

Local Filmmaker To Premier New Film Friday

Edited by AZI Staff

PHOENIX - Tahirah Films and Dearing Entertainment will present the premier of the film, *Phoenix Finest in Blue* on Friday, December 7 at the Dearing Acting Studio, 10806 N. 32nd St. in Phoenix.

The December 7 premier showing of *Phoenix Finest in Blue* is sold out, but Ogletree is planning another local showing at the end of the month. For information and updates go to www.OTahirah.com.

According to Ogletree, *Phoenix Finest in Blue* is a film that is dedicated to anyone who has been a victim of a hate crime.

Tahirah Ogletree is an African-American filmmaker, actress, writer and fashion model who was featured on the prestigious cover of the "Blow Hair-Fashion" magazine. She was rated America's top aspiring African American woman in 2011.

In 2012 Tahirah started her own film company O'Tahirah Film LLC. Tahirah attends The Dearing Acting Studio where Matthew Dearing is the owner. He is also the



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director of the films.

Ogletree wrote, produced, and starred in the two short films, *Battered But Not Broken* and *Phoenix Finest in Blue*.

In *Battered but Not Broken* Tahirah writes about her life story, including abuse she suffered from a previous marriage. From victim to a victorious actress, she plays a battered woman

who finds the strength to take back her life from the deadly grips of her abuser.

She plays Detective Portchellie in *Phoenix Finest in Blue*.

Ogletree says she was inspired to write and produce the film due to the lack of love that we face in today's society. She further says "For decades the absence of love and compassion for mankind, has

inspired the presence of ignorance, misguided thinking and ultimately untimely death. Anger and hate have caused the very innocence of life to be torn to pieces. The color of your skin, gender or class will never constitute who you are as a person. Only the essence of integrity, love for God, yourself and respect for life".

In *Phoenix Finest in Blue*, Ogletree as Detective Portchellie and Preston Long as Detective Hale are seasoned detectives on the trail one of the FBI's most wanted men.

Ogletree wants to inspire woman to be the best and pursue their passion despite what life has offered them. She recently made an alliance with RAINN, the Rape Abuse Incest National Network. RAINN is the nation's largest anti-sexual assault organization. For information about RAINN, visit www.RAINN.org

Ogletree grew up in Cleveland and later brought her talents to Phoenix to pursue her acting and modeling career.

For information log on to www.OTahirah.com.

Coalition Prepares For Christmas



Coalition Event Chairman Jewel Miller (l to r) smiles as TV winner Larry Bates proudly displays his winning ticket. Amanda Williams looks on.

Holiday excitement was in the air at monthly fellowship of the Coalition of Community Organizations (Coalition) held on December 1 at the Sportsman Social Club. The monthly meeting consisted of reports on activities members had participated in for the past several months.

The Coalition's Annual Christmas Party for Children is December 22 from 10 a.m. to noon at AMVETS Post #65, 1305 W. Grant. Event Chairman Jewel Miller arranged for the organization to raffle a 50" RCA High Density Television last month to help raise funds for toys needed for the event. Jewell asked Amanda Williams to draw the winning ticket. Larry Bates, a member of TL Williams American Legion Post 65 was the lucky winner. Bates was not present at the drawing, but after a call to his residence he came right over to claim his prize. He was both surprised and pleased.

IMA DENMON, REPORTER/PHOTO

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., Alumni of ASU Hold Thanksgiving Reunion



Seated left: Dr. LaVern Tarkington seated right: Charter Member Thomasita Taylor and to her right and left standing above her Charter Members Georgia Johnson and Vernita Rucker-Petty. Charter Members with them in spirit include: Sylvia Bates, Carla Brown, Joanne Burrell, June Hamilton, Marjorie Hassell, Cherie Manns, Alice, Neville, Sharrion Patterson, and LaVern Rhymes.

STORY COURTESY AKA, PHOTO: GOOD THOUGHT PHOTOGRAPHY

Special to the Informant

The ladies of AKA celebrated 42 years of their undergraduate chapter, Zeta Alpha which was chartered at Arizona State University, Tempe, on November 28, 1970. The Thanksgiving weekend involved a dinner at the Arizona Center's 1130 Restaurant which included a program recognizing their charter members and undergraduate advisors, words from their 23rd Far Western Regional Director, Dr. LaVern Tarkington, Dorothy Finnie, DBO Basileus - Graduate Chapter, and others. The evening was filled with sorority business and news, sisterhood fellowship, stories of college life, moments of

reflections for those members that have gone home to glory. There was much sorority colored paraphernalia, a variety of gifts and a beautiful cake decorated in their colors. Although many members were not present, those who were, placed phone calls, emails, text messages with one another.

All of this was captured by Joshua Goode of Good Thought Photography who posted their memories on Facebook.

The reunion also included an ASU Black Greek Reunion Picnic, which included their families and friends in the spirit of Thanksgiving and love. It was held at Kiwanis Park in Tempe.

Black Family and Child Services Seeks Donors

PHOENIX - As the rate of unemployment in the metropolitan Phoenix area continues to hover at about seven percent, record numbers of families are seeking assistance during the holiday season for the fourth consecutive year.

The community-based, non-profit social service agency Black Family and Child Services of Arizona (BFCS) is hoping to respond to hundreds of holiday season requests through its annual Adopt-a-Family Program. By matching families' Thanksgiving and Christmas Wish Lists with generous donors who can provide items on the lists, the program connects needy families with individuals, companies, organizations and church groups that can provide assistance.

"We have received more requests for help during the past four holiday seasons than any time since the agency was founded in 1984," says Michelle Simpson, coordinator of the BFCS Adopt-a-Family Program. "We have requests from every part of town, every ethnic background and every size family."

The agency is looking for anyone or any group that can personally or collectively adopt one or more families in the Phoenix area for Thanksgiving or Christmas.

"Some of our Wish Lists are submitted by single moms, fixed-income grandparents who are taking care of grandchildren, and others who have been out of work for a year or longer," Simpson adds. "Many of the Wish Lists are requests for basic items like blankets, warm clothing for

children, and food. Other lists include items like books, toys and sports equipment for kids."

Donors can choose the families they help by providing Simpson with information about the kind of situation they would like to assist, or by giving her a price range of how much they can afford to spend to purchase Wish List items.

"We have some donors who only like to help single moms. Others prefer to respond to requests from families with children who request books or toys. There are so many Wish Lists this year that we can match a donor to a family at just about any level that they're able to help," Simpson adds.

Donors who can adopt a family are asked to purchase Wish List items and bring them to the BFCS Family Service Center at 1522 E. Southern Ave. in Phoenix. Thanksgiving food boxes should be dropped off by noon on Wednesday, November 21. Christmas items should be dropped off on or by Monday, December 24. Families that receive assistance will come to the BFCS facility to pick up their gifts and food items.

"Even if you can only afford a few items, or a toy and new outfit for a child, it would make a big difference for a lot of families this year," Simpson adds.

For more information or to select a family that you or your organization can adopt, contact BFCS at 602-243-1773 and ask for the Adopt-a-Family Program. The agency is also accepting cash contributions on line at: bfcsfamily.org.