Black Voices: The Hidden Bruises To Be Restaged
At Clark Atlanta University July 30-Aug. 2
During National Black Arts Festival

Production then goes to National Black Theatre Festival in North Carolina

ATLANTA (June 22, 2009) – The Clark Atlanta University Department of English and the Urban Theater Company of Atlanta, Inc. will stage an encore presentation of Black Voices: The Hidden Bruises from July 30 through Aug. 2, during the National Black Arts Festival. The play will be held at 7:30 p.m. in Davage Auditorium in Haven-Warren Hall on the campus of CAU.

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. First presented in March, the work is one of only four university productions invited to the 2009 National Black Theatre Festival in Winston-Salem, N.C., in August.

Black Voices: The Hidden Bruises is a new work, 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.
“We are ecstatic with the way the final piece of the trilogy has been received,” said Todd. Many patrons who have followed Black Voices over the years have told me that they feel this installment is the strongest and most passionate, since it gives a voice to black children. How timely too that this year’s State of Black America Report from the National Urban League places a strong focus on African-American children.”

Todd said that this show was an extremely personal and cathartic experience. “It was surely a difficult task to capture the joys, triumphs, trials and tribulations experienced by many African-American children,” he said. “Additionally, it was not a simple task to determine what childhood stories and reflections should be told on stage.”

Dr. A. Clifton Myles, director of the production, adds, “The play is a symphony of beautiful language, emotion-filled dances and songs that will make you want to hug your children closer and see children who might not be your own in a different and more positive light.”

Dr. Alma Vinyard, chair of the Department of English, commented, “We are so pleased with the theatrical and financial success of the Black Voices trilogy. The subject matter helps to fill a void not just in African-American literature, but American literature as well. These stories also provide the impetus for further classroom discussion, literary research and literary criticism.”

Due to the subject matter, the production is recommended for mature audiences only and youths 13 and up. Tickets are $12 in advance and $15 at the door and are available in the CAU English Department and the CAU Bookstore. Call (404) 880-6733 for more information.

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