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### **Portland Arts & Lectures Presents Suzan-Lori Parks**

Portland, Ore. – Portland Arts & Lectures is pleased to present Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright **Suzan-Lori Parks** on **Thursday, February 8, 2007**, at **7:30 p.m.** at the **Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall** (1037 SW Broadway). Tickets are \$26 at [www.literary-arts.org](http://www.literary-arts.org).

Mixing hip-hop riffs with dark comedy, Suzan-Lori Parks' play ***Topdog/Underdog*** (2001) tells the story of two brothers, Lincoln and Booth—one a skilled three-card Monte player, the other an eager student of the game. The success of the play landed Parks in the national spotlight, and in 2002 she became the first African-American woman to win the Pulitzer Prize for Drama.

Parks' first novel ***Getting Mother's Body*** (2003) was hailed by Pearl Cleage as "a story whose characters are as mysterious and sexy as lace curtains billowing at the bedroom window." Parks also wrote the screenplay for Spike Lee's film ***Girl 6*** (1996) and for ABC television's 2005 adaptation of Zora Neale Hurston's ***Their Eyes Were Watching God***. Along with many OBIE awards for playwriting, Parks received a 2001 MacArthur "genius" grant.

This evening with Suzan-Lori Parks is underwritten by the **English Department at Portland State University**. The 2006-2007 Portland Arts & Lectures series is sponsored by Gard & Gerber, Oregon Council for the Humanities, Powell's Books and Willamette University, with major support from *The Oregonian*. The Portland Arts & Lectures series continues on Thursday, March 15, with fiction writers Mary Gaitskill and George Saunders in conversation.

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**Portland Arts & Lectures** is a program of Literary Arts, a statewide, nonprofit organization that enriches the lives of Oregonians through language and literature. Other programs of Literary Arts are Oregon Book Awards, Oregon Literary Fellowships, Poetry Downtown, Poetry in Motion®, Writers in the Schools and Delve: Readers' Seminars. For more information about Literary Arts, please contact Barbara Verchot at 503.227.2583 or visit [www.literary-arts.org](http://www.literary-arts.org).