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Photos available on request

**WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY'S  
EZRA AND CECILE ZILKHA GALLERY PRESENTS  
CHARLES "TEENIE" HARRIS:  
*RHAPSODY IN BLACK AND WHITE***

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EXHIBITION OF LATE PHOTOGRAPHER'S WORK HELD IN  
CONJUNCTION WITH WORLD PREMIERE OF DANCE PIECE

**Charles "Teenie" Harris: *Rhapsody in Black and White***

September 4 – September 23 2007

Ezra and Cecile Zilkha Gallery, Wesleyan University

283 Washington Terrace

Middletown, CT

**Middletown, Conn., August 13, 2007**— Unsurpassed in their evocation of the essence of Black urban America in mid-20th Century, the photographs of Charles "Teenie" Harris (1908–2008) document the historic and daily events of Pittsburgh's African American community between 1936 and 1975. During his career with the *Pittsburgh Courier*, Harris produced more than 80,000 photographs—including images of Louis Armstrong, Muhammad Ali, Martin Luther King Jr. and John F. Kennedy. An exhibition, consisting of 31 photographs created from Mr. Harris' negatives will be open to the public at Wesleyan University's Ezra and Cecile Zilkha Gallery in the month of September. The exhibit is being held in connection with the world premiere of Ronald K. Brown's dance piece *One Shot*, which was inspired by the legacy of the great African-American artist, and photographer Teenie Harris.

The exhibition opens on Tuesday, September 4 and runs through Sunday, September 23. The public is invited to attend the opening reception on Friday, September 7 from 5–7pm with a gallery talk at 6pm. Gallery Hours are: Tuesday–Thursday, Saturday and Sunday, noon–4pm; Friday noon–8pm.

Admission to Charles "Teenie" Harris: *Rhapsody in Black and White* is free and open to the public. The Ezra and Cecile Zilkha Gallery is located at 283 Washington Terrace in Middletown, CT For more information or directions, call 860-685-3355 or visit [www.wesleyan.edu/cfa](http://www.wesleyan.edu/cfa).

**About the Exhibit**

Purchased in 2001 by Pittsburgh's Carnegie Museum of Art through the Heinz Family Fund, the Harris archive is considered the largest and most complete portrait of African American urban

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life in existence. The exhibit is co-curated by Deborah Willis, New York University Professor of Photography and Imaging and an expert on African American photography and the celebrated contemporary dancer-choreographer Ronald K. Brown.

The curators selected photographs for exhibit that highlight the themes of legacy, community and opportunity resonant in the dance work. Mr. Harris' photographs are also integrated into the dance performance.

The exhibit organizer is the August Wilson Center for African American Culture in Pittsburgh, a new center dedicated to the preservation, presentation and interpretation of the art, culture and history of African Americans in Western Pennsylvania and people of African descent throughout the world. The photographs in the exhibit are from the Charles "Teenie" Harris Archive of Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, PA. The exhibit will travel to 17 locations in the 2007–2008 season.

Additional information about Charles "Teenie" Harris can be found at [www.cmoa.org](http://www.cmoa.org); click on *collections* and then *Teenie Harris*.

**Related Event:**

A Talk by Deborah Willis—Black: A Celebration of A Culture in Photographs  
Thursday, September 20, 7:30pm - Free admission  
CFA Cinema (283 Washington Terr., Middletown, CT)

Deborah Willis, a MacArthur Fellow and one of the nation's leading historians of African American photography and curator of African American culture, will examine the ways in which black people have photographed themselves and posed for the camera and how the resulting images have shaped, revitalized and recreated the social group.

**Image Caption:** Charles “Teenie” Harris, c. 1930—1939, black and white: possibly nitrate film, 3x5 inches, Carnegie Museum of Art, Heinz Family Fund

The Center for the Arts is an 11-building complex on the Wesleyan campus that houses the departments of art and art history, music, theater and dance as well as film studies events and classes. The CFA includes the 400-seat Theater, the 260-seat Cinema, World Music Hall (a non-Western performance space), the 414-seat Crowell Concert Hall and the Ezra and Cecile Zilkha Gallery.

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