA student wins award for composing

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Leo Hurley, a music student at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts (UNCSA), has been named one of the recipients of the 2009 American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) Foundation Morton Gould Young Composers Award.

He is the first UNCSA student to receive this award. He won for his saxophone quartet composition "Zydeco," written as part of the PRISM Quartet 21st Century Residency, held in the UNCSA School of Music in January 2009.

Hurley, 19, is a native of Rollinsford, N.H. He is a college sophomore studying composition in the School of Music at UNCSA, where he is a student of Lawrence Dillon.

Hurley and the other winners were recognized at the 10th Annual ASCAP Concert Music Awards at The Times Center in New York on Thursday, May 21. Hurley has gained international recognition with commissions and performances in California at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts and in Venice at the La Biennale Festival, with Alonzo King's LINES Ballet; at Maya Angelou's 80th Birthday Celebration, and at the opening of the North Carolina Legislature.



UNCSA Photo

Leo Hurley