

Struggles with Sexuality and Sincerity take Center Stage with “His Double Life”

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Written by Denise Royal



Back by popular demand the drama *His Double Life* returns to the Joseph Caleb Auditorium in Miami. It's about a twenty-something year old man in Savannah, Georgia who is secretly gay and cheating on his girlfriend.

Things heat up when Matthew brings his girlfriend home for Thanksgiving dinner to meet his family. During the trip, Matthew tells his father – a reverend, that's he's gay.

Things for Matthew go from bad to worse when his father learns that he needs a kidney transplant and that Matthew is the only perfect match.

"I'd rather die than have a faggot organ in my body," the enraged reverend tells his son. While it sounds like a bad Tracy Morgan joke, the story about being on the down low is portrayed with empathy and compassion.

Nial Martin, who writes *His Double Life*, says the show appeals to a wide audience.

"All of our plays at No Jive Productions initially focus on the themes of love, family and forgiveness. 'His Double Life' specifically takes us into the Sanders home where a black father, despite his shortcomings, is there and present for his two sons. It's also about the importance of unconditional love for our children. One of the sons in the play is struggling over his sexual identity — many refer to that characteristic as living on the "down low." But that's just a catch-all phrase. So much goes on when young people are searching to find their true place in the world. Young people need to know that someone loves them for who they are."

"His Double Life" can soon be seen in another medium as well – on DVD. So could this South Florida playwright be the next Tyler Perry? Martin is hedging his bets.

"We are really excited about this move forward in the life of No Jive Productions as it will mark the first time that one of our plays will be on DVD so people can see it again and again at their leisure. While I am always honored to be compared to Tyler Perry and do admire his work, I have to say that we are two very different people and have two different ways of telling a story," he said.

The show begins at 7:30 on July 16th. The Joseph Caleb Auditorium is located at 5400 NW 22nd Avenue, Miami. For tickets, go to TicketMaster.com, nojiveproductions.org; or call the Joseph Caleb box Office 305-636-2350 or charge by phone 1-800-745-3000.