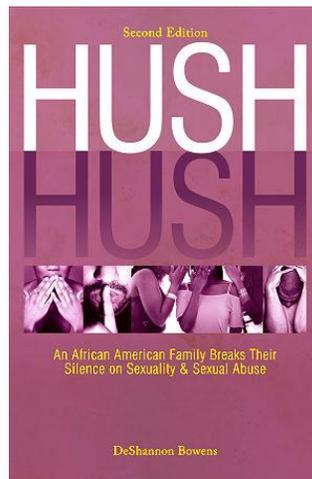




Hush Hush – The Healing Project



Presenters: Aquaila & DeShannon Barnes-Bowens

Synopsis: *Hush Hush* is a one act stage play written by Aquaila Barnes-Bowens that explores how an African-American family in Memphis, Tennessee deals with the disclosure of sexual abuse. It is inspired by a non-fiction book of the same title written by, DeShannon Barnes-Bowens.

Presentations and workshops showcase key scenes of the play with actors or highlighted video clips, followed by educational discussion with the playwright and author on sexuality myths, sexual abuse in families and prevention.

Biographies:

Aquaila Barnes-Bowens

As a playwright, Aquaila burst onto the scene in December 1996, with her critically acclaimed stage play, "My People, My People". It premiered at the historical Madame C.J. Walker Theatre in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Aquaila's commitment to addressing social issues that stimulate and entertain continues to be expressed in the development of her stage works: "The Cost" (a political drama); "Give Me the Mic" (a one-woman show about self-worth); and "Sisters" (a drama about illness & letting go). When she is not writing, she offers her creativity as a tax preparer and financial advisor for individuals, couples and small businesses.



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"INCREASING AWARENESS, CHANGING LIVES"

DeShannon Barnes-Bowens

DeShannon is a sexual trauma therapist, professional development trainer, interfaith minister and founder of ILERA Counseling & Education Services. ILERA is an organization committed to raising awareness about sexuality and sexual abuse through innovative educational programs and healing services.

Through ILERA, DeShannon has implemented workshops and programs at various agencies focusing on: sexuality & spirituality, healing from sexual abuse, vicarious trauma and wellness. She is the author of *Hush Hush: An African American Family Breaks Their Silence on Sexuality & Sexual Abuse* and contributing scholar for the State of Formation. DeShannon is also a member of an Interfaith initiative to help faith communities prevent child sexual abuse in New York City. For more information about DeShannon or ILERA visit <http://ilera.com>.

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