



Join us for the Ebony Expressions

## Reunion Luncheon

**Saturday March 1st, 2008**  
**at Wright Middle School**  
**from 11:00 - 1:00**  
**Cost : \$5**

The Luncheon will have a brief program & live entertainment. Former Ebony members will have the opportunity to speak and perform. Recognitions will be presented at this time.

This event is open to the community.

For those of you coming into town for the weekend celebration, we have arranged for rooms at the Quality Inn & Suites at the rate of \$93.46  
Call 608-274-7200 to make reservations.

Tickets for the show are available at the Orpheum Theater Box Office  
Cost : \$12

Sponsored by:  
Neighborhood House Community Center,  
MSCR, JC Wright Middle School

Come Dance the night away at the  
**Ebony Dance**

**Saturday March 1st,**

**8:00pm - 12:00am**  
**Cost : \$20**

**\*Quality Inn & Suites**  
**2969 Cahill Main Rd.**

The dance will be preceded by a reception with light appetizers and live entertainment.

This event is open to the community and is intended for adults.

For more information please contact  
Tanika Wilson Kromah,  
Event Coordinator at  
608-658-1725

\*(Across from Panera Bread on Fish Hatchery)

In recognition of its 25th Anniversary  
Ebony Expressions  
Presents

## The Best of Ebony

A Celebration of African American  
Cultural and Performing Arts

Friday, February 29th, 2008

8:00 pm

Orpheum Theater 216 State



## Ebony Expressions

Cultural Awareness Project was founded in 1982 under the direction of Ed Holmes to address the need for education about African American culture in the Madison community.

This year, in honor of its 25th Anniversary, Ebony alumni from across the country will return to Madison to join in the celebration.

The challenge today is the same as it was in 1982: to find a way that we can learn about one another through open, clear communication based on mutual respect, honesty, and trust. This remains the ultimate goal of Ebony Expressions.

### What is the Ebony Expressions program?

Ebony Expressions is made up of over thirty students from Madison area public and private high schools who audition and are selected to take part in the program each year. Students address a wide range of social and cultural issues, from the importance of family to gang violence in our schools and community. Ebony Expressions seeks to build upon the unique talents, skills and

abilities of our participants. They generate and analyze original written material that acts as a foundation for the year's major performance. Students also work on the basic theater and drama techniques necessary for a major stage production, including articulation and relaxation, stage presence, and ensemble acting. This helps to fulfill the need of our young people to have meaningful adult relationships and opportunities for constructive activities. Through this intense preparation and quality major performance each participant develops self confidence, self esteem and a sense of self worth.

### What is an Ebony Expressions performance?

Ebony Expressions is a showcase of the talents, and skills of African American youth that allows us to embrace our young people and see them in a positive light. Ebony Expressions uses theater and drama, dance, music, and rap to bring audiences a positive and



thought-provoking message. The group performs both traditional and contemporary full-length musical and dramatic productions. The program consists of speaker presentation, workshops, discussion sessions and group readings. The performances have

met with much success and have received enthusiastic support from audiences from across the state.



### Why is Ebony Expressions important?

Ebony Expressions breaks down stereotypes by promoting a true understanding of African American culture and tradition. As our society continues to perpetuate negative stereotypes and images of African American youth, these images have led to real consequences in our communities. Current data indicates that the state of Wisconsin has the highest incarceration rate

of Black males in the country. There is also a tremendous void in the academic and extra curricular activities available to students. African American students especially, are given insufficient resources and opportunities to learn about themselves or to explore creative means of self expression. It is important that our community know the truth about the talents and skills of our African American youth. It is also critical that we provide positive peer role models for our young audience members to see. By training high school students to express their opinions, ideas, and concerns in a public forum we are better able to educate our community about the intricacies of African American culture. Ebony Expressions instills pride, confidence, a positive identity, and hope in young African Americans.