



Photo by NyghtFalcon

Tennelle Foust, Jamilla Curry and Tanisha Fordham.

## Mad at Miles

A group of ladies of N.C. A&T State University won't have to travel much when they come to the 2009 National Black Theatre Festival to present Pearl Cleage's "Mad at Miles, A Black Woman's Guide to Truth."

The production has already taken the Triad by storm. Performances earlier this year were well-received and earned high praise for director Donna Baldwin-Bradby, an adjunct theater professor at A&T. Baldwin-Bradby first brought the play, which is essentially a commentary on domestic violence against women, to the stage in February (Black History Month) at Greensboro's Triad Stage.

Set against the backdrop of the troubled marriage between late jazz great Miles Davis and actress Cicely Tyson, the production explores the complexity of relationships between black women and men.

"She (Cleage) was a Miles Davis fan, and then she found his autobiography," Baldwin-Bradby told



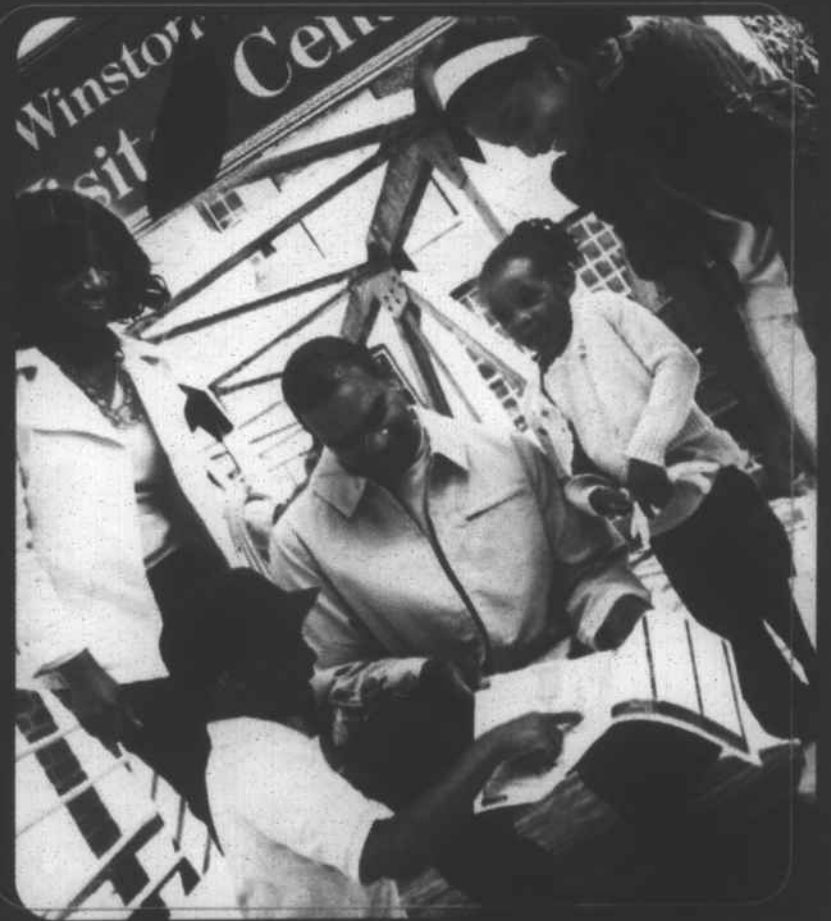
Cleage

GoTriad.com. "He wrote about how he was abusive to women, and that was his attitude toward women. So, (the play is) about that, but it's also about the abuse of women in general."

Actresses Tennille Foust, Jamila Curry and TaNisha Shavonne Fordham starred in the Triad Stage production. Each took audiences on an emotional journey as they decried sexism, racism, domestic violence and the tolerance of abuse. Along the way, they find the clarity of self discovery. "Mad at Miles" is not recommended for younger audiences.

Cleage, who read selections from her work during the 2007 NBTF, is best known as an author of the bestseller "What Looks Like Crazy on an Ordinary Day." She recently published her sixth novel, "Seen It All and Done the Rest." Cleage has written several plays, including "Flyin' West," which received commercial acclaim and critical praise, becoming the most produced new play in the country in 1994.

- The Chronicle



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