



MEDIA ALERT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:



PLAY ADAPTATION OF TONI MORRISON'S
THE BLUEST EYE TO COINCIDE WITH
BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATIONS AT
LA MIRADA THEATRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
2010 Marks the 40th Anniversary of the Book's Publication

LA MIRADA, CA. — How does an 11 year old African-American girl define beauty when she hates the color of her skin and has only blonde-hair, blue-eyed dolls to play with? Set against the backdrop of 1940s Ohio, *The Bluest Eye* explores the toll that a legacy of racism has taken on a community, a family, and Pecola Breedlove, the central character in this play adaptation based on the novel by Pulitzer and Nobel Prize winning author Toni Morrison. The production, directed by 2009 Lucille Lortel Award Nominee Janet Miller (Off-Broadway, *Marvelous Wonderettes*) will be presented by Phantom Projects Theatre Group on February 25, 2010 at 10AM and 7PM at the La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts. Phantom Projects is a proud member of the LA Stage Alliance.

The production features Sola Bamis, Tiffany Danielle, Willie Mack Daniels, Ashley Dyke, Shamika Franklin, Kwesiu Jones, Johnnett Kent, and Tekquiree Spencer.

The novel, *The Bluest Eye*, was first published in 1970. In the book, whiteness is looked at as beauty, a beauty that black girls cannot meet. Pecola connects beauty with being loved and believes that if she would just have blue eyes, all bad things in her life would be replaced. The book has had its share of controversy, however, being banned from many schools throughout the country.

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However, in 2005, Steppenwolf Theatre Company in Chicago commissioned Lydia R. Diamond to adapt the novel into a full-length stage production for the Steppenwolf for Young Adults Productions. The stage version, which focused more on the perception of beauty, love, and racism aspects and less on the controversial elements, premiered off-Broadway in 2006 at the New Victory Theatre.

Tickets to *The Bluest Eye* are available by calling 714-994-6310 or 562-944-9801 or going online to lamiradatheatre.com or phantomprojects.com. Tickets prices for the 10 a.m. performance are \$6, and for the 7 p.m. performance, \$6 for middle school students, \$12 for high school students, and \$20 for adults. For additional information call 714-690-2900, go online to www.PhantomProjects.com, or visit Facebook.com/PhantomProjects

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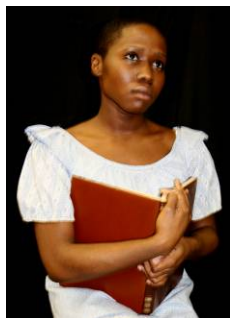
CALENDAR ITEM February 25, 2010 / 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.

The Bluest Eye based on the novel by Toni Morrison. Adapted by Lydia R. Diamond.

La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts, 14900 La Mirada Blvd., La Mirada, CA 90638

Eleven-year-old Pecola Breedlove wants nothing more than to be loved by her family and schoolmates. Instead, she faces constant ridicule and abuse. She blames her dark skin and prays for blue eyes, sure that love will follow. With rich language and bold vision, this powerful adaptation of an American classic explores the crippling toll that a legacy of racism has taken on a community, a family, and an innocent girl. Tickets: 10 a.m. all seats \$6; 7 p.m. - middle school students \$6; high school students \$12; adults \$20. Group discounts available. Call 562-944-9801 714-994-6310 or going online to lamiradatheatre.com or phantomprojects.com

Hi-res photos available at: www.PhantomProjects.com/Press.html



THE CAST and CREATIVE TEAM



Sola Bamis as Pecola Breedlove (Valencia) is a student in the Master of Fine Arts program in Acting at the California Institute of the Arts. She recently performed the role of Gail in the Robey Theater Company's production of *The River Niger*. She was in the world premiere of *Forgotten World*, directed by Laurie Carlos. A native of Miami, FL, Sola received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Chemistry from the University of Miami, where she graduated cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa. She was crowned Miss University of Miami 2007 and competed in the 2007 Miss Florida Scholarship Pageant, an official Miss America Pageant qualifier, where she was placed 1st runner-up. While in Miami, she appeared in productions of *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/When the Rainbow is Enuf* as the Lady in Red and Purple, as well as *The Vagina Monologues*. During her undergraduate career, she wrote, directed, and starred in a production of *Genesis:Masquerade*. She has also written a piece entitled *Soldier Girls*, and is preparing for her role as Amiga Gringa in Suzan-Lori Parks' *In The Blood* at CalArts.



Tiffany Danielle as Frieda and Darlene (Los Angeles) has been performing for 13 years in Theatre, Television and Commercials. Hailing from Chicago, IL, Tiffany discovered her love for the arts at an early age. Graduating from Clark Atlanta University, she received her B.A. in Theater Arts and continued her graduate studies at the University of Florida. Tiffany makes her debut with Phantom Projects and is excited to be a part of performing Toni Morrison's award winning piece.



Willie Mack Daniels as Cholly (Santa Ana) is a home grown southern gentleman who moved to Los Angeles with the hopes of becoming a screenwriter; that is, until he took an acting class with director Leslie Ferreira at Los Angeles City College. He is a graduate of the LACC Theatre Academy's Professional Actor Training Program, Florida State University and the University of Southern California. Just recently, he played the role of Paul in *Six Degrees of Separation* with the Kentwood Players at the Westchester Playhouse. Willie's other theatre credits include *Macbeth*, *The Basic Training of Pavlo Hummel*, *A Piece of My Heart*, *National Pastime* and *Landscape of the Body*. This past year William made his debut as Detective Harrington in the feature film "Justify."



Ashley Dyke as Maureen (Los Angeles) is a Virginia native. *The Bluest Eye* is her third show with Phantom Projects, first performing in *I Never Saw Another Butterfly*, and the touring production of *Charlotte's Web* in which she played Charlotte. Ashley holds a B.F.A degree in Theater from the University of Virginia and studied film acting at NYU's Tisch School. Ashley has performed in several stage productions including *The Vagina Monologues* (The Spectrum Theatre), *The Tube* (Second City), *I Can't Believe This is My Life* (Elephant Theater), and *Excuse for a Swordfight* (Miles Memorial Theater). Ashley also works in television and film. Her TV appearances include "90210" (The CW), "FXcellent" (FX Channel), "The Gleib Show" (National Lampoons Network), "Help Me Help You" (Regency Television) and a starring role in the series "Stratagem" (Whoo Television). She has performed in films such as, "The TV Set" (Think Films), "He's Such a Girl," and "Love 10:1." She also plays a leading role in "New Hope Manor" (Blach Hole Filma and Suzanne DeLaurentiis Productions), to be released in 2010.



Shamika Franklin as Mrs. Breedlove (Burbank) is a native of Kansas City, MO and holds a B.A in Theatre from the University of Missouri. The past few years has allowed Shamika to be seen on numerous stages, across numerous states, and commercial & film. She is overjoyed to be a part of this project. As an avid reader and fan of both Ms. Toni Morrison, and children and the arts, *The Bluest Eye* is like a dream come true.



Kwesiu Jones as Daddy, Soaphead Church (Inglewood) is originally from Montgomery, Alabama. He took the leap by moving to Los Angeles six years ago to pursue his dream of acting. He is no stranger to Phantom Projects as this is his third production with them. Some of Kwesiu's past roles with Phantom were Crooks in *Of Mice and Men* and Tom Robinson in *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Kwesiu recently starred in the movie "The Confidant" opposite Billy Zane and Richard Rountree. He has worked on many projects since his journey to LA, from TV shows to plays and web series.



Johnnett Kent as Mamma (Riverside) Johnnett has portrayed everyone from Pearl Bailey in the *Ambassador of Love* to acting in award winning HBO series, "The Wire," along with countless other stage, television and film productions. Johnnett possesses a BFA from Towson University and has also studied in Great Britain at the Famous Dartington College of Arts. Always honing her craft Johnnett has earned the Prestigious Allen Lee Hughes Fellowship at Washington D.C's Arena Stage. Always interested in giving back to the community, she has been an educator and consultant in theatre arts for the benefit of Washington D.C public schools and Baltimore City public schools.



Tekquiree Spencer as Claudia (Compton) was born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area to a very large family full of entertainers. In addition to acting, Tekquiree has worked behind the scenes on such shows as "Dancing with the Stars," "So You Think You Can Dance," "Celebrity Rap Superstar," "Keyshia Cole: The Way It Is," and "Hell Date" to name a few. In October of 2008, Tekquiree started A Brown Frame Productions, a Production Company with her husband and their two friends, all alumni from Clark Atlanta University. With one pilot under their belt, they're currently working on a documentary about colorism in the African American Community. Tekquiree is currently starring in the play, *Sex, Relationships, and Sometimes...Love* at the Actor's Playpen and you can also catch her in the stage play, *I Need Thee*, coming back for its third season in March.



Janet Miller, Director (Sherman Oaks)

- Nominee: 2009 Lucille Lortel Award
- 2008 BackStage West Garland Award
- 2007 Los Angeles Drama Critics Award Winner
- 2007 Ovation Award Best Intimate Musical *The Marvelous Wonderettes*
- 2006 Los Angeles Drama Critics Award Winner
- 2004 BackStage West Garland Award Honorable Mention
- 2003 BackStage West Garland Award for Choreography