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# Life of Paul Robeson Featured in Show at USF St. Petersburg

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ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (February 8, 2012) – Actor/writer/comedian Stogie Kenyatta will perform “The World is My Home, The Life of Paul Robeson” at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg (USFSP) on Tuesday, February 14 starting at 6:00pm.

This engaging one-man show is part of Kenyatta’s personal quest to introduce young people to Paul Robeson. The legendary Robeson gained wide fame in the 20th century as a concert singer and recording artist, stage and film actor, athlete, scholar and civil rights activist.

Kenyatta wrote the show to honor Robeson, who spent his life striving to unite people through his widely acknowledged and diverse talents. At Rutgers University, Robeson was not only valedictorian of his class, but also an All-American football player. Additionally, he played professional football while attending Columbia Law School.

During World War II, Robeson said that “nations go to war” but “arts and culture unite us.” In 1930, Robeson was the first black actor to portray Shakespeare’s Othello in an all-white cast. His rendition of “Ol’ Man River” in the musical Show Boat remains the standard for the performance of that song.

Known as a “world citizen,” Robeson consistently fought for civil rights in the U.S., spoke out against the Holocaust, visited Warsaw ghettos in Poland, and co-founded the Organization of African Unity with W.E.B. Dubois. The consummate 20th century Renaissance man, Robeson died at 77 in 1976.

Kenyatta’s portrayal of Robeson has been the top solo multiculturalism show on the American Educational Speaker Circuit and an audience favorite in dealing with the topics of tolerance, diversity and social justice – all hallmarks of Robeson’s life.

Classically trained, Kenyatta attended the University of California and also studied at the Studio Museum in Harlem, the Henry Street Settlement and the Al Fann Theatrical Ensemble. Jamaican born and Brooklyn raised, Kenyatta has an extensive background in performance with over 30 television credits as well as many appearances as a stand up comedian.

His current Los Angeles-based show about Paul Robeson has been performed at hundreds of locations around the world, including U.S Embassies, universities, museums and festivals.

The USF St. Petersburg presentation is sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs as part of the university's annual celebration of Black History Month. It is free and open to the public at USFSP's Harbor Hall (the former Dali Museum building), located at 1000 3rd Street S. in St. Petersburg.

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