

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Souls of Black Girls NEWS

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

Marc Boucher 781.956.4922
Marc.William.Boucher@gmail.com

Actress Terri J. Vaughn & Take Wings Foundation host private screening of documentary, *The Souls of Black Girls*

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—April 18, 2007—*The Souls of Black Girls*, a provocative news documentary written, edited and produced by Daphne S. Valerius has been officially invited to be screened for the young women of the Take Wings Foundation on Saturday April 21st at the Youth Uprising Center in East Oakland. The screening of the documentary will be followed by a self-esteem workshop conducted by Ms. Valerius and staff members of the Take Wings Foundation for 60-80 girls between the ages of 13 and 18 living in at risk communities of the San Francisco Bay area.

"When I first saw *The Souls of Black Girls*, I knew right away the importance and significance of its message. The piece provides a voice for our community that brings to the forefront the disturbing and disrespecting views that society and media depicts of black girls. I wanted the girls in my foundation to see this film so that they know that their needs are not being ignored, they are important to us, and also to awaken their awareness of the effect society and media has on all of us," says Actress and Founder of Take Wings Foundation Terri J. Vaughn.

The news documentary features candid interviews with young women discussing their self-image *and* social commentary from Rapper/Political Activist **Chuck D**, Actresses **Regina King** and **Jada Pinkett Smith**, PBS *Washington Week* Moderator **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 women of color, feel the need to manipulate our physical appearances," says 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 Take Wings Foundation screening of *The Souls of Black Girls* is a testament of the foundation's commitment to enhancing the education and development of positive, productive and responsible young women. "Being offered the opportunity to share *The Souls of Black Girls* with the young women of the Take Wings Foundation is a blessing in many ways because I put together this documentary specifically for us and all young girls so that we can finally *embrace and reclaim* our beauty and self-esteem," says Valerius.

The Souls of Black Girls, produced as a fulfillment of the Journalism Masters Program at Emerson College, takes a critical look at media images—how they are instituted, established and controlled. The documentary also examines the relationship between the historical and existing media images of women of color and raises the question of whether they 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.

For more information about *The Souls of Black Girls* and screening updates, please visit the official website at www.soulsofblackgirls.com or www.myspace.com/soulsofblackgirls.

ABOUT TAKE WINGS FOUNDATION:

The Take Wings Foundation (“TWF”) was founded in 1997 by award winning actress Terri J. Vaughn, who played “Lovita” on the Steve Harvey Show. Growing up in San Francisco’s Hunter’s Point gave her first hand knowledge of the challenges teenage girls face everyday; a community infested with drug trafficking, gang violence, prostitution and many other negative elements. TWF provides a series of workshops for 60-80 girls with a focus on self-esteem, etiquette, higher education, finances, decision making and communication skills. Participants in the workshops are also provided with opportunities to be involved with community services, interact with positive role models, mentoring and internships for specific desired careers, scholarships, awards, gifts and a semi-formal dinner with celebrity guests and motivational speakers. Take Wings Foundation provides quality life skills programs in San Francisco, Alameda, and Contra Costa Counties.

####