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CONTACT: Moni T. Law, Esq.
(206) 915-8138; moniesq@aol.com
Vania Bynum/Arts for the Greater Good



**Microsoft Engineer finds new creativity in producing Art
Vania C. Bynum presents Excerpts from the Soul of a Woman,
...told through Dance, Music, and Poetry**

featuring a special presentation inspired by the Female Faces of War documentary

**“Excerpts from the Soul of a Woman” Premieres at the Broadway Performance Hall
Friday and Saturday - July 11 & 12, 2008; 7 pm**

Seattle, WA – Vania C. Bynum, former computer engineer and graduate of Cornish College of the Arts, utilizes the ingenuity of making software to create meaningful art. Bynum, a dancer, choreographer, and producer presents *Excerpts from the Soul of a Woman*. This powerful telling of the human experience expressed from the heart of a woman, through the artistry of dance, music, and poetry premieres at the **Broadway Performance Hall on July 11 & 12**. Her carefully crafted anthology of art brings to light the universality of a woman’s experience regardless of race, nationality, religion, or socioeconomic status.

Excerpts from the Soul of a Woman showcases a diverse array of Seattle’s best talent including Spectrum Dance Theater’s Donald Byrd, Jerboa Dance, Northwest Tap Connection, Melissa Noelle Green, Roy Warren, Marion Nesby and other local artists. More artist information will be available at www.vaniacbynum.com/excerpts.html. The production of *Excerpts from the Soul of a Woman* offers an opportunity to educate, encourage, and empower women of all backgrounds while celebrating their existence; it is made possible with support from 4Culture - King County, WA, the Mayor's Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs, Bossak Heilbron Foundation of New York, Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center, the Central District Forum CREATION PROJECT Grant, Shunpike, and individual contributions.

Excerpts from the Soul of a Woman previewed on May 16th at the Central District Forum’s CREATION PROJECT SHOWCASE, which presented new works of six African-American artists chosen to receive the Creation Project Grant. The extended production, which includes a new work entitled *We All Suffer*, will take the audience to a common place of happiness, sadness, joy, and pain. Inspired by [Female Faces of War](#), a powerful documentary produced by Moni T. Law, Esq. and directed by independent film maker Kiya Bodding, *We All Suffer* explores how the effects of war are shared by women across the globe.

According to viewers of the CREATION PROJECT SHOWCASE, *Excerpts from the Soul of a Woman*’s “powerful messages were beautifully interwoven into the choreography to make statements that illuminated the affects of war on Women.” The story is told through Bynum’s dynamic, expressive movement which is complemented by poignant text and beautiful music.

About the Artist

Vania C. Bynum is an engineer (Bachelor of Computer Engineering, Auburn University) by trade but her love of the arts led her to achieve a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Dance from Cornish College of the Arts. She is dedicated to enhancing the life of others by using her artistic gifts; *her work has been described as commanding, emotionally evocative, and a lovely balance of power and grace.* In 2005, she founded the non-profit organization, **Arts for the Greater Good**, which enables Bynum to continue to implement her vision of inspiring dancers of all ages, increasing the accessibility of dance, and serving the community. The first Arts for the Greater Good benefit, produced in partnership with Allied Arts Foundation and Microsoft, raised \$13,000 for victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. See Bynum's full bio at www.vaniacbynum.com/bio.html.

Tickets: \$15; \$12 Students/Seniors
Advance sales available by calling 1-800-838-3006 or
Online at <http://www.vaniacbynum.com/excerpts.html> and
Brown Paper Tickets: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/35678>

2 Performances: Broadway Performance Hall: 1625 Broadway St. (Broadway & Pine), Seattle
Friday and Saturday, July 11 & 12: 7 pm

Performing Artists:

Dancers: Vania C. Bynum, Erin Houcevar, Byanka Larkin, Pamela Lenker, Meghan Raser, Graham Stockdale, Markeith Wiley

Poets: Melissa Noelle Green, Vernet C. Nettles, PhD, Roy Warren

Vocalist: Marion Nesby

Interviews and photos are available upon request.