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### **PRESS RELEASE**

October 2008

## **Tracy African American Association Hosts Final BLACK NATIVITY Performance**

***Grand Theatre Center for the Arts – Tracy, CA – December 6, 2008***

**TRACY, CA** — During each of the past five Christmas seasons, Tracy African American Association, Inc. (TAAA) has hosted the stellar play **Black Nativity**, written by celebrated African American poet, novelist, and playwright Langston Hughes. At 4:30 p.m. Saturday, December 6, 2008, TAAA will host the Allen Temple Baptist Church Cantateers' final performance of **Black Nativity** at Tracy, California's magnificently refurbished Grand Theatre Center for the Arts, 715 Central Ave. Unlike in past years, there will be *one performance only*.

Modestly priced tickets (\$20.00 ea.) are available at the theater box office, online at [www.atthegrand.org/event\\_calendar.php](http://www.atthegrand.org/event_calendar.php), and directly from TAAA (209.601.6311).



Having headed the 45-member cast for 27 years, Betty Gadling is retiring from her **Black Nativity** directorial role. The Cantateers' brilliantly soul-stirring presentation tells the powerful story of the birth of Jesus through rousing Gospel renditions and Hughes' inspiring poetry. Featuring an awe-inspiring collection of vocal talent, **Black Nativity** is an engaging, spiritual journey to bring the true meaning of faith to the stage. In each of its previous presentations, **Black Nativity** has proven to be a unique theatrical gift to the Tracy community. Don't miss this opportunity to witness the Allen Temple Baptist Church Cantateers' final Tracy, CA production of the remarkable ethnic Christmas celebration – a treat for the entire family!

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Current TAAA president Nate Terry is a member of The Cantateers' **Black Nativity** cast, and one of the program's gifted soloists. Terry commented, "This has been the most exciting and most moving play in which I've had the privilege of performing. Not only does it provide a clear presentation of what Christmas is truly about, it also delivers a message to those who don't understand how they can get to know Him [Jesus]."

Terry is proud that nearly every member of TAAA is in some way involved in presenting or promoting **Black Nativity**, but saddened that this year's performance will be the Allen Temple Baptist Church Cantateers' final one.

Terry said, "As the last show, this final performance will leave a legacy in our town. In keeping with the TAAA mission, **Black Nativity** has brilliantly exhibited a cultural Yuletide celebration."

Wells Fargo Home Mortgage and Wal-Mart are among the event's generous sponsors. For additional event information, or if interested in sponsoring this special event, please contact Nate Terry | 209-601-6311 | [nateterry@hotmail.com](mailto:nateterry@hotmail.com).

**ABOUT TRACY AFRICAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION, INC:**

The Tracy African American Association (TAAA) is a non-profit organization established in 1994 by a group of concerned professionals seeking to form ties among African American and other members of the Tracy, CA Community.

The TAAA mission is to create a cooperative environment that unites people of all ages and backgrounds through sponsorships, while promoting and contributing to educational, cultural and social programs and activities that foster awareness, diversity, and a cooperative environment that unites the Tracy Community. Membership is open to individuals who share and embrace the TAAA mission. [www.TAAA.net](http://www.TAAA.net)

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