

Play celebrates biblical history

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Trinity Entertainment Group will stage its 2nd annual Las Vegas production of literary icon Langston Hughes' "Black Nativity." The show will run at the Cashman Theatre, 850 Las Vegas Blvd, on Friday at 7 p.m. and on Saturday at 2 and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door. Tickets can be purchased at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/20193.

"Black Nativity" is an African-American telling of the nativity story, written by Black poet and playwright Langston Hughes. The first act recreates the journey of Mary and Joseph. However, the characters are wearing African garments to Bethlehem and the acting is accompanied by a repertoire of old-fashioned spirituals.

The second act takes place on Christmas Day 2,000 years later at an African-American church filled with testifying deacons, sanctified ladies, and down-home preaching. This show features a host of talented locals who've worked with the likes of Tyler Perry, Cirque Du Soleil, Kanye West, Gladys Knight, Byron Cage, Michael Buble, John Tesh, Quincy Jones, and Alicia Keys. The roster includes Ken Young, Neil Taffe, Toni Morgan, local gospel artists Ken Gober and Shonica Murray and Atlanta vocalist Andrea Connor.

This is a Christmas celebration for the whole family. For more information call 702-994-2964 or go to www.trinityentertainmentlv.com.

Kwanzaa maturing everybody's holiday

A Complete Guide for Making Kwanzaa a Part of Your Life

By Maitefa Angaza; Dafina Books; Paperback; \$14.00; 282 pages; illustrated ISBN: 978-0-7582-1665-6

By Kam Williams Sentinel-Voice

"One of the reasons Kwanzaa has been widely embraced is that it speaks directly to the need many feel for a self-determining way of engaging the world. In observing a holiday created by a man of African ancestry as a contribution to his people and to the world, we claim the hard-won freedoms paid for by the sacrifices of all our forebears..."

At Kwanzaa time we look within to determine where we are on our life's journey, where we stand in relation to our community, and what we've done to advance those values we hold highest. We do this both singularly, in the sanctuary of our quiet moments, and together with family, friends, and colleagues during joyous celebrations.

These private and public reflections help us to set our compasses for the year ahead; although our mistakes may give pause, when contemplating our blessings, we give thanks." — Excerpted from Chapter One (pages 9 & 13)

Created by Dr. Ron

Karenga in 1966, Kwanzaa was conceived with the hope that Black people would explore "the rich resources of traditional African culture and ethics in their quest for liberated minds and lives."

Very much a child of the Civil Rights Movement, the new holiday was initially met with considerable resistance due to its then being viewed as a Pan African alternative to Christmas, given that it was celebrated during the same season, between Dec. 26 and Jan. 1.

However, over the intervening years, Kwanzaa has not only been embraced by millions of African-Americans but come to be recognized by the mainstream culture. For instance, in 1997, the U.S. Postal Service issued its first postal stamp commemorating the holiday, and it has since been positively acknowledged by President Bush in a supportive Kwanzaa message on the White House website. Plus, there's now "The Spirit of Kwanzaa," an annual event staged at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

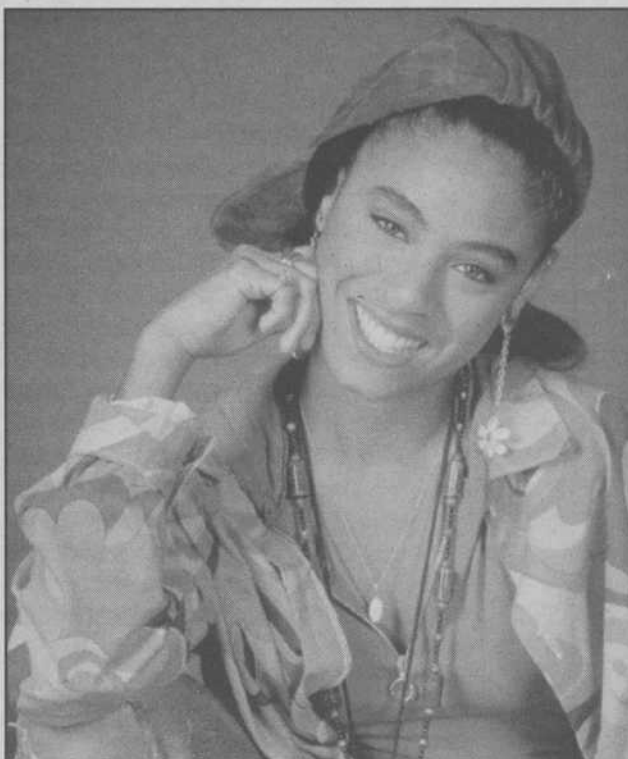
So, it only makes sense that a how-to guide like "Kwanzaa: From Holiday to Everyday" would come along. Written by Maitefa Angaza, the managing editor of African Voices, a Black literary magazine, this handy (See Kwanzaa, Page 7)

Pinkett Smith named trailblazer

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Essence magazine's inaugural Black Women in Hollywood Luncheon will take place during Oscar Week on Thursday, February 21 in Los Angeles. Actress, director, producer and screenwriter, Jada Pinkett Smith is one of three extraordinary African-American women slated to be honored for helping to inspire positive images of Black women in television and film. The luncheon commemorates the magazine's annual Hollywood issue.

Pinkett Smith is one of Hollywood's most versatile and gifted actresses, as well as a talented screenwriter, producer and director. She is developing several projects for her own production company, 100% Woman, as well as for her husband's company, Overbrook Entertainment. Chief among those is "The Human Contract," which also marks the debut of Pinkett Smith as a writer and director. Pinkett Smith created and executive pro-



Jada Pinkett Smith, in her younger days. The actress has become a multimedia force in television, film and music.

duced the television sitcom "All of Us" on the CW Network with her husband and fellow actor Will Smith.

Her work as an actress can be seen in a number of feature films, including "The

"Matrix Reloaded," "Matrix Revolutions," "Collateral," "Reign Over Me," "Ali," "The Nutty Professor," "Set It Off," "Menace II Society" and the upcoming film "The Women." Her big break

came when she landed a role on the long-running NBC-TV series "A Different World."

In addition to being the lead singer of the pop/rock band Wicked Wisdom, author of the popular book, "Girls Hold Up This World," and one of the primary investors in the skin-care line Carol's Daughter, the active wife and mother — along with her husband — also finds time for philanthropic pursuits through the couple's Will and Jada Smith Family Foundation.

"Essence is pleased to honor Jada Pinkett Smith for her body of work in Hollywood and within the African-American community," said Editor-in-Chief Angela Burt-Murray.

"The [luncheon] will celebrate the talent, vision and legacy of Jada and all of our honorees. We hope this event will also inspire a new generation of African-American actresses and filmmakers in Hollywood."

Your Horoscope Says... December 20-26

ARIES

Your rewards come not only from what you do, but from who you are! Give yourself a well-deserved pat on the back and work some wonders. You are full of positive energy this week; use it to your advantage.

Soul Affirmation: I care deeply about the feelings of others.

Lucky Numbers: 10, 11, 26

TAURUS

Practical matters may seem like nuisances that are only there to spite your sunny mood this week. The vibration has its place though, and if you apply yourself to practical things, you'll have a lot accomplished by the end of the week. Avoid spinning your wheels on impossible projects or relationships.

Soul Affirmation: Distant love is sometimes sweeter.

Lucky Numbers: 17, 24, 29

GEMINI

Excellent vibrations accompany you to meetings and appointments or anywhere where your gifts of communication can be used. You'll have managers eating out of your hand if you choose to exercise a little charm.

Soul Affirmation: I call on my creative talents to pay my bills.

Lucky Numbers: 18, 32, 47

CANCER

Charming, simply charming! You have everything going for you this week, so make the most of it. You are capable of handling many projects, and equally capable of asking for help if you need it.

Soul Affirmation: My imagination is the source of my happiness.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 12, 30

LEO

If you acknowledge your need to be with someone this afternoon, the universe will probably provide. Ask for help if you need it. There are many resources available to you that you could be drawing from. All you have to do is ask.

Soul Affirmation: I accept fate and see good in it.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 27, 28

VIRGO

Watching the sunrise will help quell any impatience that may arise within you this week. As you watch the sun kiss the sky, imagine that the universe is embracing you with love.

Soul Affirmation: I judge no one, especially myself this week.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 5, 34

LIBRA

A surge in your personal power enables you to slay any dragons that you happen to meet this week. If you keep your attention on your own personal dragons, you'll be advancing your own best self by knocking out some less than healthy habits. Use the force for good!

Soul Affirmation: Shining brightly is something that I can do even in shadows.

Lucky Numbers: 20, 33, 51

SCORPIO

Here's a chance to get to the bottom of an issue that's been bothering you for quite some time. This week you'll feel objective enough to focus on the situation, and not the person who may unwittingly have caused the situation. You should go for it!

Soul Affirmation: The enjoyment of good food is high on my agenda this week.

Lucky Numbers: 15, 43, 55

SAGITTARIUS

Information flows smoothly to and from you this week. You are in your element as communications come and go. You'll learn much as you listen and observe others. Be easy on yourself this week.

Soul Affirmation: I enjoy flirting with new ideas.

Lucky Numbers: 9, 14, 38

CAPRICORN

Someone may try to push your buttons this week. Don't let it get on your nerves. You have the power to focus your attention on positive thoughts and ideas.

They will prove much more worthwhile in the long run than a short-term blow-out with an unequal adversary.

Soul Affirmation: When I am clear about who I am, the world becomes clearer.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 45, 50

AQUARIUS

Conclusions can be reached; but don't jump to them. Things are working out in your best interests. Ignore any negative attitudes and stay focused on your goals and plans. You are winning.

Soul Affirmation: My hunches pay all week this week.

Lucky Numbers: 6, 8, 13

PISCES

This is a perfect week for some fun. You know how to have fun and it's calling you out to play. Say what you need and the rest will follow in perfect order. Have a good time.

Soul Affirmation: The search for fun occupies my time. Enjoy.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 19, 44