



MEDIA CONTACT INFORMATION:

Treshea N. Wade
Manager, Marketing & Communications
August Wilson Center for African American Culture
Office 412.338.8734
Cell 412.716.8961
TWade@AugustWilsonCenter.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August Wilson Center Presents “Love Jones Week” February 10-17

*Five days of events all themed around the 1997 classic Love Jones,
written & directed by a Pittsburgh native Theodore Witcher*

PITTSBURGH, PA—January 28, 2010—The August Wilson Center for African American Culture will host a variety of events based around the popular 1997 romantic drama film *Love Jones*, written and directed by Theodore Witcher.

Held **February 10 – 17, 2011**, **Love Jones Week** will include soul line dancing and competitions, a poetry slam with live music, a concert featuring nationally known poet Wes Felton and neo-soul songstress Tamika “Love” Jones, plus a special reception and film screening with the talented Mr. Witcher, who grew up in Pittsburgh.

The movie *Love Jones* is a love story set in the world of Chicago's middle-class black artists and professionals. The romantic drama stars actors Larenz Tate and Nia Long. The movie was the debut film for Mr. Witcher, and it is considered a classic work in African American cinema. On making the movie, Mr. Witcher was quoted as saying he wanted to suggest a “modern Chicago version of the Harlem Renaissance, filtered through modern eyes.”

“We wanted to create a series of events that applauded African American’s contribution to music, prose and visual art as well as capture the smooth, smart and romantic feeling many audience members walked away with after seeing the movie,” said Shaunda Miles, Director of Programming & Cultivation at the August Wilson Center. “However, these events are not exclusive for couples, but for anyone who has an appreciation for the arts, good music, fun and fellowship.”

Here is a full list of events for **Love Jones Week**, all held at The Center:

Thursday, February 10

5 pm – offCenter – FREE

FREE after-work activities will include speed dating, and couples’ games with cash prize for cutest couple. Hosted by Aki Durham. Cash bar.

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5-7 pm – VSB Book Launch & Mixer – FREE

Meet **DAMON YOUNG** & **PANAMA JACKSON**, authors of “Your Degrees Won’t Keep You Warm at Night: The Very Smart Brothas Guide to Dating, Mating and Fighting Crime.”

Part of offCenter.

Co-presented with Very Smart Brothers.

8 pm – The Soul Garden - Tickets \$20

Featuring singer/poet/actor **WES FELTON** w/ Special guest soul songstress **TAMIKA “LOVE” JONES** – both of Washington D.C.

Co-presented with Charismatic Nightlife.

Friday, February 11

9 pm – The Sanctuary Revisited featuring EARGASM

An open mic/poetry slam night w/ live band in our own eclectic, romantic and jazzy version of the Sanctuary, the fictitious and intimate nightclub where *Love Jones*’ characters “Darius” and “Nina” meet.

Cost: \$5 cover at the door. Cash bar.

Co-presented by The Minority Networking Exchange

Saturday, February 12

6:30 pm – Reception w/ **THEODORE WITCHER**, writer and director of *Love Jones*. Tickets: \$15

8 pm – *Love Jones* film screening, with special performance by **August Wilson Center Dance Ensemble**. Q&A moderated by Hollywood Producer **LEAH KEITH**. Cost: \$1

Sunday, February 13

3 pm – Brunch

4 pm – Soul Line Dancing and Steppers Set Competition

Step in the name of love with **BILL FORD** and **ROLAND FORD & FRIENDS** as they lead everyone in an afternoon of soulful Chicago-style steppin’. Cash prize for best couple (judged on appearance and dance skills). Special guest judges, including **DONNA BAXTER** of The Soul Pitt.

Seating is limited.

Tickets: \$30 per couple; \$20 individuals

Thursday, February 17

5 pm – offCenter – FREE

Special Guest Curator **VANESSA GERMAN**. Hosted by Aki Durham. Cash bar and food available for purchase.

FOR TICKETS

Call 412.456.6666, visit the Box Office at Theater Square or buy on-line at CulturalDistrict.org. For group discounts, call 412.471.6930.

Tickets also are available at the August Wilson Center Box Office or by calling 412.338.8742.

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The Center extends grateful appreciation to the following contributors of major support during the 2011 winter/spring season: Allegheny Regional Asset District, The Buhl Foundation and Henry C. Frick Education Fund, The Heinz Endowments, Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, Richard King Mellon Foundation, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, National Endowment for the Arts and The Pittsburgh Foundation.

For more information, visit The Center’s website at AugustWilsonCenter.org or call 412.258.2700.

ATTENTION MEDIA: Hi-res images are available. Please contact Treshea N. Wade, Manager, Marketing & Communications, at 412.338.8734 or twade@AugustWilsonCenter.org for any interview or image requests.

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About Love Jones

Starring: Larenz Tate, Nia Long, Isaiah Washington
New Line Cinema; Directed by Theodore Witcher
Rated R; 105 minutes; 1996

Professional photographer Nina Mosley (Nia Long) has had it with men. But she’s definitely attracted Darius Lovehall (Larenz Tate) a hip Chicago poet who recites a poem to her in a smoky jazz club. Initially, Darius and Nina are contented with just "kicking it," but eventually, the pair realizes that their relationship is about more than just sex.

About August Wilson Center for African American Culture

Named for Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning playwright and Hill District native August Wilson, the August Wilson Center for African American Culture engages regional and national audiences in its mission of preserving, presenting, interpreting, celebrating and shaping the art, culture and history of African Americans in Western Pennsylvania and people of African descent throughout the world.

Located in Downtown Pittsburgh’s Cultural District, the multidisciplinary August Wilson Center is reflective of all aspects of African American culture. The Center’s striking, two-story, green building houses seven exhibition galleries, a 486-seat theater for performances in all disciplines, an education center, a café and gift shop, and multipurpose spaces for community programs and events. The Center is among a select few African American cultural institutions presenting visual and performing arts, the humanities and educational programs in a state-of-the-art venue.

The August Wilson Center – At The Center of It All!

More information is available on The Center’s website at AugustWilsonCenter.org and by calling 412.258.2700.