



THE SECOND ANNUAL NATIONAL BLACK HIV/AIDS THEATRE INITIATIVE

PRODUCE A PLAY/SAVE A LIFE!

Twinbiz partners Yvette Heyliger and Yvonne Farrow are pleased invite you to answer our Call to Action by reading or producing a play in your community about HIV/AIDS or sexual health on February 7th, National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day.

The intention of the National Black HIV/AIDS Theatre Initiative is to inspire and enlist playwrights, performing artists, producers and presenting organizations to write, read or produce at least one play a season in Black theatres, churches, youth and senior centers, high schools, colleges, prisons and living rooms across America until this preventable disease is eradicated.

CALL TO ACTION—HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE?

Here are some suggestions, *or come up with your own!* The work can deal with the HIV/AIDS pandemic, sexual health or behaviors that lead to poor choices.

Playwrights/ Performance Artists/ Playwriting Workshops

Write a stage play, ten-minute play, one-person show, scene or monologue. Have a reading or presentation to share work with your community.

Artistic Directors/ Presenting Organizations/ Independent Producers

Produce or have a staged reading of an existing play, or generate new work by inviting your resident artists to participate.

College Classes or Student-run Clubs/Organizations

Research plays dealing with HIV/AIDS; select a play and read it aloud in class or in your student club/organization; follow-up with a discussion; instruct students in a free write or playwriting exercise; cast and read aloud each student's work. Involve the campus health office (they can be a great resource!)

Houses of Worship

Have your HIV/AIDS Ministry read a stage play or excerpts of a play for the church community and follow-up with discussion; have an expert on-hand to field questions or give testing.

Spoken Word Artists and Song Writers

Write a poem or song. Host an "Open Mic" event at your school, club or living room.

Choreographers and Dancers

Choreograph and/or perform a dance.

READY TO POST YOUR EVENT?

Your event will be listed with others as part of the **NATIONAL BLACK HIV/AIDS THEATRE INITIATIVE** and be posted on the National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day web site. Please register your reading or production with us at info@twinbiz.com. Be sure to include the following:

WHO: Your name, affiliation, and contact information

WHAT: You will be presenting (ex. *An Evening of 10 Minute Plays*)

WHEN: You will be presenting it (preferably February 7, 2012 or sometime during that week)

WHERE: You will be presenting it

Partners: Let us know if you will be joining forces with your local theatre company, HIV/AIDS service organization or church ministry.

HISTORY OF THE INITIATIVE

The **NATIONAL BLACK HIV/AIDS THEATRE INITIATIVE** was inspired by Tunde Allen Samuel, the late producing artistic director of Barbara Ann Teer's National Black Theatre in Harlem. Samuel expressed a wish to Yvette Heyliger that black theatres do more to address the growing HIV infection rate in their communities. Heyliger answered this challenge by writing her critically acclaimed play with music about family, church, sex and HIV entitled, *What Would Jesus Do?*, which was a multiple AUDELCO Recognition Award for Excellence in Black Theatre winner in 2010. The National Black HIV/AIDS Theatre Initiative kicked off February 7, 2011 and was commemorated with a Resolution from the City of Los Angeles which was presented to Twinbiz partners, Yvette Heyliger and Yvonne Farrow. Twinbiz continues in this challenge to use theatre as a tool for entertainment and education in the fight against the relentless spread of HIV/AIDS in communities across our nation. We warmly welcome and invite theatre artists, producers and presenting organizations to join us!

LaMont "Montee" Evans, Annual Chairperson of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day says, "There continues to be an HIV/AIDS crisis in Black America, even though we are 30 years into it. Blacks make up almost 50% of the all new HIV/AIDS diagnoses in the United States. At some point in their lifetime, an estimated 1 in 16 Black men and 1 in 32 Black women will be diagnosed with HIV infection. The goal of **National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day** is to help reduce new HIV infections and disease burden in Black communities; locally, regionally, nationally and internationally."

