

FLICKS

Clips

Screening Hearing

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) ---The movie "Cry Freedom" cannot be shown without the justice minister's approval even though the appropriate government agency passed it, the South African Broadcasting Corp. reported Friday.

The movie is about the death in police custody of Black Consciousness leader Steve Biko and the escape from South Africa of his friend, former newspaper editor Donald Woods.

SABC, a government-run network, quoted a Justice Ministry spokesman as saying the minister, Koble Coetsee, has the final say even though the Publications Control Board decided the film can be shown without cuts in South Africa.

It quoted the spokesman for the Directorate of Security Legislation, who was not identified, as saying the movie would violate the Internal Security Act if it contains quotes from Woods. The film's distributor said it does contain quotes.

Woods fled South Africa with his family in 1977, soon after Biko's death. He is banned in South Africa, meaning it is illegal to quote him.

Before leaving the country, he also was prohibited from meeting with more than one person at a time, other than family members, and not allowed to practice his profession.

Biko was subject to similar restrictions during his lifetime, but quoting him is not forbidden. The Publications Control Board recently banned a book that contained Biko quotations, however.

"The film features actual quotes of Donald Woods and Steve Biko," Micheel Williams-Jones, president and chief executive officer of UIP, the distributor, said in London.

He said the report "astounded" him because "the movie has been seen and passed by the Publications Control Board for exhibition to all South Africans of all groups in fully multiracial, integrated theaters."

The statement from the Ministry of Justice official quoted by the SABC indicated complaints had been received about the film, but it did not say who made them or when.

"Cry Freedom" has been scheduled to open in South Africa in April.

Black Leaders

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) --- A black man who travels the country with a lab coat, military uniform and even a woman's dress as part of his luggage gave elementary school students a glimpse of famous black Americans.

Michael Randolph, 47, of Cincinnati, portrayed George Washington Carver, the botanist most noted for the peanut byproducts he developed, to students at the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for the Performing & Cultural Arts last week.

He sometimes portrays Benjamin Davis, the first black brigadier general in the U.S. Army; Benjamin Banneker, a mathematician whose almanacs earned praise from Thomas Jefferson; and Rosa Parks, a woman whose refusal to move to the back of a bus launched a decade of civil rights demonstrations.

Randolph, an Episcopal priest, has been performing for three years.

"I do it for an enormous amount of pleasure and very low pay," he said. "I'll never be rich but, hey, I'll be happy."

He dramatizes historic black Americans because he says they are often overlooked in the context of American history.

"It's important for us as a culture to view our history in its fullness," he said. "We need to talk about the contributions of women, blacks, hispanics and orientals."

At the same time, he points out consequences of racism. An example is his portrayal of Charles Drew, a pioneer hematologist who developed a way to preserve blood for long periods. In 1944, he helped the American Red Cross establish blood banks across the nation.

A few years later, Drew was seriously injured in an auto accident.

"I was taken to a white hospital that refused to give me the transfusion that could have saved me," Randolph said, acting as Drew. "We have only white blood," they told me.


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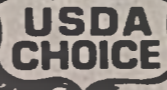
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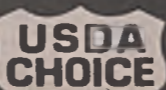
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