

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Local Novelist and Playwright, Cheril N. Clarke returns to New Jersey with hit play!**

*Intimate Chaos*, which premieres on May 7 at the YWCA of Central New Jersey, is an urban dramedy that explores a lesbian relationship complete with love, desire, abandonment and betrayal.

**PLAINFIELD, NJ**—Cheril N. Clarke is a novelist, playwright, poet and producer, and seems to have an uncanny insight into life's complexities—even though she's only 29. A resident of Mt. Laurel, New Jersey, Clarke has already written five novels, two plays and also manages her own production company, while working full time for an actuarial consulting firm. This is all in a day's work for the indefatigable, African-American writer.

Clarke's play, which has been successfully mounted in Bordentown, NJ and most recently, Philadelphia, PA, is based on her third novel called, *Intimate Chaos*. It explores heterosexual/homosexual friendship dynamics and the romantic relationship between two headstrong women and their roller coaster, emotional ride. Best friends Sadira, played by Tiffany Barrett and Devonte', played by Walter DeShields, dominate the production, although Clarke gives ample time to explore the dysfunctional relationship with Jessie that drives the plot.

Barrett is from Bucks County, PA., and is a graduate of Temple University's Theatre program. She has appeared in numerous productions including: *A Lesson Before Dying*; *A Raisin in the Sun*; *Macbeth*; and *Sisters Speak*, among others. She also has appeared in television, film and commercials. Walter DeShields graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Theatre from Penn State University in 2004. A natural comedian, DeShields has been delighting audiences in the Philadelphia and New York metro areas ever since. He has appeared in as a host of characters in Paul Rudnick's *Jeffrey*, and Michelle Harper's *Four Sides to Every Story*, to name a few theatrical credits.

A Delaware resident and award-winning director, Kash Goins will bring his artistic vision to Clarke's work. In 2008, Goins founded GoKash Productions and has mounted two plays, the 2009 NYC Downtown Urban Theatre Festival Best Play winner *VI Degrees* and the hilarious comedy *Man, I Shoulda Put A Ring On It!* Most recently, Kash has starred in *The Life of John Henry* by Chris Braak.

Clarke, long known for her activism in the gay community, is passionate about bringing to life the real stories of gay men and women, whom she believes are too often either patronized or simply left out of main stream theatre and film.

"After the original version of *Intimate Chaos* opened in 2007, it was evident to me that people really connected with my characters, especially members of the gay community," said Clarke. "One of the reasons I'm interested in telling these kinds

of stories, is to help people realize that whether they're gay or straight, we're all kind of in this together."

"It's also important for me write about people of color who are usually left out of leading roles on television and in theatre," Clarke added. "I started my own production company to provide a source of quality theatrical entertainment and to tell the stories of interesting characters along the way."

*Intimate Chaos* will open at 8:00 pm, May 7, 2010, at the YWCA of Central Jersey in Plainfield, NJ (just minutes from NJ Transit). Other performances take place on May 8, 2010, also at 8:00 pm. Tickets are \$20 in advance for general admission, and \$25 at the door. A ten percent discount is being offered for groups of ten or more. For more information or to purchase tickets visit [www.intimatechaostheplay.com](http://www.intimatechaostheplay.com).

Clarke has been a keynote speaker at the African Asian Latina Lesbians United Conference, and has performed at events organized by African American Lesbians United for Social Change. Her editorial work has been published in *About Magazine*, *About.com*, *Out IN Jersey* magazine, and her opinion columns have been featured on the National Black Coalition's web site, among others.

Coverage is invited.