

“For Colored Girls”

Timika Shafeek, Managing Editor

Poet Ntozake Shange's "For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow Is Enuf," was presented in Memorial Hall, January 31. First performed in bars and cafes, the play opened on Broadway in September of 1976.

"For Colored Girls" features six Black women, each with different ideas and expectations of how the world should be for colored girls. The topics discussed in the play range from the parties of graduation night, to an eight-year-old girl's search for the Black saint Tousaint, to a complete universe in Harlem which represented "six blocks off cruelty piled on itself."

The play is a celebration of Black women and their strength, intelligence and courage. Through a series of dramatic scenes, the many aspects of a Black women's life are portrayed.

One aspect in particular dealt with the Black man's role in the Black woman's life. Although in "For Colored Girls" the Black man was the cause of much pain and

strife, the Black woman's strength always pulled her through.

In one scene, the woman explained to a man that their relationship was a test on her part to see whether or not she could stand not being wanted when she wanted to be wanted. She decided she could not. Another scene discussed the fact that a man had taken all of her "stuff," and that he had not even realized it. Her stuff was "the most anonymous ripped off stuff of the year." Luckily for her, she realized her stuff was gone before he did, and what is more, she realized she wanted her stuff back.

At the end of the play, the women, after having reflected on the joy and pain in their lives, come to the understanding that it is the joy and pain that make them the women they are. For them and for us as an audience, "For Colored Girls" is a play for colored girls who have considered suicide "but are moving to the end of their rainbows" because of their strength, intelligence, and courage.

