



NOTABLE MINORITIES WHO CHANGED HISTORY

February 15, 2008

Featuring Denzel Washington

“I have a new respect for filmmakers, that’s for sure, ‘cause it’s not easy. If I’m allowed to, I’ll be directing for the rest of my life. I love the process.”

- A Denzel Washington Quote

The Gamut

Soft you day, be velvet soft,
My true love approaches,
Look you bright, you dusty sun,
Array your golden coaches.

Soft you wind, be soft as silk
My true love is speaking,
Hold you birds, your silver throats,
His golden voice I’m seeking.

Come you death, in haste, do come
My shroud of black be weaving,
Quiet my heart, be deathly quiet,
My true love is leaving.

Maya Angelou

February Dates to Remember:

- 2 - Groundhog Day
- 2 - Imbolc (Wiccan)
- 3 - Tu b'Shvat or Tu B'Shvat (Jewish, Israel)
- 4 - Rosa Parks Birth Anniversary
- 5 - Mexico - Constitution Day
- 12 - Abraham Lincoln's Birthday
- 12 - Lantern Festival (Taiwan)
- 12 - NAACP Founded
- 14 - Valentine's Day
- 14 - Race Relations Day
- 17 - Brazil, Carnival
- 17 - League of United Latin Citizens (LULAC) Founded American
- 18 - Chinese Lunar New Year (China, Korea, Taiwan, Vietnam)
- 19 - Orthodox Lent Begins
- 19 - President's Day
- 20 - Mardi Gras (United States)
- 21 - Ash Wednesday (Protestant, Roman Catholic)
- 22 - George Washington's Birthday
- 24 - Flag Day (Mexico)

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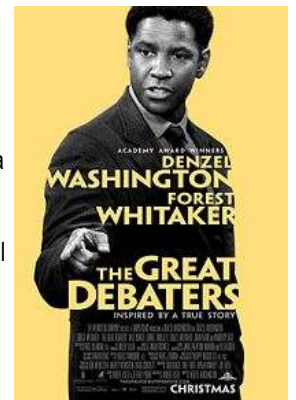
Denzel Washington

Denzel Washington (1954 -) Actor, Director

Denzel Washington was born on December 28, 1954, in Mt. Vernon, New York. His mother owned a beauty parlor and his father was a minister. He earned his B.A. in Drama and Journalism from Fordham University in 1977. He then went to San Francisco, American Conservatory Theatre for one year. He went on to make several movies such as; *Glory*, *Antwone Fisher*, *Remember the Titans*, *John Q*, *Training Day*, and *The Great Debaters*. He won the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor in 1989 for *Glory*, and he also won the Academy Award for Best Actor in 2001 for *Training Day*.

His most recent box office release is *The Great Debaters*. This movie marks Denzel's directorial debut and was produced by Oprah Winfrey's Harpo Productions. The movie is based on an article about the Wiley College Debate team by Tony Scherman written for *American Legacy* for its 1997 Spring issue. The screenplay was written by Suzan-Lori Parks and Robert Eisele. The movie was released on December 25, 2007.

The Great Debaters takes place in 1935 and follows the story of Professor Melvin Tolson (Denzel Washington), a brilliant but volatile debate team coach who uses the power of words to shape a group of underdog students from a small African American college in Texas into a historically elite debate team. A controversial figure, Professor Tolson challenged the social morals of the time and was under constant fire for his unconventional and ferocious teaching methods as well as his radical political views. In their pursuit for excellence, Tolson's debate team receives a groundbreaking invitation to debate Harvard University's championship team. The film also stars Forest Whitaker, Jumeo Smollett, Nate Parker, Denzel Whitaker, and Kimberly Elise.



Carrie Rickey of the *Philadelphia Inquirer* named it the 5th best film of 2007 and Roger Ebert of the *Chicago Sun-Times* named it the 9th best film of 2007. On December 19, 2007, Denzel announced that he was donating \$1 million to Wiley College to reform their debate team. The movie is scheduled to be released on DVD and Blue Ray April 29, 2008.

(Source: www.wikipedia.com and www.thegreatdebatersmovie.com)

Did You Know?

If you have not yet attended Movie Month sponsored by Access & Diversity it is not too late! We have 4 more showings celebrating Black History Month.

- Clement Room 110, February 20, 1-3PM, "The Pursuit of Happyness," featuring Will Smith
- Clement Room 118, February 22, 6-9PM, "Rosewood," featuring Ving Rhames and Jon Voight
- Clement Room 110, February 25, 1-3PM, "Claudine," featuring James Earl Jones and Diahann Carroll
- Clement Room 118, February 29, 6-9PM, "Ghosts of Mississippi," featuring Whoopi Goldberg