

**San Jose Multicultural Artists Guild
Tabia African-American Theatre Ensemble**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jan. 11, 2012

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KILL DATE: Feb 26, 2012

COMPANY: San Jose Multicultural Artists Guild/Tabia African-American Theatre Ensemble

TITLE: *Jazz Reflections – A portrait of Jazz Greats in a Double-Bill*

**Monk – a portrait of Thelonious Monk. A one-man show Performed by
Audeloco Award Winning Actor Rome Neal. Written by Laurence Holder,
Directed by Rome Neal and Laurence Holder, Musical Score by Bill Lee.**

SYNOPSIS: Monk is a dramatic monologue by acclaimed African American playwright Laurence Holder that captures Monk's bravura, genius, humor, and humanity. Holder's script evokes Monk's unorthodox jazz piano styling. The narrative chronicles the composer's early life, his rise to prominence as a self-taught pianist and composer, his participation in the Civil Rights Movement, and his bouts of mental illness. Monk shares with "Duke" Ellington the distinction of being considered one of the 20th Century's greatest American composers. His vision was both ahead of its time and deeply rooted in African American musical traditions, ranging from the sacred music of the black church to the "stride" piano style of James P. Johnson, to the tonal freedom of the "avant garde." Monk helped usher in the bebop revolution, yet he also charted a new course for modern music.

**Mirror, Mirror of My Soul: Mystical Reflections of Four Legendary
Songstresses Created, Written, and Performed by: Cheryl Bennett- Scales**

SYNOPSIS: *Mirror, Mirror of My Soul...* mystical reflections of four legendary songstresses: Miriam Mekeba, Eartha Kitt, Nina Simone, and Billie Holiday as seen through the eyes of Bay Area jazz vocalist Cheryl Bennett-Scales. Cheryl channels their spiritual energy and brings to the stage messages from the soul of these legendary Divas through word, dance, and song. Adult content and language. Cheryl has an extensive career in acting and vocal performances with Tabia African American Theatre Ensemble, and other Bay Area theatre companies and music venues. She performed in Cultural Odyssey's Medea Project production of *My Life in the Concrete Jungle* and the San Jose Stage Company's productions of *Beehive* and *Avenue Q*.

PERFORMANCE DATES: Feb 24- 26, 2012

CURTAIN TIMES: Fri & Sat - Feb 24th & 25th @ 8:00pm

Sun Matinee - Feb 26th @ 3:00pm

**VENUE: "School of Arts and Culture" at the Mexican Heritage Plaza
1700 Alum Rock, Ave., San Jose, CA 95116**

TICKET PRICES: \$30 Advance/\$35 at the Door

\$5 Discount Students/Seniors/Groups of 10 or more

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