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Cincinnati saxophonist Bruce Menefield will lead a post-film discussion and live jazz set.

'Black Magic' comes to Mt. Lookout

By Lisa Wakeland

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Rare performances from jazz stars Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald, Nat King Cole and others will come to life for three days in Mt. Lookout.

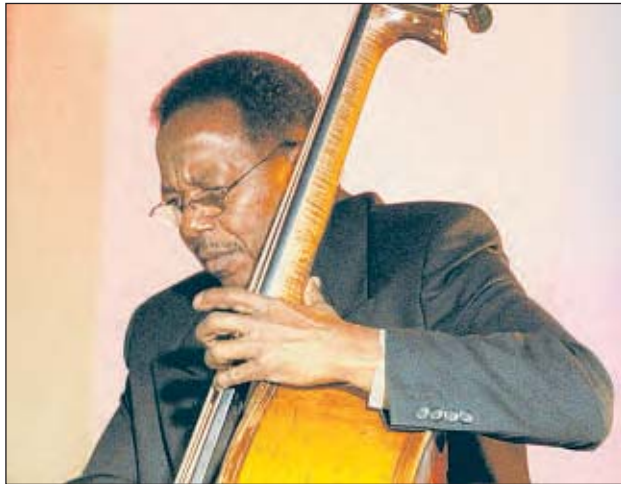
Cincinnati World Cinema is presenting "That Old Black Magic" at The Redmoor to honor jazz heritage with a historical perspective.

Executive Director Tim Swallow said the performances from the late 1950s and early 1960s were part of an accidental discovery at producer Norman Sedawie's Toronto home.

They were part of 18 cans of lost recordings from the Canadian Broadcasting Co.

"Because of segregationist policies, (we) found that black artists of the day would get cameos on variety show segments, but that was the extent of their participation in American television," Swallow said.

The show in Mt. Lookout will be one of the first time these performances will be seen in the United States, Swallow said.



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Bassist Eddie Brookshire will join Bruce Menefield and Brenda Flowers for a live performance.

After each screening, Cincinnati jazz saxophonist Bruce Menefield will share a historical perspective with the audience and lead a set of period songs as a tribute to the film's featured artists.

Swallow said he hopes the audience will gain an appreciation of the music and the artists while learning about cultural heritage.

"It really ties to the mission of Cincinnati World Cinema ... to present films that celebrate cultural diversity and deal with the human condition, that entertain but also inform,"

he said.

The screening on Sunday, Feb. 22, also includes a buffet reception, cash bar and performance by Menefield, vocalist Brenda Flowers and bassist Eddie Brookshire.

The screenings on Tuesday, Feb. 24, and Wednesday, Feb. 25, will feature a cash bar, post-film discussion and live set by Menefield and keyboardist Erwin Stucky.

Proceeds from the event benefit the Phi Psi Omega scholarship fund for college-bound students in the Cincinnati area.

If you go

- What: "That Old Black Magic" premiere.
 - When: 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 22; 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 24, and Wednesday, Feb. 25.
 - Where: The Redmoor, 3187 Linwood Ave., Mt. Lookout
 - Tickets: \$20 advance or \$25 at door for Feb. 22; \$10 advance or \$12 at the door for Feb. 24 and Feb. 25.
- Tickets available at www.cincyworldcinema.org or from Phi Psi Omega, 588-4535.
- Details: Call 859-781-8151.

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