

MUSICAL CHRONICLING LIFE OF BETTY REID SOSKIN SET FOR BAY AREA DEBUT

Posted on February 24, 2024 by OAKLAND POST

Betty Reid Soskin's storied 102 years includes time spent as a WWII defense worker, activist, business owner, songwriter, National Park Service park ranger and so much more. Now the Richmond icon is the subject of a musical based on her incredible life. The post Musical Chronicling Life of Betty Reid Soskin Set for Bay Area Debut first appeared on Post News Group.

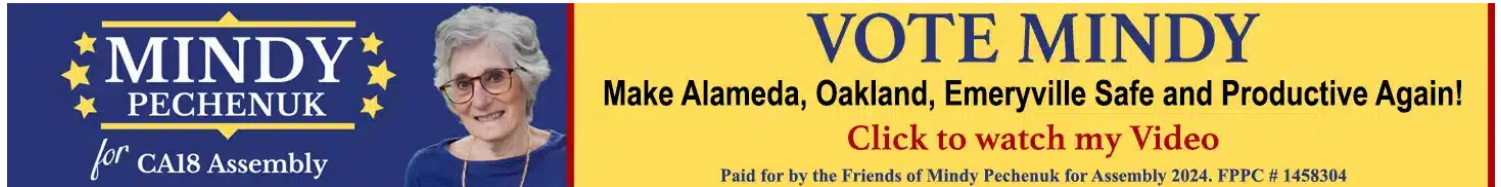
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Special to The Post

What would happen if police officers who have gotten off for killing unarmed Black people started turning up dead?



BLACK MEN EVERYWHERE! is the explosive new one man play written, directed, and performed by Jinho "Piper" Ferreira. Set against the backdrop of a presidential election, the play explores how political and cultural leaders wield the myth of the dangerous Black man to manipulate the masses for personal gain.

Piper penned the follow-up to his ground-breaking solo play, "Cops and Robbers," after an impromptu cross-country Black history tour.

"My wife and I had been talking about it for years," Ferreira said. They had taken their three children to Brazil several times and West Africa but had yet to explore their history as Black people in this country. "It was Juneteenth last year and I realized we had a few weeks to make it happen, so we just jumped in the car and left" Piper said.

Three weeks later the family had seen everything from the African American Museum of History and Culture in Wash., D.C., to the phenomenally preserved Whitney Plantation in Louisiana. They'd stood outside of the balcony of the Lorraine Hotel where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in Memphis, Tenn., walked across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Ala., and paid their respects at the Africa Town cemetery – where the passengers of the Clotilda (the last known U.S. slave ship to smuggle captured Africans into this country) were buried near Mobile, Ala.

"We had the kids keep a journal of the trip and my wife and I took notes, but once we got back home, I knew I had to make the pen move," he said.

Ferreira plays 21 characters in the 60-minute emotional roller coaster ride; personalities we all know. While brilliantly weaving in themes of revolution, treachery, and revenge, "Black Men Everywhere!" is surprisingly — more than anything else — a love story.

"I wrote the play for Black men and everyone who loves us," Ferreira said. "The play is narrated by a sistah and performed in front of the deeply spiritual artwork of Nedra T. Williams, an Oakland priestess of Olokun. It's called 'Black Men Everywhere!' but we don't exist without the Black woman."

For tickets, please go to: <http://tinyurl.com/5dm3mhra>



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