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One-woman show will explore 'loves, lifes and losses' of AIDS

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 Friday, February 2, 2007

Her performance as Deena, the glamorous, Dianna Ross-like character in "Dreamgirls," got Sheryl Lee Ralph both Tony and Drama Desk nominations when the Motown-inspired musical first played Broadway.

Twenty-five years later, as the movie version of "Dreamgirls" vies for film honors, Ralph is coming to Henderson, Ky., with her own show, performing less-glamorous roles, seeking a different kind of recognition.

At 7 p.m. Wednesday in the Henderson Fine Arts Center, Ralph will perform "Sometimes I Cry," a touring, one-woman show billed as an exploration of "the loves, lives and losses of women infected by HIV/AIDS."

Her own alarm at the impact of AIDS among her friends and colleagues and throughout the African-American community prompted Ralph to create the show to raise public awareness about the deadly virus.

As part of that effort, she created the Diva Foundation, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to speaking and singing out on behalf of those dealing with HIV/AIDS.

Audiences know Ralph for many roles. Her television credits include roles on "Search for Tomorrow," "It's a Living," "Designing Women," "George" and "Moesha." She's also performed in films including "The Flintstones" and "Sister Act II: Back in the Habit."

In "Sometimes I Cry" she uses words, movement and song to portray a cast of diverse characters drawn from interviews. They range from a Jamaican transsexual dying of AIDS to an HIV-infected business executive fighting to continue to function while ingesting daunting daily doses of medications.

Matthew 25, an HIV/AIDS service and resource organization in Henderson, presents the show, which will play at 7 p.m. Wednesday in the Henderson Fine Arts Center. Tickets are \$20 to \$28 with discounts for groups of 10 or more.

For more information, call (800) 291-3402.



Sheryl Lee Ralph
 She will be performing "Sometimes I Cry" in Henderson, Ky.

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- OILILIE: Link to Sheryl Lee Ralph's "Sometimes I Cry" Web site.**

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