

PRESS RELEASE

# The Souls of Black Girls NEWS

Contact: Daphne Valerius 718.755.4159  
Daphne.Valerius@gmail.com

Cynthia Valerius 401.230.7040  
Cynthia.Valerius@gmail.com

## Historic Apollo Theater hosts New York premiere of documentary, *The Souls of Black Girls*

**NEW YORK, NY—March 6, 2007—***The Souls of Black Girls*, a documentary written, edited and produced by Daphne S. Valerius has been officially selected to premiere at the Historic Apollo Theater as part of the organization's Health Time at the Apollo, women's health fair commemorating Women's History Month. The premiere will take place on **Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at 1pm**, followed by a panel discussion featuring Director/Producer Daphne S. Valerius, African American Studies historian Dr. Lez Edmonds, Cultural Critic Michaela Angela Davis and Writer/Journalist Akiba Solomon (co-author of *Naked: Black Women Bare All About Their Skin, Hair, Hips, Lips and Other Parts*). The provocative news documentary features candid interviews with young women discussing their self-image and social commentary from Rapper *Chuck D*, Actresses *Regina King* and *Jada Pinkett Smith*, *Washington Week* Moderator (PBS) *Gwen Ifill* and Cultural Critic *Michaela Angela Davis*, among others.

"As a young Black girl, I grew up feeling very much like the 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*. By putting together this documentary, it allowed me to uncover and examine why I, along with many other women of color, feel the need to manipulate our physical appearances," says Director and Producer Daphne Valerius who based the documentary on her undergraduate research at St. John's University entitled, *Self-Esteem and Self-Confidence: The Effects of Mass Media on Women of Color...Forgotten*.

*The Souls of Black Girls*, produced as a fulfillment of the Journalism Masters Program at Emerson College, takes a critical look at media images and examines the relationship between the historical and existing images of women of color in the media. The documentary also raises the question of whether or not women of color may be suffering from a self-image disorder as a result of trying to attain the standards of beauty that are celebrated in media images.

The title of documentary also bears historical significance and meaning, deriving from the book, *The Souls of Black Folks*, published in 1903 by Scholar W.E.B Dubois. "W.E.B Dubois introduced in his writing the idea of the Negro suffering from a double-consciousness condition within the United States. I decided to take this concept a step further by illustrating how Black women suffer internally from a triple consciousness condition, having to be a Negro, an American and a woman within our society and also having to define our own standard of beauty," stated Valerius.

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).

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