

MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RUBY DEE, BEN VEREEN, LOU GOSSETT, JR., LEVAR BURTON, S. EPATHA MERKERSON AMONG SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS IN MUSEUM SERIES 'CHANGING THE PICTURE'

Ruby Dee, S. Epatha Merkeron, and Barbara Montgomery participate in January 21 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day discussion program about African-American women in film and television; and Ben Vereen, Lou Gossett, Jr., LeVar Burton, and Leslie Uggams speak at "Making Roots, Making TV History" to celebrate Pioneers of Television

Astoria, New York, January 16, 2013—Museum of the Moving Image is pleased to announce two special programs in *Changing the Picture*, an ongoing series of screenings and discussions sponsored by Time Warner, Inc. The series celebrates and explores the work of film and television artists of color who are bringing diverse voices to the screen. On Monday, January 21, at 4:00 p.m., for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day holiday, the Museum will present "Tongues Untied, True Tales Told" featuring the legendary Ruby Dee, S. Epatha Merkeron (currently featured in Steven Spielberg's *Lincoln*), and Barbara Montgomery (who will screen excerpts from her new film *Mitote*), in a "town hall" discussion about the past, present, and future of African-American women in film and television.

On Monday, February 4, at 7:00 p.m. the Museum, in collaboration with the PBS series *Pioneers of Television*, will present "Making *Roots*, Making TV History," a discussion with Ben Vereen, Lou Gossett, Jr., LeVar Burton, and Leslie Uggams, stars of the landmark television miniseries. The discussion will be moderated by Donald Thoms, Vice President of Programming for PBS. *Roots*, the most groundbreaking miniseries of all time, was aired on BET just last month, in December 2012, and was seen by more than four million people, a record for a cable showing of the series.

"It has been a long, slow process for the American film and television industries to bring genuine diversity to their storytelling," said the Museum's Chief Curator, David Schwartz. "*Changing the Picture* celebrates the pioneering work of the directors, writers, and actors of color who have brought new stories to the screen."

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY PROGRAM

Tongues Untied, True Tales Told: African-American Women Changing the Picture in Film and Television

Screening and discussion with Ruby Dee, S. Epatha Merkerson, and Barbara Montgomery in person

Monday, January 21, 4:00 p.m.

(Please note: The Museum is open from 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on this day for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day holiday.)

Barbara Montgomery, a veteran actress-turned-director, will screen excerpts from her upcoming film *Mitote*, which shares the stories of three African-American women who live in New Mexico, circa 1900. Each has a story to tell, based on a unique historical incident. Following the screening will be a wide-ranging discussion with Barbara Montgomery and her featured cast members, S. Epatha Merkerson (*Law and Order, Lincoln*) and screen legend Ruby Dee, about the untold stories and missing representation of African-Americans. The discussion will be moderated by noted filmmaker and Museum trustee Warrington Hudlin.

Tickets are free with Museum admission and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis on the day of the program. Museum members may reserve tickets in advance.

Making *Roots*, Making TV History

A discussion with Ben Vereen, Lou Gossett, Jr., LeVar Burton, and Leslie Uggams, moderated by Donald Thoms

Monday, February 4, 7:00 p.m.

*Presented in collaboration with **Pioneers of Television**, the four-part PBS series which premiered on WNET/Thirteen January 15, 2013 at 8:00 p.m. The miniseries episode on *Roots* airs on February 5 at 8:00 p.m.*

The miniseries *Roots*, which aired in 1977, was one of the most influential and highest rated television events of all time; the final episode had an audience of more than 100 million. Thirty-five years later, *Roots* still resonates within popular culture, having changed forever the way that African-Americans were depicted on television, and having a strong impact on the nation's collective guilt about slavery, an issue that is strongly present in popular culture today, with the heated discussion around the films *Lincoln* and *Django Unchained*. Four of the stars of the series, Ben Vereen, Lou Gossett, Jr., LeVar Burton, and Leslie Uggams, will participate in a discussion about the show's production and its long-lasting legacy. The moderator is Donald Thoms, Vice President of Programming, PBS. This program is being presented in collaboration with the PBS series *Pioneers of Television* and excerpts from *Roots*, will be shown. The miniseries episode airs on February 5 on PBS.

Tickets: \$15 public / \$9 Museum members / free for Silver Screen members and above. Order [online](#) or call 718 777 6800 to reserve tickets.

About *Changing the Picture*, sponsored by Time Warner, Inc.

This ongoing series celebrates and explores the work of film and television artists of color who are bringing diverse voices to the screen. The series, which consists of screenings and discussions with directors, writers, actors, scholars, and more,

includes contemporary work as well as historically significant work that has played an important role in the evolving attempt to “change the picture” and bring a wider variety of voices and visions to the moving image. Past programs in *Changing the Picture* include a preview screening of *Man with the Iron Fists* and discussion with director RZA; screening of *Middle of Nowhere* with director Ava DuVernay in person; and the panel discussion, *The Outsider in Science Fiction: African American and Latino Perspectives*, featuring Walter Mosley, Sam Delany, Alex Rivera, Lawrence Oliver Cheery, and Lola Salvador.

About Museum of the Moving Image

Museum of the Moving Image (<http://movingimage.us>) advances the understanding, enjoyment, and appreciation of the art, history, technique, and technology of film, television, and digital media. In January 2011, the Museum reopened after a major expansion and renovation that nearly doubled its size. Accessible, innovative, and forward-looking, the Museum presents exhibitions, education programs, significant moving-image works, and interpretive programs, and maintains a collection of moving-image related artifacts.

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MUSEUM INFO

Hours: Wednesday-Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Friday, 10:30 to 8:00 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, 11:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Closed Monday and Tuesday except for select holiday openings and special programs. Museum open on Monday, January 21 (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day).

Film Screenings: Friday evenings, Saturdays and Sundays, and as scheduled. Unless otherwise noted, screenings are included with Museum admission.

Museum Admission: \$12.00 for adults (18+); \$9.00 for senior citizens and for students (13+) with ID; \$6.00 for children ages 3-12. Children under 3 and Museum members are admitted free. Admission to the galleries is free on Fridays, 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. Tickets for special screenings and events may be purchased in advance by phone at 718 777 6800 or online.

Location: 36-01 35 Avenue (at 37 Street) in Astoria.

Subway: M (weekdays only) or R to Steinway Street. Q (weekdays only) or N to 36 Avenue.

Program Information: Telephone: 718 777 6888; Website: movingimage.us

Membership: 718 777 6877, members@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 movingimage.us.

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