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CITY OF PALMDALE

NEWS RELEASE

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DATE: January 21, 2015

Caribbean American Repertory Theatre-West to Present "Root of the Soul"
at Legacy Commons to Celebrate Black History Month

PALMDALE – The City of Palmdale's Legacy Commons for Active Seniors, located at 930 East Avenue Q-9, will host the Caribbean American Repertory Theatre West's production of "Root of the Soul" in celebration of Black History Month, on Saturday, Feb. 21 with shows at 2 and 7:30 pm.

General admission tickets are \$25. Tickets are \$20 for groups of ten or more, and seniors and students with ID. Tickets may be purchased at Plays411 online at www.plays411.com/root, by calling 323-960-7724, or at the door on the day of performance.

"Root of the Soul" is a deeply soul-stirring one woman show that profoundly nurtures, nourishes, heals, elevates and renews the spirit. A portrayal of real life events depicting one woman's experiences that dates back over 100 years, it is a story of love, loss, and faith, based on true stories, and filled with old gospel spirituals.

Writer/performer Toni Malone plays Susana Callahan, aka Button, and takes the audience on a journey from her childhood at Macedonia Church in South Carolina in the early 1900's to the moment of her death 100 years later. Left a voiceless orphan at a young age and raised in the attic of the church by the church mothers, Button learns the songs and stories of the gospel, and learns about the deeper nature of faith and family. The church mothers each had a story to tell and a song to sing, and these songs and stories became the root of young Button's soul, nourishing her and helping her grow up

to meet life. Her story is a powerful lesson about dealing with loss, finding family, and discovering meaning through faith.

For more information on “Root of the Soul,” please contact Jeffery Anderson-Gunter at 661/285-7647 or jefftorahid@earthlink.net.

About Director Jeffrey Anderson-Gunter

Award-winning director and Palmdale resident Jeffrey Anderson-Gunter is a Broadway veteran with credits that include “The Wiz,” “Reggae,” “Your Arm’s Too Short To Box with God,” “Don’t Bother Me I Can’t Cope,” “But Never Jam Today” and many others. He is a protégé of renowned Broadway director Vinnette Carroll, the first African American woman to direct on Broadway.

Born in Kingston Jamaica, his face is most recognizable in Michael Jackson’s “Black or White” video, where he was morphed into posterity. His screen credits include “Predator II,” “Marked for Death,” “Don’t Be a Menace,” and “Only the Strong” to name a few. He has appeared on numerous guest spots for television including series lead roles in “Hudson Street” for ABC and “Union Square” for NBC, prime time shows and daytime soap operas, and other series lead roles for the major television networks. A director of numerous productions on and off Broadway, he recently directed and premiered in “Speak Of Me As I Am,” the story of Paul Robeson, with K.B. Solomon for the North Carolina Black Theatre Festival.

Anderson-Gunter is the founder and Artistic Director for The Caribbean American Repertory Theatre West, (www.cartwest.com), and is currently in pre-production for two films. His upcoming film musical, “Revival” is scheduled to be released in 2015, where he plays Herod to Chaka Khan’s Herodias. He is an actor/director/producer/father, and

teacher of voice and articulation, and curates Target Sunday for the California African American Museum.

About Toni Malone – Writer and Performer

Using her family's stories and her own love of Gospel music, Broadway stage veteran Toni Malone combines entertainment and education on an amazing journey using her gifts of song and storytelling. Toni delights audiences with a strong and powerful voice as a vocalist, and with a delightfully vigorous personality and a dazzling stage presence. Among her many credits include: "The Apollo Theater," "The Gospel Truth," "Fame," "The Beat Goes On," "H.B. Barnum's Life Choir and Orchestra," "The African American," "Smokey Joe's Café," "Hollywood P.O.," "You Can't Keep A Good Woman Down," "Voices," "A Good Man Is Hard To Find," "Harlem Gospel Choir," "Dreamgirls," "Stella Awards," "Big Break," "Hats," "The Buddy Holly Story" and "Menopause the Musical." For more information about Malone, please visit www.theladyofsong.com

About Legacy Commons

Legacy Commons for Active Seniors, Palmdale's newest award-winning recreation facility, was designed especially for active adults aged 55+. Amenities include an auditorium with stage, three classrooms, billiards room, TV/social nook, Wi-Fi and outdoor patio in over 14,000 square feet. Lawn games include bocce, croquet, fling golf and horseshoes. Visitors are invited to pick up a detailed schedule of activities. Legacy Commons is also available for event rentals.

Legacy Commons is open Monday through Thursday, from 8 am to 4:30 pm and Friday's from 8 am to 12 noon. For more information call Legacy Commons at 661/267-5904.

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