



University of the District of Columbia

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*"....a new day,
a new opportunity"*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Mike Andrews
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University of the District Of Columbia's Theatre Company Presents "The Coffee Café"

Washington, D.C. — The University of the District of Columbia Theatre Company presents a stylish and sharply satirical original play "*The Coffee Café*," in the University Auditorium Friday, November 4 through Sunday, November 6. Through song, poetry and a series of short vignettes, the play takes a no-holds-barred look at African-American life, culture and history.

Professor Lennie Smith, who recently directed the UDC Theatre Company's production of "*Zooman and the Sign*," will direct this production.

An original production written by the company, "*The Coffee Café*" uses a take-no-prisoners style of satire while lampooning of misplaced values, materialism, and "classism," according to Carmen White, a professor who teaches Introduction to Theatre Arts at UDC. "The play takes a snap shot of the struggles and challenges of African Americans," says White. "It both assails and celebrates the resiliency of African Americans in America."

The play is narrated through poetry and song. A stylish poet and songstress welcomes everyone to the Café. “You can experience all the different flavors we have but remember if you ignore it too long it will eventually lose its flavor,” she tells the guests, adding “please, if you are not sure if you like your coffee bold, medium or smooth, you might want to try our herbal tea.”

“This play hits so close to home in a musical and dramatic way,” says White.

The most praised “image” is “Home-girls on the Metro bus” which ridicules how some young African Americans chat loudly on the bus. The vignette opens with the hostess’ poem about materialism and the scene starts with two young women bragging about how they are able to get men to give them money. As they continue to dialogue, a well-dressed, sophisticated woman gets into a heated debate about their views.

“*The Coffee Café*” is unique, innovative and timely. It incorporates drama, poetry, rap, dance and music.

The curtain will rise on “*The Coffee Café*” at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, November 4 and 5. Matinee performances begin at 12:30 p.m. on Friday, November 4:00, and 3:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, November 5 and 6.

The production takes place in the University Auditorium, Building 46 East on the Van Ness Campus. Parking will be available in the University’s parking garage off Van Ness Street, and the campus is available via the Metro’s Red Line. **“The Coffee Café” contains strong language and adult content and may not be suitable for all audiences.**

The University of the District of Columbia is the sole public source for accessible, inclusive, affordable, and comprehensive public higher education in the District of Columbia and provides additional life-long learning opportunities. The University delivers quality instruction and uses student-centered approaches to empower and benefit both individuals and its local communities. The University, an urban land grant institution, is a very diverse community, a gateway to the world, and a significant investment engine for the District of Columbia. The University is located at 4200 Connecticut Ave, NW Washington, and is conveniently located at the Van Ness/UDC stop on the Red Line of Metro. For more information on other University

activities, contact Mike Andrews, Senior Director for Communications and University Spokesman at (202) 274-5685 or visit the University's web site at www.udc.edu.

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The UDC Theatre Company
Presents:

The Coffee Cafe

Directed by
Lennie A. Smith
Scenic & Lighting
Design by
Prince NO-RA

University of the District of Columbia
University Auditorium Bldg 46-E, 4200 Connecticut Ave, N.W.

November 4, Friday	12:30pm & 7:30pm	General Admission: \$10
November 5, Saturday	3:00pm & 7:30pm	Students/Seniors: \$5
November 6, Sunday	3:00pm	Group Rates Available

Illustrations by Daniela Oliveira

For further information, contact Professor Lennie Smith 202-274-5749

