

**Charles R. Drew University
of Medicine and Science's
Department of Family Medicine**

Presents

RICHARD CAVALIER'S
SPEAKING OF CHARLIE

**Wilshire Ebell Theatre
October 14, 2005
6:30 PM**

*** Community Dialogue *
After Play**

**Dialogue adapted by
Directed by Ruc**



will also be four performances in mid-December. There is pay.

Breakdown—**Ms. Luce:** female, 30-35, inspiring, provocative high school teacher, act, sing, dance, LEAD; **Luka:** male, strapping, passionate student-actor, act, sing, dance, LEAD; **Amanda:** female, ambitious, sincere, student-actor, act, sing, dance, LEAD; **Toni:** female, alluring, mischievous, student-actor, act, sing, dance, LEAD; **BB:** male, charismatic, rebellious, poetic, student-actor, act, sing, dance, LEAD; **Bones:** male, funny, versatile, calculating, student-actor, act, sing, dance, LEAD; **Sassy:** female, sexy, dismissive, elitist, student-actor, act, sing, dance, LEAD; **Bobby:** male, brilliant dancer, hilarious, autistic, act, sing, dance, LEAD. Note: All actors except Ms. Luce should look between 17 and 20.

Prepare a one-minute contemporary musical comedy song with your own accompaniment or a cappella. Bring a one-minute comic or dramatic monologue, dancing shoes, pix, and resumé.

Auditions will be held by appt. only on June 11, 1:30-6 p.m. and on June 12, 5:30-9:30 p.m. at the theatre. To schedule an audition appt. call (310) 592-1992. For information e-mail dl3@davidlegaspi.com. **NON-UNION.**

First Posted 06/02/2005.

“CONVERSATIONS”

NEW

Sprocket Rocket Productions is accepting submissions for *Conversations*, three one-act plays on the theme of a conversation. Prod./dir. A.K. Stewart. Rehearsals start July 5.

(310) 704-1221. **NON-UNION.**

First Posted 06/02/2005.

“SPEAKING OF CHARLIE”

NEW

Charles R. Drew University, Center for Community & Preventative Medicine will hold an open call for *Speaking Of Charlie*, a drama by Richard Cavalier regarding personal responsibility for sexual behavior. Prod. Donald Benjamin Lewis. Rehearsals start June 20. Public readings will take place in the Leimert Park area in June, full performances run mid-Sept. through Oct. at the Drew University Theatre. There is pay.

Breakdown—**Mother:** mid-40s, aggressive, velvet-gloved; **Father:** mid-40s, edgy, conservative; **Daughter:** mid-20s, snippy, fun; **Her Fiancé:** 30s, charming, bold. Note: All roles are African-American, must be comfortable with the topic of bisexuality.

Open call will be held on June 15, 7-9 p.m. in the ground-level Rec Room at One S. Locust St. (two blocks east of La Brea & one block north. of Manchester), Inglewood. **NON-UNION.**

First Posted 06/02/2005.

“THE LARAMIE PROJECT”

NEW

Andrew Vonderschmitt (dir.) will hold an open call for *The Laramie Project*, a theatrical collage that explores the depths to which humanity can sink and the heights of compassion to which it can rise. Rehearsals start June 13. Performances run Aug. 5-27 at the Garden Grove Playhouse. There is no pay.

Breakdown—**Four Males and Four Females:** age open, any ethnicity, to play multiple roles, flexible casting.

Prepare a one-minute monologue. Be prepared to cold read from the script. Bring current pix & resumé.

Open call will be held June 6-7, 7 p.m. at the playhouse, 12001 Saint Mark St., Garden Grove. For more information e-mail webmaster@gardengroveplayhouse.com. **NON-UNION.**

First Posted 06/02/2005.

“THE MUSIC MAN”

NEW

Carlsbad Community Theatre will hold an open call for *The Music Man*, a community theatre production featuring both



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Attn: Theatre Editor

For more information:

RE: Event: Cynthia Davis, MPH
310/763-9746

RE: Drama: Richard Cavalier
310/671-7262

**Drew University Sponsors *Charlie*
for HIV/AIDS-Awareness Month**

Speaking of Charlie will be presented at the Wilshire Ebell Theatre (4401 West 8th St; Wilshire & Lucern) on Friday, October 14, at 6:30 p.m., according to Cynthia Davis, MPH, Assistant Professor and Executive Producer of the event for its sponsor, Charles R. Drew University of Medical Sciences' Department of Family Medicine. A community discussion will follow the drama.

Because of its theme of personal responsibility for sexual behavior, the play is being sponsored as an educational program during HIV/AIDS-Awareness month, October. Eight additional performances will be presented at Drew HS on the last weekends of October.

Charlie will be performed by Shamika Franklin, Jerome Anthony Hawkins, James E. Hurd, Jr., and Marcel Webb, who are already known for their appearances in not only Black theatre locally but also TV and films. Donald Benjamin Lewis is producing, and Rudolph Hamilton, Jr., is directing.

Written in 1981, when the scourge of AIDS was seen, but its mode of transmission was not yet known, *Charlie* correctly identified bisexual activity as a likely route of the disease from the gay into the "straight" community. The drama won the first playwrighting award from Northeastern Illinois University in 1988, but its message was not appreciated by the society.

"Some ministers and religious types still refuse to accept the facts; and that's given rise to a reluctance to educate our minority populations and to help to keep us safe," says Davis. "But," she says, "we're hoping that these groups will help us by becoming co-sponsors of these events."

In addition to the Ebell event, Jacquie Stevens, at KJLH (102.3 FM), will host a remote broadcast from Leimert Park, beginning at 8:00 am on Saturday, October 15. Free screenings, educational materials, and condoms will be available.

Participants and others can then reserve for their choice of the remaining Friday, Saturday, and Sunday performances at Drew HS (120th and Compton). All tickets are free but are available on a first come/first served basis. . . "So reserve soon," advises Davis, because seats are limited.

To reserve for yourself or your community or religious group, phone Drew's Center for Community and Preventive Medicine at **310/763-9746**.

If the answer is recorded, state your name and phone number and also the date and number of tickets required. Reservations are confirmed unless Drew calls back to cancel.

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SPEAKING OF CHARLIE

A drama in two acts by Richard Cavalier

Directed by Rudolph Hamilton, Jr.

The setting: The Welt family suburban/countryside home on a Saturday afternoon in the early 1980s.

About the play: *Speaking of Charlie*, by Richard Cavalier, is a drama written and set in the early 1980s, when the scourge of AIDS was first being recognized. There was no name for the disease yet, and the method of transmission was not known. No one seemed to be interested in a play about a topic that *officially* did not exist.

Charlie anticipated the recent understanding that bisexual activity would be the route of HIV from the gay community into the “straight” community. But that fact was rejected then (and to some degree, even now) by society in general and religious communities in particular. So AIDS was demonized by the Reagan Administration and also by numerous pastors.

In that atmosphere, *Charlie* won a playwriting award (1988) and full production from Northeastern Illinois University, in Chicago. But the key message was still unacceptable. . .until Oprah recently “outed” the problem by publicizing the J.L. King book, *On the Down Low*. It’s not only the Brothers who are leading double lives—it can be any (and certainly is, many) men and women of all races.

About the Playwright:

Richard Cavalier is a misplaced Minnesotan who has lived in L.A., Chicago, and NYC. In addition to *Charlie*, he has written four other plays (3 were fully produced); 4 business books, and 2 lit books. His travel experience in 40+ countries produced a verbatim ESL text for volunteer tutors of our own non-standard speakers and immigrants. For about 5 years in the 1970s, his regular business columns in Crain’s *A&SP* and Bill Bros’ *Sales & Marketing Management* magazines brought original methodology to, and demanded ethical standards from, the then-newly-formed but disorganized group communications (meetings/conventions/training) industry.

THE CAST:



Ebony Perry (Martha): A native of Little Rock, AR, Ebony received her B.A. in Theatre Arts at Clark Atlanta University. Her credits include: *flying West; Tambourines to Glory; Morning, Noon, and Night; Medea; and Ti-Jean and his Brothers*. In St. Paul, MN, she became a resident actor for Climb Theatre, Inc., and toured throughout the Midwest. In Los Angeles, she pursues a successful career in TV and film.



Shamika Franklin (Alison): Shamika, a native of Kansas City, MO, with a B.A. in Theatre where she performed on numerous stages such as The St. Louis Black Rep, The Missouri Repertory Theatre & The Coterie Theatre. Some of the works she has performed include the late, great August Wilson's "*Joe Turner's Come & Gone*", Lynn Nottage's "*Crumbs from the Table of Joy*" & *The Hot L. Baltimore* by Lanford Wilson. In addition, Shamika has done vast amounts of industrial & commercial work with companies such as *Sprint PCS, Morgan James & Associated, and H&R Block*. While in Los Angeles, she has done independent films and has worked at the Stella Adler Theatre, The Mark Taper Annex, and most recently the prestigious Skirball Center where she played the lovable puppet *Myrtle Goode!* She is pleased to be working on *Speaking of Charlie* with such a great and talented cast!



THE CAST:



James E. Hurd, Jr. (Calvin): James was raised in Wewahitchka, Florida, and began his theatre work at Florida State University and Florida A&M, where he starred in *The Mighty Gents* and *Room Beneath the Blues*. His leading-role L.A. stage work includes *Sentence of Silence; No longer an Alien; Living on the Edge; The Split; and Room 222*, which he also wrote and directed in workshop. Hurd recently completed the feature films *Columbus Day; Jive Chicken; Duplicator; Red Herring; Able Edwards; and Compton Cowboy*. He appeared in episodes of "General Hospital" and "Murder She Wrote," and he starred in the film *Repo Jake*. His film debut was in *Something Wild*, with Melanie Griffith and Jeff Daniels. Hurd is also a playwright and director, co-authoring civil rights-themed dramas with his co-author, Linda Bannister. He wrote *One Sunday in Mississippi*, which was featured at the National Black Theatre Festival, 2003. He is currently completing two more plays, *Turpentine Jake* and *Cul de Sac*.



Jerome Anthony Hawkins (Thurston): Jerome, a native of the San Francisco Bay Area, traveled to Los Angeles in 1997 to study at Loyola Marymount University. While in attendance there, he participated in several wonderful theatrical productions, including leading roles in James Baldwin's *Blues for Mr. Charlie*; Lorraine Hansberry's *Raisin in the Sun*; and William Shakespeare's *Scottish* play. Since then, Jerome has been working in independent films and theatrical productions locally. His is a name to remember.



PRODUCTION STAFF AND CREW



Donald Benjamin Lewis (Producer): Hello! This play has been a long time in coming! The writer and I have been talking about this play for almost 10 years. It is my pleasure finally to produce it. I am pleased to give to you and to Los Angeles the stage play *Speaking of Charlie*.

Set Designer: Rudolph Hamilton, Jr. with collaboration from Mark V. Jones and Clarrissa Pettijohn.

Clarrissa O. Pettijohn (Costume Designer): Clarrissa is a graduate of the Art Institute of Atlanta where she received an Associate in Arts degree in Visual Communications. A Graphic Artist, illustrator, painter and she has studied art history, typography and color and design. Clarrissa has a strong background in the Theatre Arts. Clarrissa was head costume designer at Karamu Theatre in Cleveland Ohio for 10 years, Inner City Cultural Center for two years and worked in television for Premore Productions and for *Advertising Agency BBD&O* as a designer in Los Angeles. She further enhanced her skills by working in a costume shop, constructing costumes for many television show such as the *Donny and Marie Show*, *Sid & Marty Krofft*, and many other television and theatre specials.

June Yamado (Make-up Artist): June is a professional and creative make-up artist/hair stylist/licensed cosmetologist with experience in all aspects of the media of make-up such as TV, film, video, photography, fashion, stage, and bridal.

Robin Hamilton (Stage Manager): Robin Hamilton is a native of New York and is known to wear many hats. When not fulfilling her passion of writing stage plays, books, poetry, or screenplays, she's often busy dashing about behind the scenes assisting as a stage manager. She has worked as a stage manager on a number of plays and projects throughout Southern California.

Robin also enjoys volunteering at local community events. She recently helped to coordinate a gospel benefit concert for the victims of Hurricane Katrina, and has assisted with the Cameron Eugene Jackson/Black Writers Festival for over eight years.

Relaina Hamilton (Lights and Sound) : Relaina Hamilton is a native Californian. She learned to run sound and lights at an early age. Once Relaina graduates college, she hopes to embark on a career in public relations.

UNDERSTUDIES



Mark V. Jones (Calvin): Born in Birmingham, AL, and raised in Southern California, Mark is no stranger to the world of performing arts. He has written several short stories, film shorts, and plays (*Sunday's Dinner* won him a trip to Valdez, Alaska, for the Edward Albee Last Frontier Playwright Contest in the summer of 2002). Mark has appeared in numerous stage productions, such as: *The Start of Conversations*, *Summers in Suffolk*, *West Memphis Mojo*, *One last Look*, *Leo's Barbershop and Grill*, *When Harlem was in Vogue*, *The Meeting*, *Fences*, *Pill Hill* and many more. Films include: *Jesus is Watching You*, *Oops*, *Can I Get a Pickle?*, *In the Name of Love*, *Illusions of Love*, *Fate*, *Retiring Tateyana*, and *Darkest Moment*. He is also busy with carpentry for stage construction and as Technical Director for *Solo Show...Off*. He reminds us, "Love the art in yourself, and not yourself in the art" . . .Stanislavski.

Makeda Sanyika (Alison): This is Makeda's acting debut in Los Angeles. No stranger to performing arts, Makeda has been singing and dancing on stage since before age three. As a Junior Member of The Egyptian Repertoire Co., Makeda starred in many of its cultural arts productions, intensifying her love for the arts and leading her to pursue a career in acting. As a member of the Prairie View A&M University Gilpin Players, Makeda displayed a vast range of talents by not only playing *Mary Magdalene*, *Red Sea*, *Anti-War*, *Jezebel Fontaine*, and *ItchiGichiYayaDada*, amongst other characters, but she also assisted with set construction, design, lighting, as well as costumes, make-up, and choreography. Attending University of East Anglia in Norwich, Norfolk, United Kingdom, helped her earn a Bachelor's Degree in Dramatic Arts from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Ben Tyler (Thurston) : Ben is a native of Washington, D.C., where he is a graduate of The Catholic University of America. Within the last few years, he has performed fairly regularly at the Stella Adler Theatre, with Unity Players Ensemble. Most recently, UPE cast him in the premiere production of *Hattie*, at the Long Beach Playhouse. Speaking of Long Beach, Ben can also be seen in the special effects attraction *Ghosts & Legends of the Queen Mary*. When he is not performing he is either working on his one-man show or taking swimming and tailoring classes at Los Angeles Trade Technical College. Remember: You've learned to live when you've learned to accommodate reality" . . .a line from *Speaking of Charlie*."

Marcel Webb (Martha): A native of California, Marcel grew up in a small town called Compton. Marcel holds a degree in Theater Arts and broadcasting and is the host of her own weekly talk show on public access, called "*Carrying the Message*." She has performed in television sitcoms, box office hits, and local theatre. She is also a member of HOPE Toastmasters, an organization for public speaking, Los Angeles. She works with *SPECTRUM* Community Service and Research at the Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science.

Marcel now speaks as a spiritual and motivational leader, teaching about the principles of the word of God, and is the founder and CEO of her own Christian product line called "*Carrying the Message*."