



THE PALEY CENTER FOR MEDIA

THE PALEY CENTER FOR MEDIA CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Celebration to Include the Premiere of BET's *Madiba*, the Launch of a New Exhibit, Free Screenings, and Educational Events Dedicated to the African-American Experience

NEW YORK, NY—JANUARY 25, 2017 – The Paley Center for Media today announced a celebration of Black History Month that will highlight the achievements of African Americans in media with programming that includes the premiere of BET's *Madiba*, the launch of a new exhibit, free public screenings, and educational events. The celebration will take place at the Paley Center's New York City location.

"We're so proud to honor the rich diversity and amazing achievements of African Americans in media," said Maureen J. Reidy, President & CEO of The Paley Center for Media. "This celebration will offer visitors the opportunity to enjoy not only a wide array of events but also a chance to access the acclaimed African American collection from the Paley Center's archive."

The celebration kicks off with the premiere of BET's *Madiba*, the definitive three-part miniseries that tells the most personal and comprehensive story of Nelson Mandela's life, focusing on the man, and his innermost thoughts and fears as he fought and sacrificed for freedom to become an international icon. While many recognize Mandela as the face of the Anti-Apartheid Movement, this mini-series also pays homage to the many lesser known men and women who sacrificed and suffered alongside him in South Africa's quest for freedom. Following the screening of the premiere episode will be an intimate conversation with stars **Laurence Fishburne** ("Nelson Mandela"), and **Orlando Jones** ("Oliver Tambo"), director **Kevin Hooks** and moderated by Nekesa Moody, Global Entertainment and Lifestyle Editor for the *Associated Press*.

On February 1, the Paley Center will launch the *African-American Achievements in Television Experience*. This unique gallery experience - based on the Paley Center's African-American tribute evenings - features videos, photographs, and testimonials that shine a light on the contributions of African-American television talent that had a major impact on American society and culture. Visitors will see and hear television artists who made a major difference in advancing civil rights and diversity on television, including Oprah Winfrey, Lee Daniels, Kerry Washington, Gabrielle Union, and Cicely Tyson. Also featured are historic TV moments from *Julia*, *Soul Train*, *Roots*, *In Living Color*, *The Game*, *Scandal*, *Empire*, and many more programs. To complete the experience, visitors can walk a red carpet themselves and share pictures on social media with the hashtag #PaleyTribute.

As part of the Paley Center's continued commitment to education, families are invited to visit in February for screenings, activities, and workshops celebrating African-American history and pop culture. This includes a discussion with educators of the rarely viewed *CBS Reports: Who Speaks for Birmingham* where Black residents speak of the racial divide that surrounds them in the early 1960's. This program is recommended for children ages 14 and older and their parents and will take place on February 22 at 2:00 p.m. In addition the Paley center will host the *Civil Rights Movement and Television* workshop on Thursday, February 23 at 2:00 p.m. Recommended for children ages 13 + and their parents, participants

will view and discuss with Paley Center educators important television clips from the Paley Center's archive.

Families are also encouraged to attend screenings starting at 12:15 p.m. every Sunday throughout the month of February from the Paley Center's archive featuring African-American artists including *The Proud Family*, *The Muppet Show with Lena Horne* and *Sesame Street* and participate in craft activities that highlight the importance of diversity in the world and the work led by Martin Luther King Jr, towards a more equal society.

Rounding out the celebration will be special screenings feature notable African-American actors and storylines, especially selected by the Paley Center's curators. These free screenings are open to the public and will take place each Sunday during the month of February. Highlights include:

February 5 and 12:

ABC Novel for Television: Roots Episode 1
The Bernie Mac Show: Night of Terror
In Living Color: Season one, episode 13
Julia: Am I, Pardon the Expression, Blacklisted?
The Muppet Show: Hosted by Lena Horne
The Richard Pryor Show

February 19 and 26:

Hallmark Hall of Fame: The Piano Lesson
Justice League: Legends
The Oprah Winfrey Show: Malcom X
Paris: Dead Men Don't Kill
Sesame Street: Big Bird's Pen Pal
Teen Titans: Car Trouble

For a full schedule of events, hours, and location information, please visit paleycenter.org.

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About The Paley Center for Media

The Paley Center for Media, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with locations in New York and Los Angeles, leads the discussion about the cultural, creative, and social significance of television, radio, and emerging platforms for the professional community and media-interested public. Drawing upon its curatorial expertise, an international collection, and close relationships with the leaders of the media community, the Paley Center examines the intersections between media and society. The general public can access the collection and participate in programs that explore and celebrate the creativity, the innovations, the personalities, and the leaders who are shaping media. Through the global programs of its Media Council and International Council, the Paley Center also serves as a neutral setting where media professionals can engage in discussion and debate about the evolving media landscape. Previously known as The Museum of Television & Radio, the Paley Center was founded in 1975 by William S. Paley, a pioneering innovator in the industry. For more information, please visit paleycenter.org