



Press Release

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Contact: Donna Roseberry; 423-605-5718

Sheryl Lee Ralph to Perform “Sometimes I Cry”; Hosted by the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc., Chattanooga Chapter



Chattanooga, Tennessee – The National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc., Chattanooga Chapter will be hosting film, television and Broadway veteran Sheryl Lee Ralph as she performs her one woman play, *Sometimes I Cry*. The event will be held at 8:00 p.m. on Thursday August 21st at the Chattanooga Trade and Convention Center.

Ms. Ralph’s original claim to fame came with the role of Deena Jones on Broadway in the landmark musical *Dreamgirls*, which earned her both a Tony and Drama Desk Award Nomination for Best Actress.

After *Dreamgirls*, Ms. Ralph turned her attention to music, television and film. Her TV credits include *It’s a Living*, her own series *New Attitude*, the George Foreman series *George* and in the hit comedy *Designing Women*. She was also voted one of TV’s Favorite Moms for her portrayal of step mom “Dee” on the number-one rated television series *Moesha*. Recently, Sheryl brought a new face to the sufferings of war in the NBC hit series ER.

Her extensive film credits include *Sister Act II with Whoopi Goldberg*, *The Flintstones with Rosie O’Donell*, *The Mighty Quinn* with Denzel Washington, *Mistress* with Robert De Niro, and Eddie Murphy’s *Distinguished Gentleman*. Sheryl Lee’s performance with Danny Glover in *To Sleep with Anger* won her the Independent Spirit Award for Best Supporting Actress.

Sheryl Lee has found new success in writing, directing and performing her award-winning one-woman show *Sometimes I Cry*. This complex and thought-provoking play, illustrates the heartbreaking, yet inspiring real life stories of culturally diverse women whose lives unravel as they cope with their HIV/AIDS reality. Ralph uses her remarkable talent to poignantly bring these women to life in a way that touches the heart leaving audiences deeply moved. Met with an extraordinary outpouring of love and acceptance after its initial performance at the National Black Women and HIV/AIDS Conference in Los Angeles in 2005, *Sometimes I Cry*, continues to be performed in the US and abroad.

“We are extremely excited to host this event and to bring a performer of Ms. Ralph’s caliber to the Chattanooga area,” states Gloria McKeldin, President of the Chattanooga Chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women. “HIV/AIDS awareness is one of the many national initiatives of NCBW. The presentation of Ms. Ralph’s *Sometimes I Cry* provides an excellent opportunity for us to support that initiative in our local community.”

Tickets for the *Sometimes I Cry* are \$35.00 and can be purchased from any member of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women or by calling 423-698-0029. Proceeds from the event go towards various community projects sponsored by the local NCBW chapter which include young adult mentoring programs in area schools, HIV/AIDS Awareness, and the Reach for the Stars Scholarship Fund which presents scholarships annually to college bound students in the Chattanooga area.

The National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc., Chattanooga Chapter is an organization that advocates enhanced quality of life for individuals and families of color by facilitating programs that address their needs and unites the public and private sector of Chattanooga to ensure the progress of women of color. While establishing a sisterly bond, these programs foster leadership, educational opportunities, economic partnerships, women’s health issues and political strength.