



Winter 2-5-2003

Entertainer Debbie Allen to Speak at Illinois Wesleyan's Soul Food Dinner

Sherry Wallace
Illinois Wesleyan University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news>

Recommended Citation

Wallace, Sherry, "Entertainer Debbie Allen to Speak at Illinois Wesleyan's Soul Food Dinner" (2003). *News and Events*. 5458.
<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news/5458>

This Article is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/ or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

Feb. 5, 2003

Contact: Sherry Wallace (309) 556-3181*In Celebration of Black History Month***Entertainer Debbie Allen to Speak at Illinois Wesleyan's Soul Food Dinner**

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.—In honor of Black History Month, Debbie Allen, actress, director, dancer, choreographer, and producer, will be the keynote speaker at Illinois Wesleyan University's annual Soul Food Dinner on Feb. 23 at 5 p.m. in the Shirk Performance Gym, 302 Emerson St., Bloomington.

Dinner will be served at 5 p.m., and Allen will be available to the media at 5:30 p.m. in the North Classroom of the Shirk Center. The program, which includes music, dancing, and poetry, will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets, which will go on sale Feb. 10, are \$5 for students, faculty, and staff and their families for the dinner and speech, and for those only attending the speech, tickets are free of charge. There will be a \$10 cost for the general public attending the dinner and speech and a \$5 cost for the speaker's presentation only. To purchase or reserve tickets, call (309) 556-2663 and leave your name, telephone number, whether you will attend the dinner, speaker, or both, and the number of tickets you would like to purchase. Tickets also will be available at the door.

Sponsored by the Issues and Programming Commission of Illinois Wesleyan's Student Senate, the Soul Food Dinner is one of several scheduled events taking place during Black History Month.

Allen, considered by the entertainment industry to be one of the most respected and versatile entertainers of today, has had a very diverse and successful career.

Allen has appeared in several Broadway musicals, including *Guys and Dolls*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, and *Sweet Charity* (revival, 1986), *West Side Story* (revival, 1980), and *Purlie* (1972). Allen was also the choreographer for the Broadway musical *Carrie* (1998), the television series *Fame* (1982-87), and the Academy Awards (1991-94).

Dubbed "Miss Versatile" by her high school class, Allen also directed the television series *A Different World* (1988-92) as well as episodes of *Family Ties* and *Fame*, pilot and first

episode of *Fresh Prince of Bel Air* (1990), and the made-for-television movie *Stompin' at the Savoy* (1992). She has appeared in numerous films, including *Fame* (1980) and *Jo Jo Dancer, Your Life is Calling*, with actor/comedian Richard Pryor. Her latest film work was the DreamWorks production *Amistad* (1997), which she co-produced.

Other events scheduled for the celebration include:

- Monday, Feb. 3, Black History Game Show, sponsored by Delta Sigma Theta, 7 p.m., Multicultural Center, 1405 Park St., Bloomington
- Wednesday, Feb. 5, Black History Month Chapel, Dr. Peter Nash, 11 a.m., Evelyn Chapel, 1301 Park St., Bloomington
- Friday, Feb. 7, Darryl Morris, acoustic guitarist, 8 p.m., Hansen Student Center, 300 Beecher St., Bloomington
- Saturday, Feb. 8, Titan Film Series, *Barbershop*, 8 p.m. and 11 p.m., Hansen Student Center
- Wednesday, Feb. 12, Founders' Day Convocation, Dr. William Julius Wilson, "The Growing Pressure for Policy Relevant Scholarship," 11 a.m., Westbrook Auditorium, Presser Hall, 1210 Park St., Bloomington
- Thursday, Feb. 13, Black Student Union Meeting, 8 p.m., Multicultural Center
- Sunday, Feb. 16, movie, *The Language You Cry In*, Introduction by Professor Paul Bushnell, 7 p.m., Beckman Auditorium of The Ames Library, 1 Ames Plaza, Bloomington
- Tuesday, Feb. 18, movie, *Fame*, 7:30 p.m., Beckman Auditorium
- Thursday., Feb. 20, Higher Learning Book Club Discussion, "The Miseducation of the Negro," by Carter G. Woodson, 8 p.m., Hansen Student Center
- Friday, Feb. 21, Harlem Nite, 8 p.m., Hansen Student Center
- Saturday, Feb. 22, Harlem Lyricist Cypha, 10 p.m., Underground, Memorial Center
- Wednesday, Feb. 26, Chapel: A Festival of African-American Music, 11 a.m., Evelyn Chapel
- Thursday, Feb. 27, Black Student Union Meeting, 8 p.m., Multicultural Center
- Friday, Feb. 28, Minority Alumni Network, Black History Month Celebration, 6 p.m., Harambee House, Chicago

For additional information, please contact the Office of Multicultural Affairs at 556-3412.