Original Dreamgirl Jennifer Holliday To Join Cast Of Black Voices: The Hidden Bruises 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 (July 20, 2009) – Original Dreamgirl Jennifer Holliday will be a featured artist in the encore hit presentation of Black Voices: The Hidden Bruises from July 30 through Aug. 2, during the National Black Arts Festival. Presented by the Clark Atlanta University Department of English and the Urban Theater Company of Atlanta, Inc., the play is a fund raiser and will be held at 7:30 p.m. in Davage Auditorium in Haven-Warren Hall on the campus of CAU.

Best known for her role as Effie White in the original Broadway production of “Dreamgirls,” Tony Award-winner 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.”

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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.

Todd said, “We are elated that Ms. Holliday is joining us on stage for the Atlanta run. She is a gem that will take our production to a whole new level. I am grateful that she is lending her time and talent 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. Tickets are $15 in advance and $20 at the door and are available online at [www.ticketsareavailable.com](http://www.ticketsareavailable.com), in the CAU English Department and the CAU Bookstore. VIP tickets are available for the opening night performance on July 30. The cost for the ticket is $40, which includes the play, a private reception and an autograph from Ms. Holliday. Call (404) 880-6733 for more information.

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 more than 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.