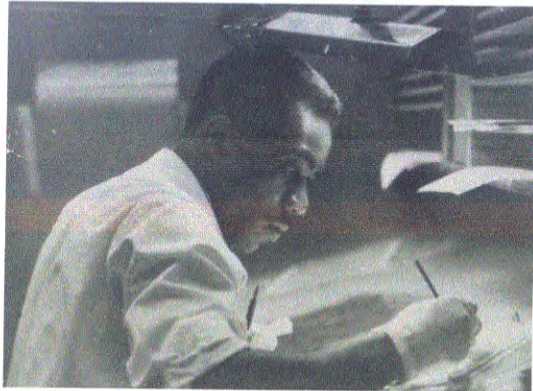


PROGRAM



Welcome

Deirdre Lynn Hollman, Director of the Junior Scholars Program

Introduction of Tee Collins and Donation of the Archives

Dr. Barbara Collins

Acknowledgement

Diana Lachatanere, Assistant Director for Collections & Services

Video Screening

Select clips of work by Tee Collins

Panel Discussion - *Current Trends and Careers in Animation*

Willie Moore and Tewodross Melchishua

Youth Animation Activity

Closing Remarks

A MESSAGE

Dear Barbara and Family,

Congratulations on this milestone of making your father's life work a part of the historical record. The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in New York is a fitting repository for his work as an independent animator of children's programming. Many may not know that he was the first animator on Sesame Street and the creator of "Wanda the Witch" on that most beloved children's show.

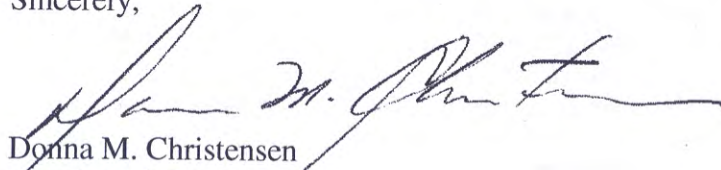
His life and works are inspirational for a whole new generation of aspiring filmmakers who can look to his work as the producer and designer of more than 50 animated films for ad agencies and other international artists. In fact in his lifetime he reached out to young artists with a training program.

This surely is the inspiration for your donation of his archives to the Junior Scholars program, where it can continue to be a beacon for those who hope to attain his level of achievement.

He obviously loved the Schomburg Center, as he asked you to host his tribute there in 1998. He will rest well knowing that his work has found a home there.

On behalf of my family, staff and the 112th Congress, I congratulate you and your family on this auspicious occasion.

Sincerely,



Donna M. Christensen
Member of Congress

Celebrating the Legacy of African-American Animator Tee Collins

PANELISTS

Tewodross Melchishua (pronounced Tee-oh-droze Mell-keshu-ah) is a filmmaker, animator, visual artist, educator and curator. His animation, art and films have been shown to audiences nationally and internationally. He has also been a featured speaker and consultant on several workshops, panels and television programs discussing issues and topics such as digital art & multimedia, design, animation, filmmaking and the cultural and historical aesthetics of the moving image, technology and African Americans in animation. He too was truly inspired and influenced by the great legacy and contributions of acclaimed animator, producer, mentor and educator Elmore Theodore "Tee" Collins. Tewodross or "Tee" as he affectionately called, received his BA in Art/Photographic Media from Morgan State University, and an MFA in Imaging & Digital Arts from UMBC. He has taught animation and motion graphics at Howard University and Prince George's Community College. Currently he serves as an associate professor and program coordinator of visual communication and digital media arts program (VCDMA) at Bowie State University, where he also teaches courses in animation, cinematography, new media, hip-hop studies and contemporary (underground) art/design. He resides in the Washington, DC metropolitan area with his wife and son.

Professor Willie Moore is currently a full-time Professor of Media Arts and Animation Department at the Art Institute of Philadelphia in Pennsylvania. He has taught Radio, Television, Film, and Animation at Howard University as an Assistant Professor. Mr. Moore is an independent animator whose animated shorts have gathered numerous awards such as "The Golden Eagle", "Charlotte Film Festival", "The Paul Roberson Award", and "The Rose Bud Award." His drug prevention animated films have been recommended by numerous organizations such as The National Clearing House for Alcohol and Drug Information, The Division of Alcohol and Drug Education Services, The School Library Journal, and The Children's Welfare League of American Magazines. His animated works include "Melanin Man," "A Cartoon Animated Obama," "The Intimi-Dre-Tion Of A Bully Situation," "Ghana Folktale Jamm", "Fight to Be Straight", "So Stay in Good Health", "Listen To What I'm Drawing", and "Bouncing the Ball Professor Moore is a graduate in Art Education (BFA) and a Film Animation (MFA) from the University of Cincinnati where he was a scholar athlete. He completed a fully animated feature film titled, "The Bully Situation" which was released by March of 2008. Professor Moore brings to you over twenty-five years of film, video, and animation experience and sixteen years of teaching in the Graphic Arts division.



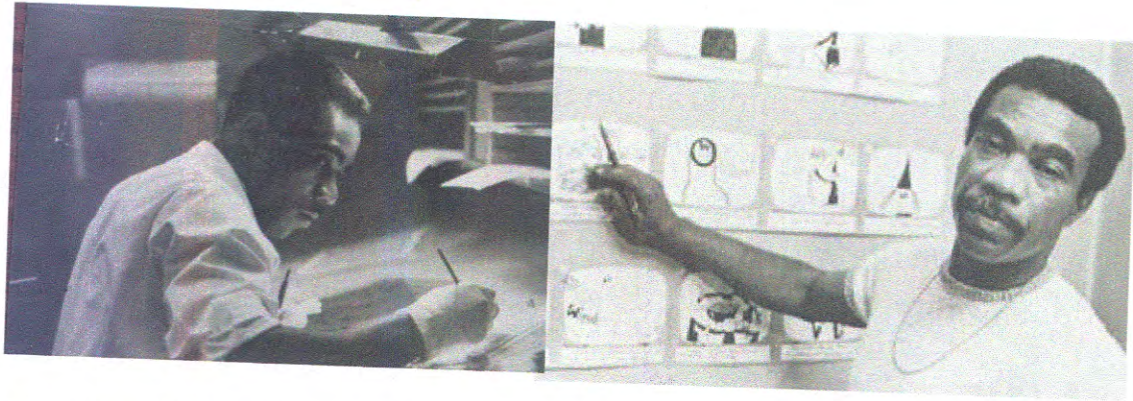
Celebrating the Legacy of African-American Animator Tee Collins



Saturday, March 10, 2012

1pm – 3pm

**The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture
The New York Public Library
515 Malcolm X Boulevard
Harlem, New York 10037-1801**



Tee Collins - 40 Years in Animation and Film

By Dr. Barbara Collins

Everyone will remember the way “Wanda” washed her wig on windy Wednesdays; but few will ever know the man behind the witch. It’s not often in history when one man paves the way for change. But when it happens, someone has to tell the story. Tee Collins, may not be a name easily recognized, but his work taught children growing up watching Sesame Street.

Elmore “Tee” Collins was one of the first African American Animators on Sesame Street. In 1968, he was the creator of the Sesame Street character, “Wanda the Witch”, the pilot for Sesame Street. This character was referred to in Malcolm Gladwell’s book, “The Tipping Point.” “Wanda the Witch” is archived in the Los Angeles Museum of Film and Television.

Tee Collins was a distinguished independent animator of children’s programming and a professor in the University of Central Florida, film department, in Orlando, Florida. He was responsible for producing and designing more than 50 animated films for ad agencies, Sesame Street and other international clients. His company also initiated a training program for young artists, several of whom have since become successful Hollywood animators.

Growing up in Harlem, Tee Collins always remembered his roots. But the road from Harlem to Sesame Street wasn’t as easy as Collins made it look. Tee said, “Growing up in Harlem was like.....” “I wanted to break the mold.” Tee Collins was more than an artist. A love for basketball also consumed his life. The

sport became so important; he left the High School of Music and Art in Manhattan to attend Benjamin Franklin High School, in Harlem, to prove himself in basketball. Playing on the basket ball team in high school, Collins received a college scholarship to (LIU) Long Island University. At LIU, Collins was a freshman on the varsity team and highlighted his career by scoring a tremendous twenty three-point, in 19-43 against Toledo University.

Although it seemed Tee Collins, the animator, was gone – he wasn't. Collins pursued all his talents and it gave him the contacts to take opportunities from all directions. Even after playing professional basketball for the Washington Bears, Tee Collins remembered his heart belonged in the field of art and animation. He returned to the school and graduated from Cooper Union in New York, in 1952. Finally, he was back where he belonged.

In 1958, Tee Collins was recognized for animating and designing a series of Corona Beer commercials for television. After starting his own company in New York, he was asked to participate in what might have been the most important point in his career. He was approached to work on a project for children- Children's Television Workshop (Sesame Street). Following 40 years in animation, and receiving numerous awards for his art - a celebration was given in his honor.

Barbara Collins, Tee's daughter, coordinated a tribute for him in 1998. His only request was to have the tribute in Harlem, at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. Because of the support from Howard Dodson, former Director of the Schomburg, the tribute attracted many friends from all over the country, family, University of Central Florida students and peers in the film and animation industry.

Tee Collins' home going was on November 20, 2000. There is a plaque in his honor in the Film Department at the University of Central Florida.