



Shaw Players' Spring Show, "Livin' Fat," a Success

The Shaw University Theatre Department held its spring show, "Livin' Fat" at the Meymandi Theatre in downtown Raleigh on April 29, May 1, and May 3, 2009. The two-act comedy was written by award winning playwright Judi Ann Mason.

The play, set in the 1970s, revolved around a family who didn't have an abundant amount of money, but did have a profuse amount of love for one another. Their loyalty to God is tested when some ill-advised money is placed in their path.

This comedy explored the many obstacles and tests that came along as they balanced their new-found wealth with Christian values.

The four performances of the play were under the artistic direction of Assistant Professor of Theatre Kenneth Hinton. The St. Paul A.M.E. Church made the final performance a sellout by filling the seats with members of their congregation.

The cast of "Livin' Fat" included Assistant Professor of Theatre Dawn Formey, as Big Mama; freshman Sam Taybron, III as David Lee; sophomore Phylisa Logan as Mama; senior Jarrel Johnson as Daddy; senior Kelvin Pittman as Boo; freshman Dominique Grizzle as Candy; and junior Markia Chappelle who understudied the role of Mama.

Shaw University critics lauded the production. "Bravo! Bravo!" said Assistant Professor of Sociology, Derek Greenfield. "It was wonderful to once again witness the tremendous talents of our students and Professor Formey."

George Hatcher, Chair of the Visual and Performing Arts Department, shared similar feelings, stating that he too, had a thoroughly enjoyable evening and called the play a "splendid production." He continued, "To be sure, I laughed so hard at times that I nearly cried."



Left to Right: Phylisa Logan as Mama, Dawn Formey as Big Mama, Dominique Grizzle as Candy, and Jerrel Johnson as Daddy



Kelvin Pittman as Boo (L) and Sam Taybron, III as David Lee