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November 2, 2009

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For Immediate Release

Schenectady High School theater company getting ready to open *The Bluest Eye* *Production features African-American cast*

SCHENECTADY – Schenectady High School’s Blue Roses Theatre Company is getting ready for the upcoming production of Lydia R. Diamond’s *The Bluest Eye*. The show, which opens **Wednesday, November 4** for a four-day run, features and all African-American cast. The play is adapted from Nobel Prize-winning author Toni Morrison's first novel about the tragic coming-of-age tale of an eleven-year-old black girl in 1940s Ohio. Pecola Breedlove wants nothing more than to be loved by her family and schoolmates but instead faces ridicule and abuse. She blames her dark skin and prays for blue eyes, sure that love will follow.

Bill Ziskin, director of the production and a theater teacher at Schenectady High School, said he did not have any concerns about holding auditions for an all African-American cast. “The show is specifically about the experience of being black in America in the first half of the 20th century,” said Ziskin. “I felt confident that there were enough African-American students interested in the subject matter of this play to produce it.”

Ziskin said he feels casting African-American actors is important for the production. “I feel our community needs to continue its dialogue regarding issues related to race relations in America.”

The company is holding a full dress run on **Monday, November 2 from 3:30 – 7 p.m.** and a preview on **Tuesday, November 3 from 9 – 11 a.m.** in the Black Box Theatre.

- More -

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Show information is as follows:

November 4 – 7
7 pm with a 2 p.m. matinee on November 7
Schenectady High School Black Box Theater
Cost is \$2 for Schenectady students
\$3 for students and senior citizens
\$5 for adults

Schenectady High School is located at 1445 The Plaza.

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