



For Immediate Release

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**FRIENDS OF THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN RESEARCH LIBRARY AND
CULTURAL CENTER (AARLCC) PRESENTS THE...
2008 SEASON OF EXCELLENCE**

*Celebrating Cultural Diversity
(February 21 – June 14, 2008)*

February 4, 2008 Fort Lauderdale, FL – Later this month, the Friends of the African-American Research Library and Cultural Center (AARLCC) will kick-off its five-month Season of Excellence Series with a variety of soul-stirring programs that includes musicals, plays, and fashion shows representing cultural diversity from various aspects.

The Friends of AARLCC Diversity Cultural Series is a yearly project that showcases local talent and introduces the community to a structured presentation of diverse activities through workshops, performances, and presentations.

Willie Stewart, formerly of the reggae group Third World, will open the series on **February 21, 2008**, with an evening of Drumming, Percussion and Culture titled “*Rhythms of Africa*.” Stewart’s musical talents have led him to his passion for teaching students their heritage through the art of drumming. The concept behind “**Rhythms of Africa**” is to introduce a concert workshop to show the rich cultural heritage of music to inspire youth to appreciate the importance of music.

March 13, 2008, *Dillard High School Jazz Ensemble* will pay special tribute to **Cannonball Adderley**. Julian Edwin (Cannonball) Adderley was one of the most prominent and popular American jazz musicians of the 1950s and '60s. His exuberant style of music was firmly in the bop school, which also employed the melodic sense of traditional jazz. A multi-instrumentalist, Adderley is best-known for his work on alto saxophone and for his recordings with Miles Davis. During the late 1940’s before Cannonball moved north to follow his passion, he served as Dillard High School’s Band Director. This will be a special evening of history for the community and the students of Dillard High School.

Voluptuous You Designs by Desiree celebrates its fifth anniversary **March 29, 2008**, at AARLCC.

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This year's event "**Sophisticated Styling '08**" will showcase fashion influenced by the Harlem Renaissance. The entire collection, sizes 2 thru 28, will be for immediate sale after the show with portions of the proceeds to benefit the Friends of AARLCC.

This year's fundraising event will feature stops at the Cotton Club and The Apollo Theatre, as well as the music and words of jazz & blues musicians & poets of the Harlem Renaissance era.

On **April 25 and 26, and May 2 and 3, 2008**, local playwright and South Florida native, Keith Wade, will present the theater performance of **Hampton House**. This musical play is a rip-roaring party of a play set in the real life historic Hampton House Hotel in Miami, Florida. The year is 1974, a time of massive change in America... and as far as employees of the Hampton House are concerned, the center of the world. Everybody from Muhammad Ali to Martin Luther King, Jr., has come to the Hampton House to party and relax during these changing times and the Friends of AARLCC want to invite the community to be a part of those good times, through music and dance.

The series concludes on **June 14, 2008**, with "**An Ode to My Favorite Writer**" presented by Write Side Poets. Young poets between the ages of 13-19 will showcase their poetic talents. These young poets will present poetry by writers such as Langston Hughes, Frederick Douglass, and other poets whose work has inspired them and impacts today's society.

The goal of the 2008 Season of Excellence series presented by the Friends of AARLCC is to cultivate and showcase the organization as a credible cultural events presenter and help other local artists to better utilize the high-quality cultural resources available at AARLCC. In addition, the Friends of AARLCC want to encourage the community to become members and donors to help support the cultural arts programs. Tickets for the 2008 Season of Excellence Series are \$20 for adults, \$10 for students and seniors, \$18 per ticket for groups of 10 or more, or you can purchase a 2008 Season of Excellence Ticket for \$65 for the following four (4) performances; "Rhythms of Africa," "Tribute to Cannonball Adderley," "Hampton House," and "Ode to my Favorite Writer." Tickets to Voluptuous You – "Sophisticated Styling 08" (not part of the pricing for the 2008 Season of Excellence) cost \$20 per ticket in advance and \$25 at the door.

For more information, call AARLCC at (954) 625-2810 or visit us at www.friendsofaarlcc.com.

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