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THEATER REVIEW

Play addresses issues affecting black community

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I recently had a chance to see *Open Yo Eyes*, by No Jive Productions. Now I will be honest, I'm not too fond of a lot of plays simply because they remind me too much of church.

Another reason is most of them just seem like everybody's trying to get a record deal.

That wasn't the case with *Open Yo Eyes*, which dealt with some of the taboo issues amongst the black community such as teen pregnancy and homosexuality.

The play starts off with Big Momma (Crystal Pittman) welcoming the audience into her drama filled house and Elroy (Kwame Riley) tell us why he cries, leading into Sara (Jessica Edwards) describing how most young girls probably felt their first time having sex.

The play's high point comes with a scene between Angel (Rhonda Jordan) and her boyfriend Kevin (Corenzo Lanier) get into a very violent domestic dispute, but refuses

to leave believing one day he will change. Later on in the play due to the violence with her boyfriend Kevin, she loses her job and turns to crack to cope with her problems. The surprise of the play was when Jerry, played by Miami Dade College alumnus's Dap Dunbar, comes out of the closet, and in a big way, by having two women do his makeup and wardrobe on stage transforming him into a drag queen.

Producer Nial Martin does a wonderful job of bringing together a talented cast. The amazing part about the whole production was that the cast had only two weeks to learn their lines with no rehearsal due to the hurricanes and actor Malcolm Harvard, who plays the role of Mark, a young man who finds out he has AIDS, was a replacement who only had hours to know his lines. Harvard delivered a heartfelt performance.

All and all *Open Yo Eyes* is an informative and heart wrenching story with characters that made feel like you know one these people.