

# The Souls of Black Girls

# News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***The Souls of Black Girls* & XM Radio's Blanche Williams team up for exclusive Baltimore & DC screenings in association with the National Congress of Negro Women, Dr. Dorothy Height, Morgan State University and others.**

*NOTE TO MEDIA: WE INVITE COVERAGE OF THIS EVENT AND WELCOME REQUESTS FOR INTERVIEWS WITH THE FILMMAKER.*

WASHINGTON, D.C.—JANUARY 28, 2008— *The Souls of Black Girls*, a provocative news documentary written, edited and produced by **Daphne S. Valerius**, teams up with XM Radio's **Blanche Williams** to host Washington DC and Baltimore, MD screenings on **Friday February 8<sup>th</sup>** and **Saturday February 9<sup>th</sup>**. The exclusive screenings of the award-winning documentary will take place at the National Council of Negro Women (633 Pennsylvania Ave. NW) & Morgan State University (1700 E. Cold Spring Lane). A Q&A session moderated by Ms. Williams will follow both screenings.

"When I first saw *The Souls of Black Girls* in September of 2007, I was mesmerized by the provocative honesty and beauty of this documentary as well as the fiercely dedicated spirit of its producer and we forged an alliance almost immediately," says Williams. "I am committed to helping bring this film and its transformative dialogue around the country. Together, we can reclaim the souls and futures of our black girls".

The name of the documentary film derives from the seminal **W.E.B. Dubois** book *The Souls of Black Folks* and examines the relationship between historical and current media images of women of color. The film explores the possibility of whether or not Black women today are suffering from a self-image disorder and features candid interviews with young women discussing their self-image. The documentary also features commentary from actresses **Regina King** and **Jada Pinkett Smith**, PBS *Washington Week* Moderator **Gwen Ifill**, rapper/political activist **Chuck D**, and cultural critic **Michaela Angela Davis**, among others.

Valerius produced the documentary as a fulfillment of the broadcast journalism graduate program she completed at Emerson College in 2006. It builds upon her undergraduate research as a Ronald McNair Scholar at St. John's University titled *Self-Esteem and Self-Confidence: The Effects of Mass Media on Women of Color...Forgotten*.

The Washington DC and Baltimore, MD screenings are being sponsored by **Blanche Williams/Greatness By Design, LLC** in association with the **National Council on Negro Women, DC Commission for Women, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc, The Institute for Urban Affairs, Morgan State University** and **Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc.**

"Too often our girls do not rise to their full potential because they are so affected by the image that others project of them. It's good to have something that helps us understand what's happening to our girls," says **Dr. Dorothy Height**, Chair of the National Council of Negro Women.

Valerius said growing up as a young Black girl, she felt “very much like an ugly duckling compared to my peers as a result of not looking a certain way, much like Pecola Breedlove of Toni Morrison’s *The Bluest Eye*. Putting together this documentary allowed me to uncover and examine why I, along with many other women of color, feel the need to manipulate our physical appearances.”

Following the film screenings, ***Greatness By Design with Blanche Williams*, will conduct a groundbreaking dialogue with Daphne Valerius and Dr. Dorothy Height on Sunday, Feb 10th, to air live coast-to-coast on Take Five-XM Channel 155.**

For more information about *The Souls of Black Girls* screenings with Blanche Williams, please visit [www.blanchewilliams.com](http://www.blanchewilliams.com). For more information about *The Souls of Black Girls* and screening updates, please visit the official website at [www.soulsofblackgirls.com](http://www.soulsofblackgirls.com) or [www.myspace.com/soulsofblackgirls](http://www.myspace.com/soulsofblackgirls).

#### **ABOUT GREATNESS BY DESIGN/XM RADIO:**

A rare and refreshing talk show, celebrating its 5<sup>th</sup> year, hosted by one of today's most trusted and engaging communicators, Blanche Williams. By shunning sensationalism and focusing on in-depth conversations, Williams reveals the unforgettable stories behind women and men of greatness while exploring subjects that will inspire, energize, and transform lives. Guests have included Dr. Maya Angelou, Cicely Tyson, Faye Wattleton, Diana Ross, Nikki Giovanni, Suze Orman, Terrence Howard, Marianne Williamson, Deepak Chopra, Susan L. Taylor, Avery Brooks, Melinda Henneberger, Tavis Smiley, Jerri DeVard, Deborah Santana, and Quincy Jones. XM RADIO - LIVE Sundays- 4-6PM ET-TAKE FIVE-Channel 155-Women’s Lifestyle and Talk Channel.

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