



Films, 'Hallowed Ground' Event Highlight Black History Month

Release Date: Tuesday, February 2, 2016

Contact: Erica Fields, Human Relations Council, 937-333-1403

Lamonte Hall, Jr., Recreation & Youth Services, 937-333-3393

A film series and a local history celebration are highlights of Black History Month in Dayton.

The Dayton Human Relations Council will present Black History Movie Nights, with films followed by discussion. The series begins with "Selma" (February 12) and continues with "Fruitvale Station" (February 19) and "American Denial" (February 26). All screenings begin at 6 p.m. at the Central State University Dayton Campus (840 Germantown St., Rm. 115). Admission is free (doors open 30 minutes prior to screening time; tickets are not required). Pizza and beverages will be provided. Black History Movie Nights are sponsored by the PNC Foundation. For more information, call 937-333-1413.

A special celebration of Black History Month comes to Dayton's Northwest Recreation Center (1600 Princeton Dr.) on Saturday, February 6. "Hallowed Ground, African American Sacred Places and Memories" will feature entertainment, displays, discussion, food and more. The event takes place from 1 to 3 p.m. and is presented by the Department of Recreation and Youth Services in collaboration with the Association for Study of African American Life and History, Paul Laurence Dunbar Branch. Admission is free.

More about the films presented at Black History Movie Nights:

Selma: The unforgettable true story chronicles a tumultuous three-month period in 1965 when Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. led a dangerous campaign to secure equal voting rights in the face of violent opposition. The epic march from Selma to

Montgomery culminated in President Johnson signing the Voting Rights Act of 1965, one of the most significant victories for the civil rights movement. Director Ava DuVernay's "Selma" tells the story of how the revered leader and visionary Dr. King and his brothers and sisters in the movement prompted change that forever altered history.

Fruitvale Station: Winner of both the Grand Jury Prize for dramatic feature and the Audience Award for U.S. dramatic film at the 2013 Sundance Film Festival, director Ryan Coogler's "Fruitvale Station" is a critically acclaimed 2013 film based on the events leading to the death of Oscar Grant, a young Black man who was killed by police at the Fruitvale Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) station in Oakland, CA.

American Denial: In the wake of recent events that have sparked a national dialogue, "American Denial" explores the power of unconscious biases around race and class. Using Gunnar Myrdal's 1944 investigation of Jim Crow racism as a springboard, the film shows how unrecognized, unconscious attitudes continue to dominate racial dynamics in American life. Exploring "stop-and frisk" practices, the incarceration crisis, and racially patterned poverty, the film features a wide array of historians, psychologists and sociologists who offer expert insight and share their own personal, unsettling stories.

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