

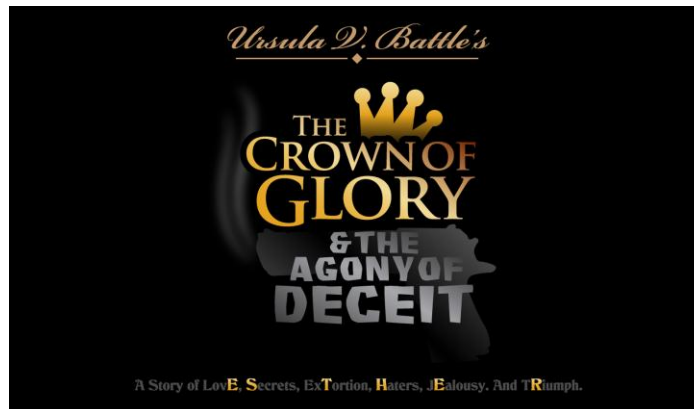


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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Local Production Company to Present Major Stage Play Production  
Based on the Biblical Story of Esther**



**DRAVON JAMES OF HBO'S THE WIRE, HEAVEN 600'S DORESA HARVEY,  
REV. MEDGAR REID, & COLUMNIST RAMBLING ROSE AMONG PERFORMERS**

***FORMER TV NEWSROOM FLOOR DIRECTOR OLIVER COOPER TO PORTRAY  
VOICE OF GOD IN MODERN DEPICTION***

**BALTIMORE, MD (September 7, 2012)** – In what many are billing as one of the biggest stage play productions ever produced locally, **Battle Stage Plays** will be presenting the powerful, new gospel stage play production “**The Crown of Glory and The Agony of Deceit.**” The Gospel stage play production will be performed **Sat., Oct. 27; Sun., Oct. 28; Sat., Nov 3; and Sun. Nov. 4** in the **Straus Auditorium of the JCC (Jewish Community Center)** located at **5700 Park Heights Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21215.**

The production features a powerful cadre of some of Baltimore’s most talented actors, actresses, models, singers, comedians, gospel rappers, and other performers, and provides a platform for the aspiring performers to showcase their talents. **Former WMAR newsroom floor manager Oliver Cooper**, whose voice has been compared to the likes of James Earl Jones and Paul Roberson, will be rendering the “**Voice of God**” and narration for the modern-day depiction of one of The Old Testament’s most famous stories.

**Dravon James of HBO's *The Wire*** (“Kleptopatra”); R&B Recording Artist “**Big Owl**” (“Admatha”); **Cindy Willis**, “**Winner of the Travis Winkey 2012 Model of the Year Contest**” (Contestant #7); **Kim Chase of Morgan’s WEEA 88.9 FM** (“Carshena”); and **Gospel singer Angela Quick** (“The First Lady”) are among the cast. **The Waxter Senior Center High Steppers**; **Fred Brown of the Impersonators** (“Senator Lowe Down”); actress and singer **Tammi Rogers** (“Liekiesha”); and singer and former “**Gong Show Winner**” **L’Tynna Wallace (King Xerxes’ Mother)**; **Berman Bennett of 1 Accord Singing Quartet** (“Meres”) are also among the list of performers.

**(MORE)**

The production also features actress and **Baltimore School for the Arts** graduate **Morgan Camper** as the beautiful “**Queen Esther**”; **Rev. Medgar Reid, Pastor and Founder of Open Secret Community Church & Ministries** (“**Mordecai**”); and **Morgan State University professor Gerald Shockey**, who is making his theatrical debut in the role of “**King Xerxes**”.

**The Crown of Glory & The Agony of Deceit** is a modern day depiction of the biblical story of Esther. The biblical story can be found in **The Old Testament**, and is about a Persian queen who saves her Jewish people from being killed. **The Crown of Glory & The Agony of Deceit** is a sordid tale of **Obsession**, a tangled web of **Lies** and **Deceit**, a dangerous liaison of **Greed and Envy**, a **Story Book Romance**, a **Beautiful Queen’s Destiny**, and is filled with sidesplitting **Comedy**, thought-provoking **Drama**, and edge-of-your-seat **Suspense**.

The play’s unforgettable characters include a **lonely First Lady** who runs away from her church, a **power-hungry VP** and his **conniving wife**, a **crooked Politician**, **Wanna Be Players** and **Shot Callers**, the **Queen’s Stiletto-Wearing Gay Assistant** and many others. **The Crown of Glory & The Agony of Deceit** follows the course their lives take based on their **decisions**. The production ultimately asks – Were those decisions based on **God’s Divine Plan** or **their own Plans**? The play also features a riveting ending that will be long remembered.

The area is already buzzing about “**The Crown of Glory & The Agony of Deceit**” which was written and produced by **Ursula V. Battle**. The Baltimore native and Coppin State University and University of Baltimore (UB)graduate is the playwright of several successful stage play productions including “**The Teachers’ Lounge**”; “**DisChord in The Choir**,” and “**FOR BETTER or WORSE**.” **Battle’s** latest production also includes **original songs** she and some of the cast members wrote for the production. **Battle** writes and produces her own original pieces, which have been performed in Washington, DC, Reading, Pa., and have garnered a faithful following of fans and supporters who come out in large numbers to see her stage plays.

Longtime Arts & Entertainment columnist **Rosa “Rambling Rose” Pryor-Trusty**; **Heaven 600 AM “Midday Diva” Doresa Harvey**; and **Dena Ward-Wane** of *The Baltimore Times*, are among the Baltimore media making guest appearances in the production as themselves. Other guest performers include designer **Linda Felder of Design & Sew**; **James “Godfather” Clowney**, a longtime member of the **MTA Police**; and **Esther Greenberg, Development Director for the JCC (Jewish Community Center) of Greater Baltimore**.

**The Crown of Glory & The Agony of Deceit** is being co-directed by **former Douglass High School principal and actress Rose Backus-Hamm** along with **Minister Tracey Stephenson**, and **Minister Carol Williams**. The dynamic stage play also features the theatrical expertise of **Dr. Della Dameron-Johnson**, founder of the **UMES (University of Maryland Eastern Shore) Drama Society and artistic director, manager and advisor of the UMES Gospel Choir**. **Dr. Dameron-Johnson**, whose career at **UMES** spans more than 35 years, will also be performing.

Tickets are **\$30** in Advance; **\$35** at the Door; and **\$20** for Children/Students (18 & under with School ID). Discounted group rates are also available (10 or more). Reserved Seating tickets are **\$40**. **VIP Tickets** (Saturday shows only) are **\$55** and includes **VIP Seating**, a **Wine and H’ordeuvres Reception**, **VIP Badge** and a **Souvenir Bag**.

For more information or to purchase tickets call **(443) 531-4787**; **(410) 409-6327**; visit <http://battlestageplays.com> or send an email to [battlestageplays@gmail.com](mailto:battlestageplays@gmail.com).

**MEDIA INTERVIEWS:** To arrange an interview with **Ursula V. Battle**, cast members, or members of the production team call **(443) 531-4787**.