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University of the District Of Columbia’s Theatre Company Presents “The Coffee Café”


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.

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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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