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**CINCINNATI.COM**

Sunday, April 15, 2001

## 'Voices from Home' rings out with an Appalachian echo

By Jackie Demaline  
The Cincinnati Enquirer

A year ago, when Cincinnati Arts Association's Steve Loftin was in New York, he was beguiled by *Promise of a Love Song*. It was a multicultural production: African-American, Appalachian, Puerto Rican.

About that time, Urban Appalachian Council's Pauletta Hansel was helping to brainstorm a perfect 30th anniversary celebration for Appalshop. She is a board member of the Whitesburg, Ky.-based organization devoted to documenting and revitalizing the arts and traditions of the Appalachian region.

Appalshop decided to present a two-year American tour of Appalachian film, theater and music.

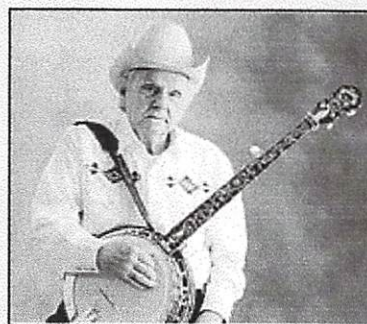
Mr. Loftin decided *Promise* would be an ideal way to celebrate Cincinnati's large Appalachian community.

It all comes together this week in a five-day showcase of film, music and theater sponsored by Appalshop, Cincinnati Arts Association and the Urban Appalachian Council.

Events, many of them free, are scheduled at locations that pull Appalachian arts out of the neighborhood and the annual weekend at Coney Island and into the spotlight.

What excited Mr.

### IF YOU GO



**Ralph Stanley**

**What:** *Voices from Home: A Celebration of Community Culture and Arts*

**When and where:**

**Through Thursday:** Photo exhibit *Appalachia: From the Inside Out* continues at the Public Library of



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What excites Ms. Hansel is the opportunity for a wide audience and what it is likely to discover. *Voices* tells who we are as a people, it speaks of a common history.

"There are inter-connections between our story and Cincinnati's stories. We're the same and we're different; sometimes we're the same, but in different ways."

Each edition of the touring *Voices from Home*, which will include Berkeley, Calif., and Anchorage, Alaska, among its stops, is specific to the city that hosts it.

In Cincinnati, Ms. Hansel says, the mini-festival's subtitle is *A Celebration of Community Culture and Arts*. The focus will be on rural, urban and African-American Appalachian communities.

"We're building on things we're already doing" including creating bridges between the city's African-American and Appalachian communities and documenting Appalachians' stories on film, including the debut screening of the Price Hill Youth Film project.

Among *Voices from Home* highlights:

- *The Ralph Stanley Story*, 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Esquire Theater, co-presented with the Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky Film Commission. The bluegrass icon is the subject of a feature-length Appalshop documentary. There will be a meet-the-filmmaker reception with Herb E. Smith at 7 p.m.

- *Go Tell It On the Mountain*, 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Aronoff Center Jarson-Kaplan Theater. The Northern Kentucky Brotherhood, the Katie Laur Band and gospel performers Jennifer Brierly, Will Henry Hartsock, the Phillip's Chapel Choir and Mount Carmel Baptist Church Choir will perform with Appalshop's Roadside Theater singers. Music will be interspersed with commentary by music and folklore scholars.

- *Promise of a Love Song*, 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Aronoff Center Jarson-Kaplan Theater. Appalshop's Roadside Theater, Junebug Productions (New Orleans) and the Pregones Theater (Bronx) weaves mountain music, jazz, boleros and salsa with love stories from Appalachian, southern African-American and Puerto Rican

Our continues at the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County.

**Wednesday:** *The Ralph Stanley Story*, 7:30 p.m., Esquire Theatre, 320 Ludlow Ave., \$5 (meet the filmmaker reception at 7 p.m., reservations recommended, call Cincinnati Film Commission at (513) 784-1744).

**Thursday:** *Go Tell It On the Mountain* gospel music concert, 7:30 p.m., Aronoff Center Jarson-Kaplan Theater, free.

**Friday and Saturday:** *Promise of a Love Song*, 7:30 p.m., Aronoff Center Jarson-Kaplan Theater, \$22 and \$16, 241-7469.

**April 22:** *Appalachian Film Festival*, 2-6 p.m. Cincinnati Museum Center Union Terminal, free.

**Information:** (513) 251-0202, online at [www.appalshop.org/voices](http://www.appalshop.org/voices).

**There's more:** The film festival includes a documentary film workshop. Call the Film Commission at (513) 784-1744.

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cultures.

- Appalachian Film Festival, 2 p.m., Cincinnati Museum Center. Documentaries by regional filmmakers include the regional premiere of *It's Hard to Tell the Singer from the Song* (Appalshop), a film about pioneer singer/songwriter Hazel Dickens; and Media Working Group's *Cratis Williams: Living the Divided Life* about the modern Appalachian experience seen through the eyes of the scholar/cultural activist/musician.

- *Neighborhood Images: Hopes, Dreams, Voices*, a documentary by teens in Lower Price Hill will be premiered. The evening's screening is *Stranger with a Camera*, a documentary about Appalachia, media and murder previously seen on PBS.

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