## Slack Toices: The Tidden Dbruises

Much-heralded performances on the campus of Clark Atlanta University and at the National Black Arts Festival have created great buzz about "Black Voices: The Hidden Bruises" as it prepares to hit the stage at this year's National Black Theatre Festival.

A production of the Clark Atlanta English Department and the Urban Theater Company of Atlanta, the production "explores the psyche and resilience of African-American children, through song, dance and drama."
"Black Voices: The Hidden Bruises" is the last in a trilogy by English professor Willie L. Todd Jr. Each examined an aspect of black culture and strength. The first in the "Black Voices" series was featured at the 2003 NBTF; and the second was staged in 2007. Todd believes audiences will be even more impressed with the latest installment, which took home the 2009 Best Play honor at the Clark Atlanta University Student Life Awards. "We are ecstatic with the way the final piece of the trilogy has been received," said
Todd. "Many patrons who have followed Black Voices over the years have told me that they feel this installment is the strongest and most passionate, since it gives a voice to black children ... It was surely a difficult task to capture the joys, triumphs, trials and tribulations experienced by many African-American children."

The production, which features the talents of several CAU students, is directed by Dr. A. Clifton Myles, who hopes that the show

The Players.
inspires both parents and young people.
"The play is a symphony of beautiful language, emotion-filled dances and songs that will make you want to hug your children closer and see children who might not be your own in a different and more positive light," he said.

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