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WORLD PREMIERE STAGE VERSION OF “*BLOOD DONE SIGN MY NAME*”

Timothy Tyson’s acclaimed memoir adapted for the stage by Writer/Actor Mike Wiley

DURHAM, NC (September 22, 2008) – Timothy Tyson’s best selling memoir **Blood Done Sign My Name** as adapted by playwright and actor Mike Wiley, will premiere at Duke University’s Sheaffer Auditorium on November 6 through 9. The Duke Divinity School is sponsoring this explosive and moving performance starring Mike Wiley and underscored with live music by acclaimed psalmist Mary D. Williams.

Directed by Serena Ebhardt (EbzB productions), Wiley brings to life Tyson’s story of Oxford North Carolina in 1970. Spawned by the murder of Henry Marrow, a 23 year old black US Army Veteran, and the subsequent acquittal of the man who confessed to shooting the gun, the black community decided that they had to make themselves heard by whatever means were necessary. What followed were riots, boycotts, marches, and the burning of two tobacco warehouses causing millions of dollars of damage. Timothy Tyson lived through this history in Oxford and spent years haunted by the memories. Years later he returns to Oxford and after extensive interviews with members of the community, he weaves this complex history into a compelling and thought provoking tale.

When asked his feelings about the stage adaptation of his memoirs, Tyson replied, “Mike is a brilliant artist and educator...This is about mending the broken world through the power of story, and making scholarship and art speak to the breach in our common life. I am proud to have Mike as a colleague in those efforts...”

Wiley roots his work in pivotal moments in African American history. His repertoire includes: ***Brown vs. Board of Education***, ***Jackie Robinson: A game apart***, and ***Dar he: The Story of Emmet Till*** (also directed by Ebhardt). He was intrigued with the story offered in *Blood* because it was a very different manifestation of a black community’s demand for citizenship than his current works.

Adding to the excitement surrounding these performances are exclusive talk back sessions which will include Tim Tyson, Eddie McCoy and Pastor Vernon Tyson, all of whom will have been portrayed on stage during the performance, and who play major roles in the unfolding of this story. After this limited engagement at Duke, this production is scheduled to tour the state. The tour will include the full production as well as an abridged version for school audiences.

Performances are Thursday November 6, Friday November 7, Saturday November 8 and Sunday, November 9 at 8pm. There will also be a 2pm matinee on Sunday November 9. Tickets are \$20 Adult and \$10 for students. To purchase tickets please contact the Duke University Box office at <http://events.duke.edu> (919)684-4444. If you are interested in bringing this compelling history to your community please visit www.goingbarefoot.com or call (919)489-1541.