

## MAYA ANGELOU'S APPEARANCE

**“An Evening with Maya Angelou” will occur at 7 p.m. Wednesday in the UTPB gym. Tickets are required for this event, since seating is limited. Up to two tickets will be given to those who attend the entire Black Leadership Conference on Saturday, February 13, from 10-2 in the library on campus. Leftover tickets (two per person) will be distributed Sunday, February 14, from 2-5 p.m. in the Mesa Building lobby on campus. If any remain on Monday, they will be available from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. in the lobby.**

Opening the evening’s entertainment will be the James Elkins Singers, an Odessa acappella group, and the national anthem will be sung by Heidi Jeffrey.

Dr. Angelou’s visit is being sponsored by the following premier sponsors: UTPB, Humanities Texas, Odessa College, Odessa Council for the Arts & Humanities, CBS-7, Security Bank, and State Farm Insurance. Platinum Sponsors are: Medical Center Hospital, Alley’s Industrial Services, Black Cultural Council of Odessa, Castanettes Social, Civic, & Arts Club, ConocoPhillips, Unequaled Production, Inc., R.I.S.E. (Raising Intellect and Self Esteem through Education), and Odessa NAACP. Gold Sponsors are the Black Chamber of Commerce of the Permian Basin and Robert and Lori White. Silver Sponsors include Sewell Ford, Rho Iota Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Educational Fund, Odessa Convention & Visitors Bureau, Dr. Tara Deaver, DPM, Gene Collins Insurance Agency, State Farm agents Roy Nelson and Mike Podzemny, Honorable Tryon D. Lewis, State Representative District 81, Texas Tech’s Office of Community Engagement, Sam’s Club, and Albertson’s.

Born Marguerite Johnson, Dr. Angelou was raised in Arkansas, educated in San Francisco where she won a scholarship to study drama and dance. Hailed as a poet, author, playwright, historian, actor, producer, director, and civil-rights activist, Angelou has authored 12 bestselling books and numerous articles earning her Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award nominations. In 1993, she gained worldwide recognition and a Grammy Award when she recited the words of her original work, *On the Pulse of Morning*, at President Clinton's inauguration – only the second poet in the nation’s history to receive such an honor.

She served as northern coordinator for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference under the leadership of Martin Luther King, Jr. during 1959 and 1960. Later, she married a South African freedom fighter and lived in Cairo and Ghana, where she was an editor.

On stage, screen and television, Angelou has been a groundbreaker for black women. She has made hundreds of appearances on television and has written and produced several prize-winning documentaries, including *Afro-Americans in the Arts*, a PBS special for which she received the Golden Eagle Award. She was also nominated for an Emmy Award for her acting in *Roots* and her screenplay, *Georgia, Georgia*.

Angelou’s bestselling chronicle of her youth, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, won critical acclaim when it was published in 1970 and later became a CBS television special. The recipient of numerous honors and awards, Angelou was appointed by President Ford to the Bicentennial Advisory Council and by President Carter to the National Commission for International Women’s Year. She has been a Reynolds Professor of American Studies at Wake Forest University since 1981.

For more information about the conference or the speakers, please call the Public Information Office at 432-552-2805.