



On Friday, Oct. 15, topiary artist Pearl Fryar will visit Dillard University for a morning of inspired programming. Fryar's story begins in 1984, when he and his wife sought to buy a house in an all-white neighborhood of Bishopville, S.C. They were discouraged by residents who said, "Black people don't keep up their yards," but Fryar responded by transforming his ordinary suburban yard into a horticultural wonderland, filled with topiary sculptures that express his vision of peace, love and goodwill. His garden stands to this day, and has been visited by travelers from across the globe.

On Friday morning at 9 a.m., Dillard University will host a screening of [A Man Named Pearl](#), the 2006 documentary that details Fryar's remarkable story. The screening will be followed at 10:15 a.m. by a topiary sculpture demonstration by Fryar himself. Then, at 11 a.m., Loyola University jazz scholar Janna Saslaw will moderate a panel discussion titled "The Nature of Improvisation: Plants + Food + Jazz," featuring Fryar, culinary artist Leah Chase, and jazz saxophonist Edward "Kidd" Jordan. All events will be held on the Dillard campus in Lawless Memorial Chapel. All events are free and sponsored by Longue Vue House and Gardens, the National Historic Landmark in New Orleans.

Dillard University invites you to do something out of the ordinary with your Friday morning and participate in this trio of special events.

**Friday, October 15, 2010**  
**Dillard University**  
**Lawless Memorial Chapel**

**9 a.m.** *A Man Named Pearl* Screening

**10:15 a.m.** Topiary Sculpture Demonstration by Pearl Fryar

**11 a.m.** Panel Discussion: "The Nature of Improvisation: Plants + Food + Jazz"



To learn more about Pearl Fryar's work, please visit [www.longuevue.com](http://www.longuevue.com).