

PRESS RELEASE:

December 16, 2008

For immediate release:

Through December 28, 2008

For more information:

Laura C. Lieberman, 770/949-2787

MEDIA ALERT – Kwanzaa Celebration at Cultural Arts Center

Douglasville, Georgia – The Douglas County Connection in partnership with the Cultural Arts Council of Douglasville/Douglas County presents a special celebration of Kwanzaa with renowned Atlanta playwright, director, storyteller and actor Jamil el-Shair at the Cultural Arts Center on Sunday, December 28th, from 3 until 5 p.m. A fun and informative cultural activity for children and their families, the 2008 Kwanzaa celebration is free and open to the public.

Jamil el-Shair will present the history and traditions of the Kwanzaa holiday with a special focus on “kuumba,” or creativity, one of the seven principals associated with the African American celebration. An artist-in-residence with the Cultural Arts Council’s Arts in After School program last spring, he has also worked with the Alliance Theatre, Working Title Playwrights, Jomandi and other Atlanta area arts organizations. El-Shair was nominated Best Director 2004 by the GSU Players. His two-character play, *Bloodties*, was the vehicle that garnered Best Actor and Best Actress awards for the actors in 2004. Another of his plays, *Stones*, received the NASDA Play Festival Award for the Clark Atlanta University Players in 2002. He directed the controversial, *Shermantown*, by Calvin Ramsey for the Art Station in 2005, and Janice Liddell’s *Diante’s Hell* for Jomandi Productions during the 2006 National Black Arts Festival. Also a published playwright, his play, *A View Through the Blind*, appears in *The Anthology of Southern Playwrights*.

The mission of the Cultural Arts Council of Douglasville/Douglas County is to nurture, guide and stimulate the enjoyment of and participation in the arts among residents of and visitors to Douglas County by providing an atmosphere conducive to the arts, broadening the spectrum of quality exhibits and performances available to the community, and fostering individual interactions with the arts through a wide range of satellite groups. The Cultural Arts Council and its educational programs are supported in part by the City of Douglasville, Douglas County Board of Commissioners, and Georgia Council for the Arts, which receives support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Cultural Arts Center is located at 8652 Campbellton Street in historic downtown Douglasville, Georgia, located about 20 miles from Atlanta and just off I-20 (exit 36). Hours of operation are Mondays through Fridays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sundays, 1 until 5 p.m. The Cultural Arts Center is closed to the public from December 24th until January 4th, reopening after the winter holidays on Monday, January 5th. For more information, please call 770/949-2787 or visit our web site --- www.artsdouglas.org.

PRESS RELEASE:

December 16, 2008

For immediate release:

Through January 6, 2009

For more information:

Laura C. Lieberman, 770/949-2787

CALENDAR LISTINGS: Kwanzaa

TITLES: ANNUAL KWANZAA CELEBRATION with
Atlanta playwright and director JAMIL EL-SHAIR

PLACE: The Cultural Arts Center of Douglasville / Douglas County
8652 Campbellton Street
Douglasville, Georgia 30134

DATES: Sunday, December, 2008
3 – 5 p.m.

COST: Free and open to the public

CONTACT: Laura C. Lieberman, 770-949-2787