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**STG in association with LANGSTON
presents**

**Silent Movie Mondays:
*Pioneers of African American Cinema***

Three-week celebration of silent film to include:

The Scar of Shame (1927)

Body and Soul (1925)

Within Our Gates (1920)

**October 7, 14, and 21, 2019
The Paramount Theatre**

(Seattle, WA) - STG, in association with LANGSTON, proudly presents its **Silent Movie Mondays: *Pioneers of African American Cinema Series***, highlighting influential and innovative African American artists from the silent era. The series opens on October 7 with *The Scar of Shame*, a rare surviving example of what the film industry once labeled "race movies," defined as a film featuring an African American cast intended for African American audiences. Next up is *Body and Soul* on October 14, directed by Oscar Micheaux and starring Paul Robeson in his first film role. Rounding out the series is Oscar Micheaux's *Within Our Gates*, which is the earliest surviving feature film directed by an African American. All screenings will take place at 7pm, with scores created and performed by Tedde Gibson on the Might Wurlitzer organ, and followed by a CineClub post-screening discussion in the Paramount Lobby Bar.

About the Films

***The Scar of Shame* (1927)**, directed by Frank Perugini, tells the story of a young woman who escapes from her abusive father and is rescued by an aspiring composer, only to encounter opposition from his class-conscious mother. The film, a collaboration between races, was produced by Colored Players Film Corporation out of Philadelphia. There will be an introduction and post-screening CineClub discussion hosted by Andrea Stuart-Lehalle, Consulting Producer for LANGSTON's Seattle Black Film Festival.

***Body and Soul* (1925)** is written, produced, and directed by Oscar Micheaux and stars Paul Robeson in his first film role. Robeson plays twin brothers--one a badly behaved minister and the other an ordinary working man--both vying for the affection of a young woman who is trying to abide by the misguided wishes of her devout mother. There will be an introduction and post-screening CineClub discussion hosted by Zola Mumford, Curator for LANGSTON's Seattle Black Film Festival.

***Within Our Gates* (1920)** is written, produced, and directed by Oscar Micheaux and is the earliest surviving feature film by an African American director. Micheaux made this groundbreaking film as a bold response to D.W. Griffith's controversial film *Birth of a*

Nation. The story involves an idealistic young woman who attempts to raise money for an elementary school to serve the Black community. The film touches upon themes that recur throughout the filmmaker's career such as the promise of rural life versus the corruptive influence of the city, and the use of religion as a means of misleading the Black community. The film is included in the Library of Congress National Film Registry as a significant film in the history of African American cinema. There will be an introduction and post-screening CineClub discussion hosted by Vivian Phillips, Arts & Cultural Instigator/Consultant.

STG's **Silent Movie Mondays** honor the history of The Paramount Theatre, from when it opened its doors on March 1, 1928 with the feature film *Feel My Pulse* starring Bebe Daniels and William Powell. Each season, Seattle Theatre Group presents silent films accompanied by organists on the Mighty Wurlitzer, original to the theatre, or new music commissions performed by live ensembles. These iconic films look back at the past and often inform the present. The art of cinema is embraced by introductions and CineClub post-film discussions led by regional and national film professionals.

About the Organist

Tedde Gibson started playing the piano at age four. He is one of a few musicians able to play not only classical and theatre pipe organ, but also jazz and gospel organ on the Hammond and piano, and integrates these styles into his playing of the Mighty Wurlitzer organ. A native of Tacoma, Tedde studied pipe organ with the late Dr. Edward Hansen, president of the American Guild of Organists and organ professor at the University of Puget Sound; David Dahl, organist emeritus of Pacific Lutheran; Dr. J. Melvin Butler of the University of Washington and St. Marks Cathedral; and while attending UW, with Dr. Carol Terry. Tedde has also coached with international theatre organist Jonas Nordwall of Portland and the late Andy Crow of Olympia. Since moving to the DC area in 2003, he has studied classical organ with Dr. Mickey Thomas Terry, editor of the 7+ volume anthology of organ works by African American composers. Tedde also studied organ performance at The Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. In the DC area he is organist/musician-in-residence at First Baptist Church of Highland Park; organist at Capitol Hill Seventh-Day Adventist Church and Holy Comforter-St. Cyprian Roman Catholic Church and teaches music at Highland Park Christian Academy. Tedde is on the board of directors for the American Theatre Organ Society and has been accompanying films for Silent Movie Mondays since 2015.

Ticket Information

Tickets to each screening are \$10 (not including applicable fees). A three-night package to view all screenings is \$30 (not including applicable fees). For more information, including how to purchase tickets, go to stgpresents.org/smm.

ABOUT LANGSTON

LANGSTON is a 501(c)(3) non-profit arts organization, established in 2016 to lead programming within the historic Langston Hughes Performing Arts Institute. Its mission is to strengthen and advance community through Black arts and culture. Its vision is to cultivate Black brilliance. LANGSTON guides generative programs and community partnerships that center Black art, artists and audiences that honor the ongoing legacy of Seattle's Black Central Area. This reflects community recommendations from a three-year stakeholder engagement process led by the Seattle Office of Arts & Culture. Community partnerships are at the center of LANGSTON programming. LANGSTON supports a variety of enriching programs that expand its mission and values. For more information, visit www.langstonseattle.org.

ABOUT SEATTLE THEATRE GROUP (STG)

SEATTLE THEATRE GROUP's (STG) mission is to make diverse performing arts and education an integral part of the region's cultural identity while keeping three historic venues, The Paramount, Moore and Neptune, alive and vibrant. STG presents a range of performances from Broadway, off-Broadway, dance and jazz, to comedy, concerts of all genres, speakers and family shows - at these three iconic theatres in Seattle and venues throughout the Puget Sound region and in Portland, Oregon. For more information visit stgpresent.org.

STG Education and Community Programs extend beyond the Paramount, Moore and Neptune Theatre stages and into the lives of the greater Seattle community. Each season, STG offers over 260 education programs impacting over 55,000 students and community members from diverse ages and backgrounds. These programs deepen significance to performances through opportunities to engage with artists, inspire youth and local artists through training and performance opportunities, and provide exposure to the arts through access initiatives. For more information visit stgpresents.org/education.

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