



**PBS
45 & 49**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BLACK HISTORY MONTH PROGRAMMING AIRS ON PBS 45 & 49 *Offerings Include Locally Produced Film About Samuel Harrison*

KENT, Ohio — JAN. 25, 2005 – PBS 45 & 49 celebrates Black History Month in February with programming that emphasizes the resilience of the African-American spirit. Presented here is the month's black history programming, with shows airing for the first time marked with an asterisk (*).

Tuesday, February 1, 9 p.m.

Whispers of Angels: A Story of the Underground Railroad

Defiant, brave and free, the great abolitionists Thomas Garrett, William Still and Harriet Tubman, along with hundreds of lesser known and nameless opponents of slavery, formed a corridor of courage stretching from Maryland's eastern shore through the length of Delaware to Philadelphia and beyond — making the Underground Railroad a real route to freedom for enslaved Americans before the Civil War.

Monday, February 7, 9 p.m.

***American Experience, Building the Alaska Highway**

This is the story of nearly 11,000 Army engineers who battled incredible obstacles to blaze a 1,500-mile road through one of the harshest landscapes in North America. At a time when the American military operated under forced segregation, three of the seven regiments sent to the North were black troops who made exceptional contributions to the highway's completion.



Wednesdays, February 9 and 16, 9 p.m.

***Slavery and the Making of America**

The groundbreaking series of four films chronicles the institution of American slavery from its origins in 1619 — when English settlers in Virginia purchased 20 Africans from Dutch traders — through the arrival of the first 11 slaves in New Amsterdam, the American Revolution, the Civil War, the adoption of the 13th Amendment and Reconstruction.

Monday, February 21, 9 p.m.

American Experience, Malcolm X: Make It Plain

This compelling story about Malcolm X's is told through the memories of people who had close personal and working relationships with him. Included is extensive archival footage of Malcolm X, speaking in his own words at meetings and rallies, and in media interviews.

Monday, February 28, 9 p.m.

***A Trumpet at the Walls of Jericho: The Untold Story of Samuel Harrison**

Samuel Harrison was a man who fought prejudice, slavery, civil war and numerous circumstances beyond his control in the 1800s. The film, a production of Aurora resident Mike Kirk, was partially recorded at Western Reserve Academy in Hudson. Actors Ossie Davis, Keith David, Mario Van Peebles and Wynton Marsalis participated in the filming. Eric Lewis created the musical score.

PBS 45 & 49 is owned and operated by Northeastern Educational Television of Ohio, Inc., a private, nonprofit corporation. A trusted community resource, PBS 45 & 49 uses the power of non-commercial television and related services to enrich the lives of people through high-quality programming and educational services that teach, illuminate and inspire.

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Photo caption:

SLAVERY AND THE MAKING OF AMERICA

Enslaved field workers from Virginia's Shadwell Plantation, also the birthplace of Thomas Jefferson, walk to work in this scene from **Slavery and the Making of America**, which airs on Wednesday, Feb. 9 at 9 p.m. (Parts 1 and 2) and Wednesday, Feb. 16 at 9 p.m. (Parts 3 and 4) on PBS 45 & 49. Photo credit: Jeremy Lock.