

MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE LIVES OF ETHEL WATERS AND MALCOLM X EXPLORED IN SPECIAL BOOK AND SCREENING EVENTS AT MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE

Donald Bogle on Ethel Waters on May 21 and Melvin Van Peebles, Nelson George, and the Hon. Helen M. Marshall on Malcolm X on May 22

On the occasion of the publication of major new books on Ethel Waters and Malcolm X, the lives and careers of these two very different African-American pioneers will be explored in special programs at Museum of the Moving Image. On Saturday, May 21, 2011, Donald Bogle, the leading historian of African-American popular culture, will discuss his definitive, eye-opening new biography *Heat Wave: The Life and Career of Ethel Waters*, showing clips from her movies and introducing a screening of *The Member of the Wedding*, which features her strongest dramatic performance. On Sunday, May 22, the life and screen image of Malcolm X will be explored from different perspectives in a panel discussion featuring Queens Borough President Helen M. Marshall, a neighbor of Malcolm X when he lived in Queens; legendary filmmaker Melvin Van Peebles; and film critic Nelson George. The Malcolm X program was inspired by the publication of Manning Marable's ambitious—and posthumous—biography *Malcolm X: A Life of Reinvention* (Viking).

A Conversation with Donald Bogle and screening of *The Member of the Wedding* Saturday, May 21, 4:00 p.m.

Donald Bogle is the leading historian of African-American film and television, with books including *Toms, Coons, Mulattoes, Mammies, and Bucks: An Interpretive History of Blacks in American Films*; *Prime Time Blues: African Americans on Network Television*; and the best-selling *Dorothy Dandridge*. His latest biography, *Heat Wave: The Life and Career of Ethel Waters* (Harper Collins) traces the tumultuous twists and turns of Waters' seven-decade career, which took her from vaudeville and recorded music to the Broadway stage to movies and TV. The book is a riveting blend of social and personal history that sheds new light on one of America's brightest and most troubled stars. Bogle will discuss Waters' career and introduce a screening of *The Member of the Wedding*. The event will be followed by a book signing.

The Member of the Wedding

Dir. Fred Zinnemann. 1952. 91 mins. With Ethel Waters, Julie Harris. Based on the novel

by Carson McCullers. In her strongest film performance, Waters recreates her Broadway role as Berenice, the maid who befriends a young tomboy who is unhappy about her brother's wedding.

Malcolm X: Bigger Than the Screen

With Hon. Helen M. Marshall, president of the Borough of Queens; Nelson George; and Melvin Van Peebles in person. Moderated by Warrington Hudlin. Sunday, May 22, 2:00 p.m.

Revelations from Manning Marable's new book, *Malcolm X: A Life of Reinvention*, have generated much interest and discussion. The life of Malcolm X will be celebrated and explored at a two-part event organized by Museum of the Moving Image and the Malcolm X Museum, in association with the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture and the Hue Man Bookstore. At the Moving Image event, Nelson George will screen and discuss clips from films about Malcolm X, including the Spike Lee film starring Denzel Washington. George will discuss the challenges filmmakers faced in documenting and depicting Malcolm X on film and television. Preceding the talk will be remarks by Helen Marshall, president of the Borough of Queens, and neighbor of Malcolm X, who was a Queens resident during the last year of his life. The program concludes with a live interview with legendary filmmaker Melvin Van Peebles, who interviewed Malcolm X in Paris shortly before his assassination. Museum trustee Warrington Hudlin, founder of the Black Filmmaker Foundation, will moderate the program. For information about the first event, a panel discussion at the Schomburg Center on May 19 at 6:00 p.m., Malcolm X's birthday, call 212 491 2203.

Both books will be available for purchase in the Moving Image store.

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MUSEUM INFORMATION

Hours: Tuesday-Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Friday, 10:30 to 8:00 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, 10:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. (Closed on Monday except for holiday openings).

Film Screenings: See schedule above for schedule.

Museum Admission: \$10.00 for adults; \$7.50 for persons over 65 and for students with ID; \$5.00 for children ages 3-18. Children under 3 and Museum members are admitted free. Admission to the galleries is free on Fridays, 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. Paid admission includes film screenings (except for special ticketed events and Friday evenings). Tickets for special screenings and events may be purchased in advance by phone at 718.777.6800.

Location: 35 Avenue at 37 Street in Astoria.

Subway: R or M trains (R on weekends) to Steinway Street. N or Q trains to 36 Avenue.

Program Information: Telephone: 718.777.6888; Website: <http://movingimage.us>

The Museum is housed in a building owned by the City of New York and its operations are made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, the New York City Economic Development Corporation, the New York State Council on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the Natural Heritage Trust (administered by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation). The Museum also receives generous support from numerous corporations, foundations, and individuals. For more information, please visit <http://movingimage.us>.