



PRESS RELEASE: Ferris Hosts Award-Winning Shows to Mark Women's History Month

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Here is a press release about a Women's History Month events at Ferris State University. Questions can be addressed to Sandy Gholston, News Services and Social Media Manager, at (231) 591-2021 or sandygholston@ferris.edu.



Women's History Month.docx

Read the release online here: <http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/news/archive/2013/february/history.htm>

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Ferris Hosts Award-Winning Shows to Mark Women's History Month

BIG RAPIDS – Ferris State University is celebrating Women's History Month by offering award-winning productions and presenting actual awards.

The celebration, coordinated by the university's Office of Multicultural Student Services, will feature the award-winning show "Macho Men and the Women Who Love Them" at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 19 in Williams Auditorium. Maria Costa, an actress and comedian who co-wrote, co-produced and directs the production, will portray a colorful array of characters as she breaks down cultural barriers on a journey to self-discovery.

Ferris' Women's History Month celebration also includes an annual performance of Eve Ensler's award-winning play "The Vagina Monologues," the "A Tribute to Women" award show and a screening of a powerful documentary about the underrepresentation of the power of women in the workforce.

"Some groups in America have often gone unrecognized," said Michael Wade, assistant director for OMSS. "Celebrations such as Women's History Month provide opportunities to stop that trend and to start a more progressive and positive perspective on such groups."

The celebration kicks off Friday, March 1 with the 10th performance by Ferris students of "The Vagina Monologues." Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for the 7 p.m. performance in Williams Auditorium. Tickets are \$10, \$5 for students with ID, available at the door (the first 30 students will be admitted free, courtesy of OMSS). All proceeds from the event go to Women's Information Services, Inc. in Big Rapids, a shelter that provides support to domestic violence victims. For more information, visit "Ferris Vagina Monologues 2013" on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Ferris-Vagina-Monologues-2013/410191962398372>)

"A Tribute to Women," at 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 5 in the Rankin Student Center Dome Room, is an annual awards show that features presentations by Ferris students and organizations about influential women in history. In addition, OMSS will recognize Ferris students for their outstanding achievements on

campus.

The following awards will be presented:

- **Progressive Woman Award** – This award is presented to a student who has displayed a commitment to and assisted with the creation and implementation of a particular program or issue of special relevance to women to improve the quality of life for women.
- **Professional Woman Award** – This award is presented to a woman who continues to personify and distinguish herself by displaying and promoting outstanding professionalism.
- **Academic Achievement Award** – This honor is awarded to a woman who has shown notable growth and achievement relative to academics (current cumulative and past semester grade point averages are used to measure such accomplishment).
- **Philanthropy and Community Service Award** – This honor is awarded to a woman who has displayed commitment, passion and support of causes for the community and community-based organizations.
- **Women Organization of Excellence Award** – This award is presented to a woman-based organization that epitomizes leadership, scholarship, service and a commitment to diversity on campus.

The celebration continues with its featured presentation by Costa, an Alma Award-nominated actress who starred on ABC's "Ugly Betty" and "Dangerous Minds," "Universal Remote" on Showtime and Bravo's "The It Factor L.A." The Detroit native also has appeared in numerous films and stage productions.

"Maria Costa is funny, entertaining and realistic," Wade said. "It is an entertaining show that students can enjoy and learn more about roles women play in today's society."

Due to mature language and topics, the show is recommended for mature audiences. A video clip from the show is available here: <http://www.mariacosta.com/index.html>.

The final event of the month will be the Tuesday, March 26 screening of "Miss Representation," a 90-minute documentary by Jennifer Newsom that premiered at the 2011 Sundance Film Festival and aired on the Oprah Winfrey Network. The documentary explores how media contribute to under-representation of women in positions of power in America. It includes stories from teenage girls and interviews with former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, actress Rosario Dawson and activist Gloria Steinem.

"I see this as a very important and inspirational film for collegiate women to see," said Kaylee Moreno, a Social Work major and a member of the Women's History Month planning committee. "We are in a critical position to be leaders in our professions, so we need to support each other to encourage media to positively display women for more than sexual objects and value us for our thoughts."

There are two opportunities to watch the documentary: 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. in Interdisciplinary Resource Center, Room 120. Watch the trailer here: <http://www.missrepresentation.org/the-film/>.

All Women's History Month events are free (excluding "The Vagina Monologues") and open to the public. For more information, call (231) 591-2617 or visit <http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/studentlife/Minority/>.

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