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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEW ON STAGE AT ASHÉ: “DEAR BLACK PEOPLE”

Writer-Director Chris James brings his provocative, satirical artistry to New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS, LA—Ashé Cultural Arts Center (Ashé) is proud to partner with The Chris James Journey & Roots Theatre Company to present, *Dear Black People*. The play, written and directed by Chris James, hits the stage at Ashé on **August 5, 2017, at 7:00 PM; 1712 Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard**, New Orleans. Doors open at 6:00 PM, and **tickets are \$20**.

The satirical one-act, eight-scene performance work discusses black culture in America and infuses questions and statements relative to identity, racism, relationships, politics, the typical stereotypes and more. Through the voices of seven actors, it depicts a very enlightening perspective of the black experience. “*Dear Black People* is meant to be a mirror to some, and a cultural baptism to others,” said James.

This work, written and performed in poetry verse, has made audiences laugh and learn, simultaneously. Some of the questions it poses are: Can you be pro-black and date a non-black person? Do black women who wear weaves subconsciously want to be white? What is the solution to black issues that black people alone can execute?

Tickets are available online at <http://bit.ly/DearBlackPeople2017> or at Ashé’s box office, 1712 Oretha Castle Haley Blvd. For more information, call [\(504\) 569-9070](tel:5045699070).

ABOUT CHRIS JAMES

Chris James is a national spoken word poet, author, teaching artist, philanthropist, playwright, photographer, singer and songwriter. He is a master of many trades and has impacted many pockets of the world with his empowering artistic abilities. This young prophet and genius is truly using his gift to make a difference. The Journey of Chris James began in the city of Little Rock, Arkansas and is steadily growing. His latest album OVERCOMING THE ODDS (2015) paints vivid images of his upbringing and adulthood and all the challenges of being young and black in America. The project includes spoken word and music, and is a follow up of his first book and stage play THE ODDS AGAINST U.S.=URBAN STATISTICS (2014). Chris James is a true hero and success story in the eyes of his community but THE JOURNEY has just begun. For more information about The Chris James Journey, visit the website at www.thechrisjamesjourney.com.

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ABOUT ASHÉ CULTURAL ARTS CENTER

Ashé Cultural Arts Center, located at 1712 Oretha Castle Haley Blvd. in New Orleans, is an effort to combine the intentions of neighborhood and economic development with the awesome creative forces of culture, community and art. We use culture and art to promote individual, community and economic development. Central to this mission is the recognition that American society has a marginalized view of African-Americans and their participation in the social and culture of the nation. Our primary goal is to interrupt that view, and to promote social and cultural equity. Operating since 1998, Ashé is a gathering place for emerging and established artists to present, create and

collaborate in giving life to their art. The campus of this multi-faceted institution contains a dedicated art gallery, three event halls and often houses concerts, banquets, seminars, theater, a year-round youth program and more. Visit www.ashecac.org or call [\(504\) 569-9070](tel:(504)569-9070) for more information.

For more information, photos, or to schedule an interview, contact Viola T. Johnson Blunt at (504) 813-9008 or via email at violatjohnson@gmail.com.