

UCSD professor of theatre, Floyd Gaffney, directs "Black Nativity", a Gospel song play

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FLOYD GAFFNEY DIRECTS "BLACK NATIVITY," A GOSPEL SONG PLAY

Floyd Gaffney, a professor of theatre at the University of California, San Diego will direct Langston Hughes' play, "Black Nativity." The play will have a two-week run at the Southeast Community Theatre, at 4343 Ocean View Blvd., beginning on Dec. 6.

Performances are at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday for the weekends of Dec. 6, 13, and 20. Sunday performances are at 2:30 and 7 p.m. on Dec. 8, 15 and 22.

Gaffney says, "A play about the miraculous birth of Jesus Christ is not new, but the telling of this old story through gospel and spiritual music is still relatively new to this community."

This will be the fourth year Gaffney has directed "Black Nativity" for a San Diego production.

The setting for this play is a small church. The congregation is preparing for a special Christmas Day service of pageantry and celebration. The first act features 17 vocal numbers--a mix of traditional carols, spirituals and gospel songs--including "I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me," "Wasn't That a Mighty Day," and "Do You Hear What I Hear."

The second act includes 10 numbers, including "Meetin' Here Tonight," "Can't Nobody Do Me Like Jesus," "How I Got Over" and a benediction which includes the "Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's Messiah.

Gaffney is a veteran actor and dancer who began his training as a teenager at Cleveland's famed Karamu House and the children's theatre of the Cleveland Playhouse. He received his B.A. and M.A. from Adelphi University in Garden City, New York, and his Ph.D. from Carnegie-Mellon University in 1966. He has directed and choreographed many productions, including "Irma La Douce," "Ain't Misbehavin'," "Blood Knot," and "The Colored Museum."

Music direction is by Carol Durgan and choreography is by Donald Robinson; the musicians are Carolyn Cherry performing on console organ and other keyboard instruments, and Weldon E. Cook, Sr., on percussion.

TiCkets are \$10 general admission, \$8 for seniors, \$6 for students and \$4 for children under 14 years of age. Call 534-0670 for information.

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