



Q+A

Daniel Beaty Does It All By Himself

» Multi-hyphenate (actor-writer-singer-composer) Daniel Beaty wanted to be Barack Obama before we knew who that was. Instead, Beaty mixed redemption with language to rise above the addictions that plagued his family and make his name as a writer and solo stage performer. His work merges poetry, sermons, and soliloquies; his character studies have been lauded by Ruby Dee, the matriarch of black drama, and legendary comedian Bill Cosby. This month at Playhouse in the Park, he'll be staging *Through the Night*, the story of six pan-generational black male characters linked and changed by one fateful night.

I know you're out of the country now. Where are you answering these questions from? I am answering [via e-mail] from Lisbon, Portugal. One of my dear friends is pregnant with twins. And we are having a "babymoon"—her last big trip before giving birth and beginning her journey of motherhood.

Did you ever think as a little boy that you'd be a writer or that your writing would take you around the world? As a boy, I dreamed of being the president of the United States! My goal has always been to do my part to make the world a better place. As a child, I imagined the president had the greatest possibility of effecting change. When I discovered my passion for the arts, I discovered

OUT OF TOWN

Portraits of the Artists

Four decades of America seen through Annie Leibovitz's lens.

» AFTER DECADES WORKING for *Vanity Fair*, *Rolling Stone*, and *Vogue*, famed photographer Annie Leibovitz has amassed quite a portfolio. She has photographed the bones of a pigeon studied by Darwin; a naked, preggo Demi Moore; and a likewise nude John Lennon—on the day he died. Now she's bringing her

celebrity status and unique talent to the Wexner Center for the Arts in the plainly titled exhibit *Annie Leibovitz*, which opens this month. The show highlights Leibovitz's *Master Set*, a handpicked collection of 156 of her best photographs. The Wex is the first institution to display the full body of work, and director Sherri Geldin assures us there will be "no shortage of fabulous faces and fashion." Expect to see portraits of fellow artists (Keith Haring, 1986), rock heartthrobs (Mick Jagger, 1975), and even photogenic robot sidekicks (R2-D2, 2002). The *Master Set* is paired with Leibovitz's more introspective *Pilgrimage* project, spotlighting the homes, landscapes, and beloved objects of historical figures: Annie Oakley's heart-shaped target, Sigmund Freud's draped couch, Abraham Lincoln's fancy gloves. Geldin expects the exhibit to trigger personal memories and elicit reflections on modern American culture and the power of celebrity. "It's a kind of scrapbook for the country," she says. —HOLLY COLETTA

FYI

» Sept 22–Dec 30, Wexner Center for the Arts, 1871 N. High St., Columbus, (614) 292-3535, wexarts.org