

ARTS & LIFESTYLE

Of Interest ...

Harper launches his own publishing imprint

Actor Hill Harper has partnered with Scholastic teen author Pamela Wells to create a multicultural children-publishing imprint called Harper & Wells Books.

"I've been wanting to have my own multicultural children book publishing imprint for some time," Harper said. "My focus is on publishing books about black issues. I have always wanted a children book imprint that represents our voices. This is an extension of my belief that you manifest your own destiny in life."

The first two titles from Harper & Wells Books are middle grade titles targeted at eight to twelve-year old readers.

"The Wiley Boys" by Hill Harper, is about three sports-obsessed adopted brothers who stumble across an advertisement that leads them to being junior agents at the Sports Bureau of Investigations. This book is available online at Amazon, Barnes & Noble and other online stores including the book's web site at www.wileyboys.com.

The second title, "Willow Fedler's Rules for Girls" by Pamela Wells, is about a 12-year-old "Oprah," who shares advice and experiences as she shares stories about growing up. This book is available on the Amazon Kindle and the Barnes & Noble Nook. Wells is best-known as the author of the best-selling "The Heartbreakers" series published by Scholastic. "The Heartbreakers" series is scheduled to become a movie in 2013 called "Hot Mess" featuring Disney actress Selena Gomez.

Harper is the author of several adult non-fiction books that have been New York Times bestsellers, including "Letters to a Young Brother," "Letters to a Young Sister," "The Conversation" and "The Wealth Cure." He can currently be seen as Dr. Sheldon Hawkes on "CSI: New York."



Hill

Hampton Museum to show Civil War-themed exhibits

Beginning this month, Hampton University Museum is showing two very special free exhibitions in commemoration of the Civil War Sesquicentennial (150th anniversary).

Based in Hampton, Va., the institution is the oldest African American museum in the United States.

"Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman Series by Jacob Lawrence" will open Jan. 27. This free exhibition highlights the dramatic biographies of two American abolitionists who lived around the time of the Civil War.

Together, the paintings have an extraordinary conceptual unity and visual eloquence. In the "Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman" series, Lawrence pursues mythic subjects who both share the will and determination, in the face of all odds, to free their minds and spirits as well as their bodies from bondage.

On Feb. 25, the Museum welcomes "Civil War Vignette: Paintings and Drawings of Freedom Fighters from the Hampton University Museum Collection," a free exhibition that includes drawings and prints from artists Charles White, Elizabeth Catlett, William H. Johnson and John Biggers. All excellent artists, they have portrayed Freedom Fighters Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, John Brown, Abraham Lincoln, Sojourner Truth, and Phyllis Wheatley as true abolitionists and fighters for justice.

Related programming will be held in conjunction with these two dynamic exhibitions. For more information, go to <http://museum.hamptonu.edu>.

La La has new makeup line

La La Anthony, entertainer, star of VH1's hit series "La La's Full Court Life" and wife of NBA star Carmelo Anthony, has teamed with longtime friend Loren Ridinger, senior vice president of Market America/SHOP.com and creator of the award-winning Motives by Loren Ridinger cosmetics line, to create Motives for La La, a line of makeup uniquely-formulated for every shade of today's modern woman.

Motives for La La includes mineral base lipsticks, blushes, lip shines and more, and will be formally introduced next month at Market America's 2012 World Conference at the American Airlines Arena in Miami.

La La made it a point to emphasize colors and products for African American and Latina women, due to the lack of prominence many beauty lines place on ethnic markets. Motives by La La achieves this goal, as the partnership between La La and Loren has resulted in a line that shares their love of makeup through products and colors that give a complete look - eyes, cheeks, lips - for women of every shade.

"Having my name on a cosmetics line has always been a dream, one I'm excited to share," La La said. "Every girl always tries to find that perfect color or shade that suits their personality, and now she can do it easily and affordably."

The line contains six product types - lipsticks, lip shines, eyeshadows, blushes and shimmer - that showcase La La's distinct style.



Anthony

Heritage Commission adds members

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Three new members will be sworn in on the African American Heritage Commission (AAHC) on Tuesday, Jan. 24, at 10 a.m., at N.C. Central University in Durham. Rep. H. M. "Mickey" Michaux will administer the oath.

The new members are the Rev. Dr. Pierre Crawford, Dr. Sylvia Ezelonwu and Dr. Philip Henry.

Gastonia's Crawford is senior pastor to Center Baptist Church and a board member of the General Baptist Convention. He is professor of African American Christian Studies and director of continuing education at Henderson Christian University in Cramerton, N.C., and a member of the Gaston Progressive Coalition.

Wilmington's Ezelonwu is an instructor of an effective teacher training course at Cape Fear Community College. She has been a middle and high school teacher of English and social studies, and assistant principal of a middle and high school. Ezelonwu recently was appointed to the Gullah-Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission, operated by the National Park Service.

Raleigh's Henry has worked on the Black Abolitionist Editorial Project with libraries and archives in the northeast and served as a counselor at Vance-Granville Community College in Henderson. He has published articles on teen suicide, counseling and affirmative action, and is co-editor of the "Heritage of Blacks in North Carolina."

Launched in 2009, the AAHC has been creating new partnerships and supporting programs to "assist the Secretary of Cultural Resources in the preservation, interpretation, and promotion of African American history, arts, and culture" and was legislatively created in 2008.

AAHC Chairman Dr. Freddie Parker and Acting Director Michelle Lanier lead the commission in its work, which has included hosting the N.C. Museum of History's annual African American Cultural Celebration, partnering with the National Park Service Underground Railroad to Freedom Network to tell the "freedom seeking" story of North Carolina, and producing the educational "Journeys Toward Freedom" poster for educators and students.

"The new members' experiences and interests make them valuable assets to the commission," explains Lanier.



Rev. Crawford



Dr. Parker



Photos by Larente Hamlin/NCBRC Graphics Dept.

The cast of "By a Black Hand."

Black Rep Teen Theatre to stage 'Black Hand'

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The North Carolina Black Repertory Company's Teen Theatre Ensemble will perform the stage play "By a Black Hand" during National Black History Month.

The show will be staged at the Arts Council Theatre, 610 Coliseum Drive, on Wednesday, Feb. 15 and Thursday, Feb. 16 at 10 a.m. for largely audiences made up of local students.

Broadway veteran Mabel Robinson, the artistic director of the N.C. Black Rep, will direct the production, which has been billed as a lyrical history lesson that shines light on African-American inventors who gave the world everything from the steam engine (Granville T. Woods) to the traffic stop-light (Garrett Augustus Morgan).

Written by Professor Arthur Reese and Darryl Goodman, "By a Black Hand" was birthed at Chicago State University. This

piece of "edu-tainment" centers around a teenager who knows very little about black heritage and history. The teen is enlightened about the many contributions blacks have made by her grandfather and a hip hop troupe of youngsters who call themselves the Mystical Muses. The production features old and new school music.

The late Larry Leon Hamlin, the founder of the National Black Theatre Festival, was a huge fan of "By a Black Hand." He brought the show to Winston-Salem nearly a decade ago and invited local schools to bring their students to performances. It was first staged at the National Black Theatre Festival in 2005; it returned in 2007 and 2011. The N.C. Black Rep's Teen Theatre Ensemble has staged its signature version of the production for the past several years.

Tickets are \$8 per student. For ticket and/or other information, call 336-723-2266.



Robinson

A Hit



Photo by Chris Large/AMC

Rapper/actor Common duked it out with Anson Mount in an episode of AMC's hit show, "Hell on Wheels." The network announced earlier this month that the series has been renewed for a second season. The original series reigns as the second highest rated series on AMC, averaging 3.2 million viewers.

Films with UNCOSA connections screening at festivals

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Two University of North Carolina School of the Arts (UNCOSA) School of Filmmaking alumni will return to the Sundance Film Festival this month with films selected in out-of-competition categories, and a film by current film students will be screened at the "alternative" Slamdance Film Festival.

"Compliance," written and directed by '99 alumnus Craig Zobel, was selected for the Festival's Next category, which is for films that "embody the spirit of independent filmmaking."

"Robot and Frank," which has Michael Sledd, a '01 alumnus as its production manager, was selected for the Premieres category at Sundance.

"The Severe Psychosis of a Musiclessman," by current students Ian McClerin, Matt Gomez, Dylan Gravley, Daniel Satinoff, Taylor Sommers, Matthew Gorbachov and Daniel Anderegg, will be screened in the noncompetitive

Seminar to explore black life in Salem

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts (MESDA) - one of three museums at Old Salem Museums & Gardens - will hold a seminar next month offering new perspectives on the African American story in Salem (the historic town that became the city of Winston-Salem) and the South.

"Tell me your names . . . Images and Artifacts of the African American Story" will be held on Saturday, Feb. 11 from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. It will feature authors Maurie D. McInnis, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and professor of Art History at the University of Virginia, and Leland Ferguson, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Anthropology at the University of South Carolina. Many other noted scholars will take part as well.

Seminar sessions will be held at MESDA and the St. Philips Heritage Center, both in Old Salem. McInnis' session is entitled, "Slaves Waiting for Sale: Abolitionist Art and the American Slave



Parent



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