



**Black
Girl
Speaks**

HEALING BEGINS

Positively Tampa Bay: Black Girl Speaks



Celebrating Black History Month: "Black Girl Speaks", a provocative play touring the country, arrives in Tampa Bay for a special one-night performance.

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'Black Girl' Hails Shared Stories

By Ashley Williams

Staff Writer, The FAMUAN

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"Black Girl Speaks" is a piece that gives voice to issues that all African-American girls and women can relate to. Composed of spoken word, monologues and music, "Black Girl Speaks" found a creative and inspiring way to deliver a message of hope, faith and self-love to women at Florida A&M University Wednesday night.

This former one-woman show has expanded in the last few years into a movement of women trying to educate and encourage by using powerful words to impact its audience.

Written by FAMU alumna Talitha Anyabwela, "Black Girl Speaks" touched on deep issues such as molestation, rejection and overcoming tremendous hurt. Anyabwela' also performed pieces about love and self-esteem. Together the cast of four portrayed real women and the everyday yet sometimes traumatic situations black women face.

Theola Williams, 22, a nursing student from Miami, said she was moved by the themes in the show.

"My favorite part of the show was that she touched on all aspects of being a black woman," Williams said.

Williams said this was her second time to see the show and this one was even better than the last





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'Black Girl Speaks' coming to USF

Updated: Thursday, 03 Feb 2011, 9:07 AM EST

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She is a poet and playwright, one woman who represents many in a show she calls "a movement."

"Black Girl Speaks" is a tribute to the trials and triumphs of everyday heroines. Talitha Anyabwele, the creator of the show as well as related seminars and workshops, stopped by Good Day to pass along her message of universal healing and perform a monologue from the show.

"Black Girl Speaks" is at the University of South Florida on Saturday, February 19, at 7 p.m. For more information, go to blackgirlspeaks.com

Saturday

Rockabilly Ruckus: Bands including Kim Lenz and her Jaguars, Rocket 88, Sarge and the Aeromen, Hot Rod Walt and Psycho Devilles play at 6 p.m. at Skipper's Smokehouse, 910 Skipper Road, Tampa. \$20-\$25. Toll-free 1-800-594-8499. skipperssmokehouse.com.

Black Girl Speaks: In honor of Black History Month, this show is a series of monologues told by black women at 7 p.m. at the University of South Florida Theater I, 4202 E Fowler Ave., Tampa. \$25. blackgirlspeaks.com.

Sunday

Joan Jett and the Blackhearts: A pop/rock band popular in the '80s and '90s, Joan Jett and the Blackhearts performs at 5 p.m. at Busch Gardens, 3605 Bougainvillea Ave., Tampa. The concert is included with park admission. Get VIP priority seating and food for an additional \$27.95. Meal certificates are valid at all food locations at the park except for the Crown Colony Restaurant. The event is part of the park's Bands, Brew and BBQ series. 1-888-800-5447. buschgardens.com.

Tuesday

Great Books Series: Professor Rick Wilber hosts a discussion of the book *Brave New World* after a reception at 6:30 p.m. in the TECO Room in the education building at the University of South Florida, 4202 E Fowler Ave., Tampa. Free. (813) 974-9373.

Othello: Theater companies including USF's and some from England perform their version of Shakespeare's tragedy at 8 p.m. today, Wednesday and Thursday at the University of South Florida Theatre 2, 4202 E Fowler Ave., Tampa. \$8-\$15. (813) 974-2323. arts.usf.edu.

Thursday

Comedy: Comedian Jimmy Shubert performs at 8:30 p.m. at Side Splitters Comedy Club, 12938 N Dale Mabry Highway, Tampa. For prices, call (813) 960-1197. sidesplitterscomedy.com.

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Two shows in Tampa celebrate life's journeys

By John Fleming, Times Performing Arts Critic
In Print: Thursday, February 17, 2011

Katherine Michelle Tanner is an actor and singer-songwriter. Talitha Anyabwele is a writer, actor and teacher. Both women have shows this weekend in Tampa.

Echoes of Love

Tanner, who has given fine performances in plays at American Stage, Gorilla Theatre and Stageworks, has a concert program called "Echoes of Love", in which she will be supported by piano and guitar. "The theme is a journey of love yearned for, love lost and love realized," says Tanner, who will feature works by contemporary songwriters such as Ingrid Michaelson and Sara Bareilles.

She will also perform some of her own songs, such as *The Mississippi*, "which is about two young lovers meeting on the banks of the Mississippi, which is where I'm from," says Tanner, who grew up in the Mississippi River town of Hastings, Minn., and now lives in Sarasota. She stars as women's rights activist Margaret Fuller in *Charm* by Kathleen Cahill from March 23 to April 17 at Orlando Shakespeare Theater.

"Echoes of Love" has performances at 7:30 p.m. today, Friday and Saturday at the Mainstage Theatre of the

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Entertainment



Black Girl Speaks

Video: [Powerful words](#)
 The Production Has Influenced and Inspired Hundreds of Men, Women and Children; and Is Expected to Impact Even More with Its Second Show

Talitha Anyabwelé and BSG Productions, Inc. will present Black Girl Speaks for a second time in the Bay area. Black Girl Speaks delivers a series of powerful monologues and spoken word told through the eyes and spirit of a black woman.

The show's Bay area debut welcomed several hundred guests at downtown Tampa's Straz Center in 2009. In February 2011, the University of South Florida (Theatre 1), will host the popular original production, which has received rave reviews from performing art enthusiasts, educators and the general public. In addition to the new location, Black Girl Speaks, for the first time in its history, will feature other performers alongside

enthusiasts, educators and the general public. In addition to the new location, Black Girl Speaks, for the first time in its history, will feature other performers alongside

Talitha Anyabwelé. Anyabwelé, who is the playwright, producer, and actress, is excited about the growth of Black Girl Speaks and the impact it has, "I'm grateful to be used as a vessel to continue the legacy of sharing our oral history. Black Girl Speaks has become a great movement of empowerment for our community because it's rooted in the strength of our heritage." Black Girl Speaks: A Three-Part Harmony is Saturday, February 19th, 2011 at 7pm. Tickets are on sale at

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Black Girl Speaks Comes To Atlanta For A Highly-anticipated, Night Of Empowerment

Written by Administrator Thursday, 20 December 2012 09:41



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The Production Has Influenced and Inspired Hundreds of Men, Women and Children; and Is Expected to Impact Even More with its Atlanta Debut

Talitha Anyabwélé and BGS Productions, Inc. will present Black Girl Speaks in Atlanta on January 12th. For one night only, Atlanta audience members will be entertained and enlightened by stellar performances and a myriad of characters interpreting the message through monologues, spoken word, song and dance. Black Girl Speaks delivers a series of powerful monologues and spoken word told through the eyes and spirit of a black woman. The Southwest Arts Center (915 New Hope Rd. SW) will host the popular original production, which has received rave reviews from performing art enthusiasts, educators and the general public. Talitha Anyabwélé, a native of

Atlanta, is the playwright, producer, and actress. She is excited about the growth of Black Girl Speaks and the impact it has, "I'm grateful to be used as a vessel to

Black Girl Speaks

Posted December 28, 2012 by Tanna Faulkner in Culture

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Black Girl Speaks (BGS), a production starring and created by playwright and director Talitha Anyabwile, has been in production for the past seven years and is currently on a seven city tour.

Atlanta is the second stop on the BGS Spread the Word Tour and will open on Saturday, January 12, 2013 at the Southwest Arts Center, on New Hope Road in Southwest Atlanta, GA.

"The purpose of "Black Girls Speaks" is to empower the voice of black women, to show and humanize black women," said Anyabwile, who has always loved the theater. "Black Girls Speaks," is based on events in her personal life, as well as the lives of women she has encountered who have shared their stories with her throughout her life. The production displays the experiences of black women who have experienced and endured agony, loss, sorrow, love, relationship drama, triumphs, and more.



"BLACK GIRL SPEAKS" FOUNDER TALITHA ANYABWELE FINDS A VOICE — AND A BUSINESS — IN POETRY



For a traveling poet/spoken word performance artist, sharing your gift with varying and growing audiences is a dream come true. At least it is for Talitha Anyabwele, an artist who's traveled state-to-state promoting her passion, and now her business **Black Girl Speaks Productions, Inc.** Solely headed by Anyabwele, BGS was launched shortly after she abruptly checked out of corporate America.

Although she's pursuing her passion, most times Anyabwele says she feels like she's indeed running a business. In late October, due to her daughter's illness, she was forced to reschedule her show in Minneapolis. It's situations like these that puts her job as a poet on the back burner and brings Anyabwele's duties as CEO and artistic director into focus.

"I'm reminded BGS is a business around tax season; when I have to do my reports, budgets and income statements. I don't like doing those things, but it's necessary," she said.

"The weekend I had to cancel my show, I had to eat the nonrefundable costs that come with

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Black Girl Speaks – Atlanta

BGS Prod., Inc. is bringing the internationally renowned original production, Black Girl Speaks to Atlanta. The show is a vivid depiction of the trials and triumphs of women throughout the African Diaspora using monologues, dialogues, poetry, and song. It threads together the tales of our extraordinary legacy and honors the voices of our foremothers. Come celebrate the power of our voice!



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January 12, 2013 — Black Girl Speaks Comes To Atlanta For A Highly Anticipated Night Of Empowerment

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BGS Productions, Inc. Presents:
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The banner features three images: a woman in a white dress, a woman in a white dress, and a woman in a white dress. The text 'BLACK GIRL SPEAKS' is written in large, bold letters across the images. The text 'In Atlanta!!!' is written in large, bold letters at the bottom of the banner.