

For Immediate Release
2/23/10

Told through a series of poems, monologues, music and dance, *Black Diamonds and Pearls...Rise Up and Shine!* Was crafted to inspire, empower and celebrate the beauty, spirit, and true essence of African-American men. An intensely passionate, humorous, and intimate love story, the play weaves together an uplifting and sometimes haunting journey reflecting on occurrences in the lives of African-American boys/men. The play is a fifteen-character production, which consists of six males between the ages of 16-30, four females between the ages of 18-30, five dancers and runs for approximately one hour and fifty minutes.

The culminating objective of the storyline is to infuse black boys/men with pride, self-worth and self-knowledge so that they will take that understanding and aspire higher, not just for themselves but for the girls/women who love and need them, the children who look up to them and the communities/world who will miss out on the gifts they were given if they do not. The production explores such topics as, the residual effects of slavery, relationships, responsibility, self-empowerment, and self-love and community to name a few. Although designed to inspire and uplift African-American boys/men, when examined in its entirety, *Black Diamonds and Pearls...* reveals a message that is not limited to the “black” or “male” experience, but is ultimately a universal message of love, acceptance and forgiveness. It is a message that does not make excuses, but one that speaks to the transforming power of love.

This production bridges the gap in the community by playing a pivotal role in dispelling negative images and beliefs harbored both within and outside the African-American community about black boys/men. The play has had the transformative power of spearheading dialogue that is healing, constructive, and insightful. The play is a spinoff of the book “If I Decide to Fly!” a collection of poetry. For more information on the play, please log on to www.marinathepoet.com. For more information on Marina the Poet and booking, please contact Motivation Marketing at www.motivationmktg.net, 704.777.3368 or motivationmktg@gmail.com.