

NEWS RELEASE

Oakland Museum of California

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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“Baseball As America” opens Sept. 17 at Oakland Museum of California *Dynamic public programs offered through run of exhibition*

Baseball As America, the first major exhibition to examine the relationship between the national pastime and American culture, comes to the Oakland Museum of California **September 17, 2005–January 22, 2006**. Organized by the **National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum**, in Cooperstown, New York, *Baseball As America* is on a four-year, 10-city nationwide tour. The national tour is sponsored by Ernst & Young.

The museum will support and expand the Hall of Fame’s rich history and iconic objects with programs for all ages, interests (fan or not), and communities. Most of the programs are included with museum admission.

PROGRAMS

Untold Stories: Baseball and the Multicultural Experience

Saturday, **September 17**, 7–9 p.m.

An evening of stories about baseball figures who overcame ethnic and racial barriers to succeed. KGO TV’s Martin Wyatt interviews the legendary Negro Leagues player **Buck O’Neil**, age 93. Journalist Marcos Bretón, photographer José Luis Villegas, and historian Kerry Yo Nakagawa of the Nisei Baseball Research Project discuss the history of Latino and Asian ballplayers, respectively. Program takes place at the museum, second level, and includes book signings with O’Neil and Villegas after. The exhibition will stay open until 10 p.m. \$10; \$8 members. Tickets for this event and timed tickets to the exhibition are available at the museum or online at www.museumca.org/tickets.

Book Talk: What’s My Name, Fool? Sports and Resistance in the United States

Monday, **September 19**, 7–9 p.m.

Noted sportswriter Dave Zirin (*The Nation*, Air America Radio) will discuss his new book, *What’s My Name, Fool? Sports and Resistance in the United States*. The title comes from a famous taunt by Muhammad Ali—a man who epitomizes the outspoken athlete. Zirin’s essays highlight several other courageous and controversial 20th century sports figures, including Jackie Robinson, Curt Flood, and John Carlos. Book signing to follow. The lecture is free. Space is limited. In partnership with the Oakland Public Library’s “Conversations of Conscience” series.

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Pacific Coast League Players' Reunion

Saturday, **September 24**, 11 a.m.–3 p.m.

In the morning meet former PCL players, including Billy Raimondi. An afternoon panel discusses the 1949 PCL barnstorming trip to Japan and the career of legendary McClymonds High School coach George Powles. Included with museum admission.

Field of Dreams

Saturday, **October 1**, 12–4 p.m.

The museum gardens will become your field of dreams for a day. Watch girls' softball pitching demonstrations and get invaluable tips from the players, test your fastball speed at the fast-pitch radar machine, have your picture taken in a vintage uniform, and call the plays in a make-believe announcer's booth. A storyteller from DEAF Media will explain how hand signals were developed for a deaf batter more than a hundred years ago. Watch film clips of historic World Series games. Bring in your baseball memorabilia for appraisal. Treat yourself to "Top Dog" baseball fare. Included with museum admission.

A Tribute to the Negro Leagues

Friday, **October 7**, 7–10 p.m.

Listen to fascinating stories of the Negro Leagues with Raymond Doswell, Negro Leagues Baseball Museum curator, in conversation with baseball greats Mamie "Peanut" Johnson, Neale "Bobo" Henderson, and Ross "Satch" Davis. Arif Khatib, founder of the African American Ethnic Sports Hall of Fame, reviews Oakland's history in the Negro Leagues. (Oakland Larks caps will be available.) The Savage Jazz Dance Company premieres "Barnstormin'," commissioned for the occasion. Plus the films *Only the Ball Was White*, narrated by Paul Winfield, and *There Was Always Sun Shining Someplace*, and a videotaped interview with Buck O'Neil. Negro League memorabilia for sale. With the African American Ethnic Sports Hall of Fame and the African American Museum and Library Coalition. Included with museum admission.

Latinos in Baseball

[Friday, November 4, 7–9 p.m.](#)

[Hear the real stories of Latinos in major and minor league baseball. Retired SF Giant Tito Fuentes talks with journalist Glenn Dickey and broadcaster Amaury Pi-Gonzalez. Bid on Latino baseball memorabilia at a silent auction. Presented with the Hispanic Baseball Museum.](#) Included with museum admission.

The Globalization of Baseball—More Than Just America's Game

Sunday, **November 20**, 2–4 p.m.

More talent is coming from Latin America, Asia, Australia, and Europe, as the number of native-born Americans playing in the major leagues declines. Jules Tygiel, author of *Baseball's Great Experiment: The Legacy of Jackie Robinson*, and broadcaster Amaury Pi-Gonzalez will be among the guests in a panel discussion of what this means for the future of baseball. Included with museum admission.

Matty: An Afternoon with Christy Mathewson

Sunday, **November 27**, 2–4 p.m.

Bring the whole family to see Eddie Frierson's acclaimed portrayal of Christy "Matty" Mathewson, the turn-of-the-century pitching legend whose humor, intelligence, and love

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of the game made him a role model for kids. With a lifetime 373 wins, 83 shutouts, and more than 2,500 strikeouts, Mattewson was among the first players to be inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame, in 1936. Included with museum admission.

Facing Baseball's Future—Issues Confronting the Game

Friday, **January 6**, 7–9 p.m.

Along with baseball's popularity and increased attendance and media coverage, the sport faces problems: performance enhancing drugs, threats of work stoppages, and the increase in foreign stars and decline in the numbers of Americans in the pros. Panelists include Alan Klein, author of *Sugarball: The American Game, the Dominica Dream*, and Neil Hayes, columnist for the Contra Costa Times. Included with museum admission.

Safe at Home: Oaklanders Who Changed the Game

Sunday, **January 15**, 2–5 p.m.

A tribute to the late George Powles, the McClymonds High School coach who influenced the lives of Frank Robinson, Curt Flood, and Bill Russell, among others. The event includes celebrity greats and family of some of the stars who were guided by Powles, as well as members of Powles's family. Included with museum admission.

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Timed tickets to *Baseball As America* are available at the museum (no surcharge) or online at www.museumca.org/tickets.

The Oakland Museum of California is located at Oak and 10th Streets in downtown Oakland, one block from the Lake Merritt BART. Museum hours for *Baseball As America* are Wednesday through Friday, 10 to 5; first Friday of the month, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday, 10 to 8; Sunday, noon to 6. Admission is \$8 general, \$5 for students with ID and seniors, and free for members and kids five and under.

Major sponsorship of *Baseball As America* at the Oakland Museum of California is provided by the Oakland Museum Women's Board, with additional funding from the Wells Fargo Foundation and the Evelyn & Walter Haas, Jr. Fund. Media sponsors: KTVU TV, San Francisco Chronicle, KNBR, SF Giants, and Oakland A's. Take BART to the show!

Media Advisory

High-resolution images from *Baseball As America*, *The Latino Baseball Story*, *Oakland's Coach*, and the public programs are available at

www.museumca.org/press_images/press_baseballimages.html

User name: pressomca **Password:** omcapix

Contact Elizabeth Whipple at 510/637-0177 or ewhipple@museumca.org for details.