

'The Devil On Trial' returns for successful performance

By MARIE MOORE LYLES

"The Devil On Trial" was produced on May 2, 2015 as a second presentation in Tuskegee. The first production was in September 2013.

This religious comedy, written by Roosevelt Wright Jr. and directed by Ala Whitehead, was sponsored by the Lambda Chapter of Iota Phi Lambda Sorority and the Butler Chapel AME Zion Church.

playreview

Whether audience members were seeing the play for the first or second time, there was much interaction with the cast members during the performance.

This comedy communicated to all that there is a reality of the final Judgment for all of humanity from the beginning of time unto future generations. The costumes were symbolically appropriate for each character.

Most of the cast members were better known for their day jobs or community service. Once they were transformed into their assigned characters, the power of their acting talents emerged.

The bass speaking voice of Roger Gray III oozed with evil thoughts throughout his performance as Lucifer, the devil on trial representing himself. Febu Holston's portrayal as the sultry Delilah received appreciation from the audience. Roger Gray IV's portrayal as Today's Youth with street influences gave much food for thought for adult responsibilities in providing better alternatives.

Floreida Madison's performance as the prosecuting angel was dynamic. The pastor of Butler Chapel, Rev. James Taylor's, role as the Christian redeemed from sin was performed with charismatic exuberance. Adding to the excitement of the evening was the great solo voice of Tuskegee's Rose Washington.

While the mentioned roles were written to have a greater dramatic effect, the other members of the cast performed with great awareness of their characters: Jessie Crumes (Judge Gabriel); Larry Hooks (the Bailiff and Centurion Soldier); Armstead and Patricia T. Young (Adam and Eve); Rufus Carson (Cain); Paul Jefferson (Joseph); Edward Jackson (Moses); Jess Colson (King David); S'Jhai Moon and Makijh Robinson (unnamed children); Preston Grimmitt (Judas and Paul); Isabell A. Grimmitt (the Woman at the Well); Ruby L. Robinson, Willor D. Williams, Taylor Bulls, Shelby Cobra (the She Devils); Michael Holland, Kyle Jackson, Miles Holland (Hebrew Boys). Cast members are members of many churches in Macon County.

The dinner following the theatrical presentation was an occasion of fellowship and socialization with the cast to discuss the lessons learned and personal life assessment for saving mercy and the blessings of grace.

Dr. Wise-Wright TU Order of Engineer speaker

Dr. Michele R. Wise-Wright will be the Order of the Engineer speaker as part of Tuskegee University's 2015 Commencement.

She will speak at 3 p.m. on Friday, May 8 at Luther Foster Hall Auditorium.

Michele R. Wise-Wright, Ph.D. (formerly Michele R. Wise) is a native of Tuskegee and the daughter of Tuskegee life-long residents Frankie Wise and Garland Wise who graduated from Tuskegee University in 1963 (Bachelor's degree) and 1964 (Master's degree).

Garland Wise serves as the Graduate and Professional Advisor and Pre-Health Advisor for Tuskegee University's Department of Biology.

Commemorating 25 years, Dr. Wise-Wright graduated in May 1990 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering (Magna Cum Laude) and with the notable honor of "Electrical Engineering Student of the Year."

While at Tuskegee, she was a distinguished Martin Marietta Cooperative Education Student and Scholar, a Student Leadership Award winner, Miss Engineering, Miss Society of Women Engineers, Miss United Negro College Fund, a National Collegiate Engineering Award winner and a member and Senior officer of numerous National Honor Societies, including Alpha Kappa Mu General Honor Society, Beta Kappa Chi Scientific Honor Society, Eta Kappa Nu Electrical Engineering Honor Society, and Pi Mu Epsilon Mathematics Honor



Dr. Wise-Wright

Society.

Dr. Wise-Wright holds a Master of Science Degree from the University of Tennessee Space Institute, where she chartered the National Society of Black Engineers. She has the distinction of becoming UTISI's first full-time African-American student to earn a Master's Degree in Engineering Management/Industrial Engineering and a Ph.D. in Public Policy from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, with a double specialization in Health and Leadership Policy.

Dr. Wise-Wright is a multi-dimensional Senior Executive with experience providing dynamic leadership in diverse roles, including healthcare administration and business development to a prominent international non-profit as well as Fortune 100 companies.

She currently serves as the Sen-

ior Director of the National Biotechnology & Pharmaceutical Association (NBPA) and formerly served as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Greater Ozarks-Arkansas Region with the American Red Cross.

She is also the past recipient of Sister Friends United, Inc. "Women of Excellence" Inaugural Service Award as well as the organization's Business Award.

A top-performing national and international multiple award-winning corporate leader, Dr. Wise-Wright has worked with Fortune 500 organizations including Genentech Biotech Company, Novartis Pharmaceuticals, Pfizer Pharmaceuticals and The Procter and Gamble Company. She has a successful track record in increasing productivity, inventory accuracy, operational efficiency, and cost reductions as an engineer and has an impressive top sales performance in food, pharmaceutical and biotechnology sales. She is an expert in project, team, and total quality management.

Her extensive research of some of America's most outstanding women achievers served as inspiration for her book "DEAR SUCCESS SEEKER: Wisdom from Outstanding Women" (Atria/Simon & Schuster), which received the 2011-12 USA "Best Books" Award for "Best New Non-Fiction" and has allowed her to leverage what she has learned about success to benefit corporations, organizations and educational facilities worldwide.

Mayfest Picnic slated in honor of Older Americans Month

In honor of Older Americans Month South Central Alabama Development Commission Area Agency on Aging will host the 2015 Mayfest Picnic on Friday, May 15 at Troy Recreation Center, located at 601 Enzor Road in Troy from 9 a.m.- 2 p.m.

• Free Admission: — Must be 60 or older and live in Bullock, Butler, Crenshaw, Lowndes, Macon or Pike County
• Entertainment
• Games

• Exhibitors
• Hamburger Cookout
• T-shirts — must pre-order
• Door Prizes and more.....
For additional informa-

tion, call 1-800-243-5463 or 334-244-6903.

For transportation to Troy, please call Dr. Florence Pace-Tyner at the Tuskegee Senior Citizens office, 334-724-2137.

Extension offering gardening program

The Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program will be offering multiple opportunities to learn about home and community vegetable gardening in Tuskegee throughout the summer.

"TULIP Tuesdays," held the first Tuesday of each month at 9 a.m., will provide hands-on training at the TULIP community garden (402 Gautier Street in Tuskegee). In addition, the new Demonstration Community Garden behind the farmers market will be open to visitors Wednesdays and Saturdays during market hours.

TULIP is a newly-established organization in Tuskegee dedicated to addressing community sustainability via gardening, youth development, leadership training, coalition building, and the empowerment of Macon County. TULIP Tuesdays will follow the issues of a growing summer garden, including season-long weed control, plant health, and preparing for a fall garden.

The workshops will be held the first Tuesday of each month, May through July, and will have something to offer

for all levels of gardening experience ages high school to adult. Because the workshop will be held in the garden, the schedule may be altered due to weather. There is no cost to attend TULIP Tuesdays and no registration is necessary.

Garden enthusiasts or newcomers may also enjoy a visit to the new Demonstration Community Garden behind the farmers market, on the corner of Elm and Spring Streets. Beginning May 2, this outdoor classroom will be open each Wednesday and Saturday during market hours.

Visitors are welcome to come and see demonstrations of composting, permaculture, worm farming, raised bed gardening, and space-saving gardening techniques. Extension staff and Tuskegee University students will be on site to answer questions and offer tours of the garden.

For more information on these projects or the Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension's home and community garden education, contact Anne Randle at 334-724-4681 or arandle@mytu.tuskegee.edu.

'Yellow Dot' offered by Tuskegee FD

The Tuskegee Fire Department handles the "Yellow Dot" program. The free program is designed to help increase the effectiveness of medical care after a crash. While geared toward seniors and residents with medical conditions, it is open to all county residents. Sign-ups can be handled at the Tuskegee Fire Department, 904 East Martin Luther King Highway, Tuskegee. For more information, contact: Chief Fred Iverson, (334) 724-2107 or Fire Marshal Willie Smith Sr., (334) 750-6691.

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