

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



"Sista' Love Don't Leave Bruises" stars LeShea Agnew, Jeryl Prescott, Luci Vaughn, and Nathan Ross Freeman, with vocalist Wambui Bahati.

Three One-Act Plays by Sharon Agnew

Original, engaging, provocative and controversial. That's what I thought as I watched actors rehearse three new plays which delve into social ills and challenge many of the aesthetic stereotypes that seem to permeate the very fabric of American life.

Sharon Agnew, writer and director of the one-act plays, has tackled what few playwrights can. She has turned the daily news headlines into plays. By exploring social issues that we can all relate to, these works cause us to think.

Agnew says that the plays have both an individuality and connectivity that creates a universal theme. "Each play is a piece of the big picture, or they can stand alone ... Likewise in life, each individual is independent, yet, dependent on each other to make society beautiful or ugly."

In "Morning Commute, Beware of Strangers" three bus riders explore perceptions as they



J.W. Smith acts alone in "Rufus."

"Blue" Gardner, Jeryl Prescott, Luci Vaughn, and Wambui Bahati, says Agnew, are among the best she's worked with to date. The melding of personalities and the raw talent they all possess has made it a joy to work with them," she said.

All three plays form a collage of one-acts that are currently being performed at the Sawtooth



Arts Reach Gloria Lindsey

relate to strangers and how someone may not always be whom they appear. "Rufus" is an open-ended play about aging and how we treat the elderly in our lives. "Sista' Love Don't Leave Bruises," brings to light women of all cultures, races and classes who are battered by their mates. It not only explores the issue of domestic violence, but offers the audience information on how they can "help stop the hurt."

When asked what inspired her to write three revealing looks inside our social consciousness, Agnew said, "I wanted to initiate dialogue and illustrate the statistics which make issues like abuse so devastating ... the more dialogue we can have, then the more likely we can put an end to it." She also feels that the play "Rufus" enables her to share the wisdom of her grandmother and the shared wisdom that we all can gain from time spent with our elders.

To her credit, Agnew has assembled a multi-cultural, multi-racial, and cross-cultural cast of talented actors, combining them with the soon-to-be seasoned actors. The ensemble of Nathan Ross Freeman, Jasmina Mathers, Heather Livengood, Christopher R. Yoshida, J.W. Smith, LeShea Agnew, Johnnie

Building. The plays will run nightly at eight o'clock on Oct. 9, and 10, with a special matinee show on Saturday, Oct. 11, at two o'clock. Seats are \$10, and tickets are available at the door or in advance. All three plays are performed each night and are included in the admission price. For reservations, call (910) 682-0734.

JOIN THE FUN
Remember Community Day, Oct. 11, at the downtown public library from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Arts Council of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County would like to thank Target Stores for their support of Community Day.

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McDonald's salutes the NBMOA on their 25th anniversary.

