

# ARTS & LIFESTYLE

## Of Interest ...

### Banned book discussion

Three Wake Forest University faculty members will celebrate the freedom to read and address the "power of the book" and censorship at "Censors, Banners and Burners, Oh My!," a panel discussion from 3 p.m.- 5 p.m. Oct. 1 in the Z. Smith Reynolds Library.

The discussion, held in recognition of Banned Books Week, will feature Andrew Ettin, professor of English; Rian Bowie, visiting assistant professor of English; and John Llewellyn, professor of communication.

The event is free and open to the public. Banned Books Week, an American Library Association (ALA) event, has been observed during the last week of September each year since 1982. The ALA initiated the event to celebrate the freedom to choose or the freedom to express one's opinion even if that opinion might be considered unorthodox or unpopular and stress the importance of ensuring the availability of those unorthodox or unpopular viewpoints to all who wish to read them.

### Pinkett Smith to star in TNT pilot

Jada Pinkett Smith has signed on to play the lead in a TNT pilot entitled, "Time Heals."

In the drama, she will play director of nursing Nancy Hawthorne, an unsung hero, caregiver and single mother who always puts the pain of others first.

The show is produced by Pinkett Smith's 100% Women Productions, in association with Sony Pictures Television in association with John Masius Productions and Jamie Tarses' FanFare Productions.

It was created by Emmy-winner John Masius, who is behind shows like "St. Elsewhere," "Providence" and "Dead Like Me."

"Time Heals" takes place at Charlotte Mercy Hospital in North Carolina, where the strong but caring Hawthorne (Pinkett Smith) continuously fights a battle she often knows she won't win. Whether treating the homeless woman in front of the hospital like a human being or trying to talk a suicidal cancer patient off the ledge, Nancy must challenge hospital administrators, heartless doctors, apathetic colleagues and a system that sometimes forgets it's there to serve the sick.

If the pilot is well received by audiences, it could be added to the network's fall schedule. The date and time of the pilot's airing was not available at press time.

### African dance comes to YWCA

The Gateway YWCA is now offering women and men a fun way to burn calories and stay in shape.

Last weekend, the Y rolled out its new Afro-Modern Dance Class. The class will be held each Saturday at 11 a.m.

It is led by the talented Amatullah Saleem, a renowned master-storyteller and dance instructor.

For year, Saleem has taught non-stressful fitness routines rooted in Caribbean culture and accompanied by folk-dance rhythms.

Saleem studied at the Katherine Dunham School of Dance & Theatre Culture Arts in New York. In 2005, she was cited by the National Endowment for the Arts as "Outstanding Senior Artist."

Saleem is also a member of the National Association of Black Storytellers.

In addition to the dance class, Saleem will also led a low-impact exercise class, also on Saturdays, for the people 50 and older.

The classes are free to YWCA Gateway members. They are open to non-members for a fee. For more information, call 336-354-1590, or visit <http://www.ywcawc.org/>.

### BET Hip Hop Awards will take place in Atlanta next month

NEW YORK (BlackNews.com) - BET Networks announced last week the list of nominees for the annual BET Hip Hop Awards. Leading the pack is the "Lollipop man" Lil' Wayne with an astounding 12 nominations; followed by Kanye West with 8 nods; and Jay Z with 6 nods.

This year's awards will be hosted by comedian Katt Williams. The show will be taped on Saturday, Oct. 18 at the Boisfeuillet Jones Atlanta Civic Center and premiere on the network on Thursday, Oct. 23 at 8 p.m.

This year, BET Networks will also honor Russell Simmons with the I Am Hip Hop Icon Award, which is presented to an individual who, during his or her lifetime, has made notable contributions of outstanding significance to the hip hop community.

BET Photo  
Comedian Katt Williams

## SciWorks to probe history of space exploration Saturday

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

SciWorks will celebrate the 50th anniversary of NASA on Saturday by welcoming accomplished pilot and space historian Capt. Mike Lucas.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration, better known as NASA, will turn 50 on Oct. 1. Space exploration and research are among the government agency's missions.

Capt. Lucas, a NASA Ambassador, will speak at 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. His presentations will focus on Apollo 11, which on July 20, 1969, landed the first men, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin, on the moon. The presentations, which are appropriate for all ages, will last approximately 30 minutes and will be followed by ample time for questions and answers.

Throughout the day, guests will also be treated to pictures and video clips of NASA's Mercury and Gemini projects and the Apollo moon landing. Models of various spacecraft will be used in the demonstrate for the audience how these missions were accomplished.

Lucas is a pilot with US Airways who has accumulated more than 20,000 hours of flight time in his 40-plus years in aviation. He is a volunteer public speaker representing NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. He met and became friends with Astronaut Alan Shepard in the early 1970's. Over the years, Lucas has met almost all of the Mercury, Gemini and Apollo astronauts.

Admission to Sciworks, located on Hanes Mill Road just off University Pkwy or Hwy 52, is \$10 for adults; \$8 for senior citizens and children 6-19; and \$6 for children 2-6.



A&T Photo  
The actors bringing "A Soldier's Play" to the stage.

## Pulitzer-winning play coming to A&T

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Next month, N.C. A&T State University's Department of Visual and Performing Arts will kick off its season with a classic.

Charles Fuller's "A Soldier's Play," winner of the 1982 Pulitzer Prize for Drama.

Playwright Fuller describes "A Soldier's Play" as a confrontation between evil and innocence that results in tragedy. While it is about the investigation of a murder, the play is not a murder mystery in the strictest sense. Instead, the investigation by a black officer is primarily an exploration into who the slain victim really was and how racism influences men's behaviors and ideals.

Fuller also wrote the screenplay for the 1984 film version of the play, "A Soldier's Story." He earned both Oscar and Golden Globe nominations for his screenplay.

This season, A&T will also bring to the stage Langston Hughes' "Black Nativity," "One Monkey Don't Stop No Show" by Don Evans; and "The Wiz" by William F. Brown.

The A&T production will be staged in the Paul Robeson Theatre. Show dates are: Thursday, Oct. 9 - Sunday, Oct. 12, and Thursday, Oct. 16 - Sunday, Oct. 19. Show times are Thursday - Saturday at 8 p.m., Sunday at 3 p.m.

Tickets prices are \$15 for general admission; \$5 for children 12 and under; \$10 for senior citizens and non A&T students. Admission is free for A&T students with Aggie One Card.

For ticket information, call 336-334-7749.



Pinkett Smith

WFU Photo by Ken Bennett

Aleshia Price (left) and Lizzy Thomas in "Intimate Apparel."



## WFU staging Nottage play

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The Wake Forest University Theatre will open its season Sept. 26 with Playwright Lynn Nottage's "Intimate Apparel."

The play, directed by Associate Professor of Theatre J. K. Curry, is set in a 1905 New York City boarding house for single African-American women. There, Esther creates beautiful custom-made undergarments for ladies. Her work brings her into association with people whom she would not normally encounter, including a white socialite, a Romanian-Jewish immigrant fabric merchant and a prostitute. Courted through the mail by a man from Barbados, Esther dares to seek her own happiness and love even though the odds are against her. Actress Aleshia Price plays the lead role of Esther.

Nottage was honored in 2007 with the National Black Theatre Festival's August Wilson

Playwriting Award for her body of work. She has received numerous fellowships and awards, most notably a MacArthur Foundation "Genius Grant" in 2007 with a stipend of \$100,000 a year for five years.

A graduate of both Brown and Yale universities, Nottage first saw "Intimate Apparel" brought to the stage at Baltimore's Center Stage in 2003. It had a successful off-Broadway run at the Roundabout Theatre in 2004 and has since been widely produced in American regional theaters. The play received numerous awards including the 2004 New York Drama Critics' Circle Award for Best Play, the 2004 Outer Critics' Circle Award, the John Gassner Award, the Audelco Award for Dramatic Production of the Year and the American Theatre Critics' Association Francesca Primus Award.

Wake Forest University Theatre has billed this year as its "Season of Scandal." Other productions slated for the season include "All My Sons," "The Underpants" and "King Lear."

Performances for "Intimate Apparel" will be Sept. 26 - 27 and Oct. 1 - 4 at 7:30 p.m. The Sunday matinee performance will be at 2 p.m. on Oct. 5. All performances will be in the MainStage Theatre of the Scales Fine Arts Center. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$10 for senior citizens and \$5 for students. Group rates are available. For tickets or information, call the Theatre Box Office at 336-758-5295 or visit online at [www.wfu.edu/theatre](http://www.wfu.edu/theatre).



Nottage

## Films added to Big Read calendar

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The films "Go Tell It on the Mountain" and "Native Son," have been added to the list of movies that will be screened as part of the Library's Big Read project.

"Go Tell It on the Mountain" is taken from an adaptation of James Baldwin's novel about a few generations in the life of an African-American family, and a young boy's efforts to gain a measure of approval from his Bible-thumping, disciplinarian father. It will be shown on Thursday, Oct. 2 at 4 p.m. at the Carver School Road Branch.

Richard Wright's powerful race-conscious novel "Native Son" centers around Bigger Thomas (Victor Thomas), an angry Depression-era Chicago black man who hopes to elevate himself through his chauffeur's job with a prosperous white, Gold Coast family. This film will be shown Tuesday, Oct. 7 at 6:30 p.m. also at the Carver School Road Branch.

The Big Read is a community read program and part of the Library's On the Same Page project. This year's selected Big Read title is "Fahrenheit 451" by Ray Bradbury.

Call 336-703-2910 for more information.

## THE LUCKIEST KID



PRINCEPHOTO  
An excited Calvin Rodgers, 9, celebrates as clone troopers visit his Chicago classroom to inform him that he is the winner of Cartoon Network's House Party contest. The red carpet will be rolled out for Rodgers, his family, friends and hundreds of other special guests at the Park West Theater in Lincoln Park, Ill., as the first two episodes of CN's "Star Wars: The Clone Wars" series are screened. The much-anticipated series premieres on Cartoon Network on Friday, Oct. 3 at 9 p.m.