Original Dreamgirl Jennifer Holliday Returns To Black Voices: The Hidden Bruises At Clark Atlanta University Nov. 4-5

Production to benefit CAU as the Tom Joyner School of the Month for October

ATLANTA (Oct. 28, 2009) – Original Dreamgirl Jennifer Holliday will give two encore performances as a guest artist in Black Voices: The Hidden Bruises on Nov. 4-5. Presented by the Clark Atlanta University Department of English and the Urban Theater Company of Atlanta, Inc., the play is a fund raiser to benefit CAU as the Tom Joyner School of the Month for October. The production begins at 7:30 p.m. in Davage Auditorium in Haven-Warren Hall on campus.

Best known for her role as Effie White in the original Broadway production of “Dreamgirls,” Tony Award-winner Holliday joined the show this summer to help raise funds for the cast to perform the play at the 2009 National Black Theatre Festival in North Carolina in August. Holliday said, “Because I am a by-product of African-American theatre and a resident of Atlanta, I felt compelled to step in and help these gifted young students reach higher toward achieving their dreams. Although the recession has affected us all and in every sector, it is now even more important during these difficult times that we as a community make our best effort, both in words and in deeds, to show our youth that we care about them and we believe in their many diverse talents, hopes and dreams.”
Voted “Best Play” in the 2009 CAU Student Life Awards, the production explores the psyche and resilience of African-American children, through song, dance and drama. It is the third and final installment in a trilogy, written by CAU English professor Willie L. Todd Jr. The first two segments of *Black Voices* received much acclaim and were respectively one of only three university productions invited to the 2003 and 2005 National Black Theatre Festivals.

Todd said, “We are elated that Ms. Holliday is coming back for an encore. She is a gem that has taken our production to a whole new level. I am grateful that she is lending her time and talent again to educational theater, helping us to raise funds at the same time.”

Due to the subject matter, the production is recommended for mature audiences only and youths 13 and up. AUC student tickets are $7 in advance and $10 at the door; general admission is $20. Tickets are available online at [www.ticketsareavailable.com](http://www.ticketsareavailable.com), in the CAU English Department and the CAU Bookstore. Call (404) 880-6733 for more information.

The Tom Joyner Foundation’s “School of the Month” initiative raises money for outstanding students at historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs), helping to further their education through scholarships. Since the first of October, more than 10 CAU students have received awards. Formed by the nationally syndicated radio personality Tom Joyner, the Tom Joyner Foundation since 1998 has been a major driving force in raising money for historically black colleges and universities. Joyner, who has an honorary doctorate degree from CAU, said the university was chosen as part of the foundation’s ongoing effort to assist these HBCUs in broadening and strengthening their efforts to raise money to help keep students attending these institutions. Interested donors can make contributions at [www.cau.edu](http://www.cau.edu).
Formed in 1988 by the consolidation of two historic institutions, Atlanta University (1865) and Clark College (1869), Clark Atlanta University is the largest of the United Negro College Fund institutions with an enrollment of nearly 4,000 students. Clark Atlanta University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097: Telephone 404-679-4501) to award the Bachelor’s, Master’s, Specialist and Doctor’s degrees. The Carnegie Classification lists CAU as a Research University – High Research Activity. CAU is listed as one of the best southeastern colleges by The Princeton Review and has been selected to the Washington Monthly’s 2008 list of best colleges and universities. National business and consumer publications rank Clark Atlanta high among the best buys in American higher education.

###