

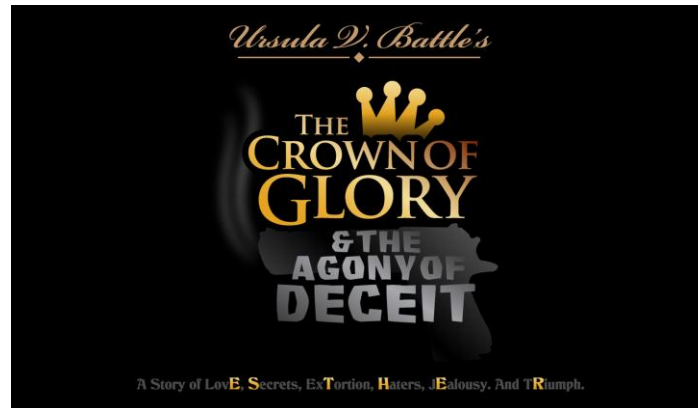


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***FEMALE ENTREPRENEUR/PLAYWRIGHT TO DEBUT MAJOR GOSPEL
STAGE PLAY PRODUCTION IN BALTIMORE***



**MODERN DAY DEPICTION OF THE BIBLICAL STORY OF ESTHER TO FEATURE
POWERFUL CADRE OF ACTORS, ACTRESSES, SINGERS, MODELS, & MEDIA**

FORMER TV NEWSROOM FLOOR DIRECTOR TO PORTRAY VOICE OF GOD

BALTIMORE, MD (September 6, 2012) – A Baltimore-based playwright who some have dubbed “The Female Tyler Perry” will be debuting a production which some are predicting will be one of the biggest stage play productions ever produced and presented in that area. Playwright and journalist **Ursula V. Battle** will be debuting her latest work, “**The Crown of Glory and The Agony of Deceit.**”

Battle is presenting the Gospel stage play through her production company, **Battle Stage Plays**, which she founded to present her original productions and to provide a platform for performers in Baltimore and surrounding areas to showcase their talents. “**The Crown of Glory & The Agony of Deceit.**” 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 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 production features a powerful cadre of some of Baltimore’s most talented actors, actresses, models, singers, comedians, gospel rappers, and other performers.

(MORE)

Former WMAR TV 2 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”); Cindy Willis, “Winner of the Travis Winkey 2012 Model of the Year Contest” (Contestant #7); and Comedian and Gospel Rapper Chris Dillard (“Shethar”) are among the talented list of performers. 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 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**, 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 production was written and produced by **Ursula V. Battle**. The Baltimore native and Coppin State University and University of Baltimore graduate is the playwright of several successful stage play productions including **“The Teachers’ Lounge”**; **“DisChord in The Choir,”** and **“FOR BETTER or WORSE”**. Her newest work also includes original songs she and some of the cast members wrote for the production. The playwright and journalist has garnered a faithful following of supporters who readily come out in large numbers to support her productions, which have also been performed in Washington, DC, Reading, Pa., and other locations.

Longtime Arts & Entertainment columnist **Rosa “Rambling Rose” Pryor-Trusty** is among the Baltimore media making guest appearances in the production as themselves. Other guest performers include **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**, and includes the theatrical expertise of **Dr. Della Dameron-Johnson**, founder of the **UMES (University of Maryland Eastern Shore) Drama Society**.

For more information or to purchase tickets call **(443) 531-4787** or **(410) 409 6327**, visit **www.battlestageplays.com** or send an email to **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.