

'Darkness Lifting' replete with renowned artists



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WITH FEELING: Adrienne Reynolds in one of many emotional moments.

By **BROOKS NETTUM**
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AMERICUS — Harmony and Habitat are interchangeable words, and the production team of "Darkness Lifting" is no different. Their combined talents transform Tom DeTitta's written words into a moving play.

The cast includes Adrienne Reynolds, an Atlanta based actress who has appeared in Diggydotcom with "Made in da Shade" in Rotterdam Holland; "B.L.A.C.K., Sweat, and Sototo...A Township is Calling" at 7 Stages just to name a few. She portrays a 70-year old grandmother and a 19-year-old woman living in Baltimore's

inner-city.

Theresa Holmes's acting career includes "Hamlet, the Musical", "Isle of Dogs" and "Rodeo Radio." She has served as music director and composer for production in the Seattle area. She plays an older woman from Belfast, a Chiapan woman and many others.

For close to 30 years, Frank Wiley has been involved in college and community plays, summer stock and performance poetry. He has performed in three of Tom DeTitta's plays in addition to film credits including "To Dance with the White Dog" and "Andersonville, the Movie." He plays a middle-aged man, a young man, a guide, a Fijian

Elder and more. In addition to performing in "Darkness Lifting," he is the musical director. He has appeared at the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles in Peter Parnell's eight-hour state adaptation of John Irving's, "The Cider House Rules." Edd is an actor, musical director and sound designer in the thriving Seattle theater community.

Leading the artistic and production staff is director, Eddie Levi Lee, who for the last eight years was the artistic director of The Empty Space Theatre in Seattle. He has also worked in Atlanta's Theatrical Outfit and the The Southern Theater Conspiracy. He has directed more than 60 plays and acted in 100



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PRODUCTION TEAM: Eddie Lee, Edd Key and Theresa Holmes discuss music for "Darkness Lifting."

more; he is the author or co-author of more than 30 plays including "Wuthering! Heights! The! Musical!," "The Salvation of Iggy Scrooge," "Tent Meeting," "Some Things You Need to

Know Before the World Ends," and "Expressions of the Spirit." He has performed Off-Broadway and with the Seattle

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Repertory Theatre, the Philadelphia Drama Guild, The Kennedy Center, the Tacoma Actor's Guild and many more.

W. Joseph Stell, scenery and lighting designer, is emeritus professor of drama and design at the University of Georgia. He is no stranger to Americus having worked with Tom DeTitta on earlier productions as well as the renovation of the Rylander Theatre.

Dena Kirkland, production and stage manager, has served

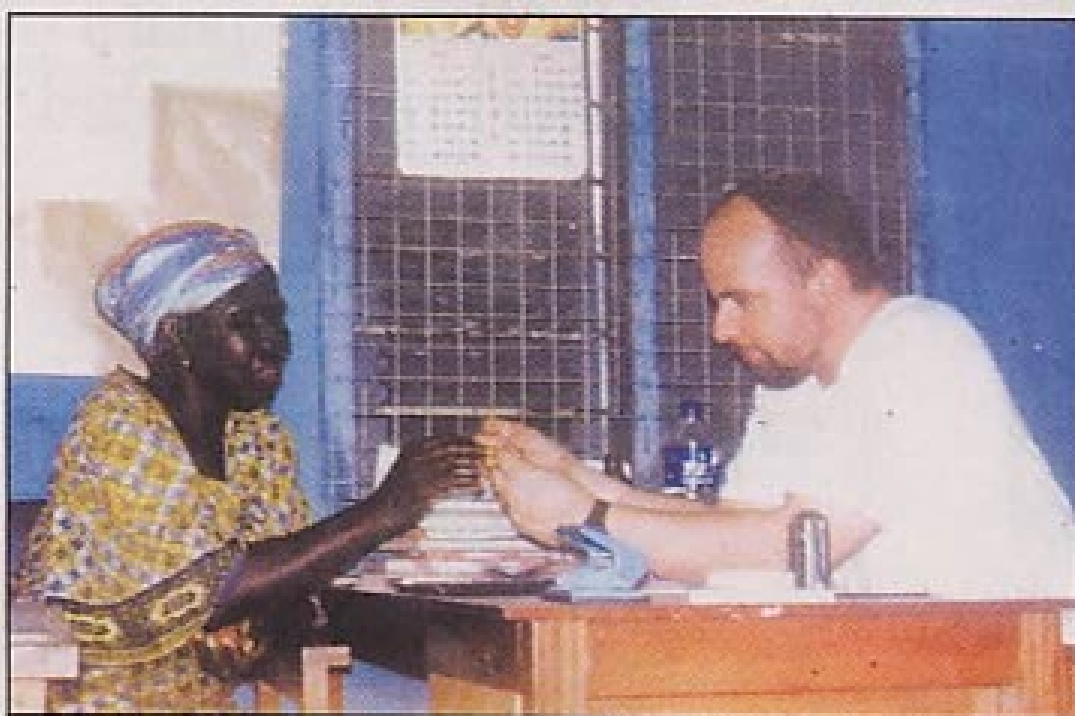
as production manager for the Atlanta Ballet, the Alabama Shakespeare Festival and the Alliance Theater. She has also managed numerous events including a tribute to Edith Head.

Danelle Kornelis designed the costumes, Ray Mannila of Georgia Southwestern State University is technical director and prop manager, Gary W. Williams, a native of Americus, is production assistant and Sue Fitzgerald is the wardrobe mis-

tress. She is also a volunteer at Habitat for Humanity International.

The set, the authentic musical instruments, the acting, the costumes, the lighting and the singing unite in a concerted effort to celebrate Habitat's 25th anniversary celebration.

Performances are Sept. 6, 7 and 8 at 7:30 p.m. at the Rylander Theatre in Americus. All tickets are reserved. Call the box office at 931-0001 for more information.



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Tom DeTitta, author of "Darkness Lifting," traveled to several countries to research his play. Here he is talking with a Habitat committee member in Ghana.

Habitat is building on stage in play *'Darkness Lifting'*

By **BROOKS NETTUM**

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AMERICUS — You won't need to roll up your sleeves or bring your hammer to participate in this Habitat experience. Scenes of the housing ministry unfold in Tom DeTitta's "Darkness Lifting," a celebration of Habitat for Humanity International's 25th anniversary and the organization's relationships that are changing the world.

The play examines the darkness of people in need in order to better understand the opportunities that lift them up.

Four cast members portray 26 characters in the five countries of Fiji, Ghana, Mexico, Northern Ireland and the United States of America. Habitat affiliates assist in the production by providing costumes, props, research, scripts and building tools. DeTitta explains, "It's all about relationships and Habitat's enigmatic way of accessing the world and working with all

cultures."

"Darkness Lifting" brings together the Habitat homeowner and the volunteers, building "more than houses," the understanding of the effect of Habitat's ministry globally and the celebration of its contribution to the world.

For DeTitta, the central focus of the play revolves around the dynamics of Habitat "working side by side with people to help better their lives provides a privileged enter into worlds that we would otherwise just look at through the tour bus window. What's even more important is that Habitat reaches into the places that most challenge our ability to creatively explore our world: the inner city, poverty-stricken rural communities, the Third World."

"Darkness Lifting" was commissioned by Habitat for Humanity to commemorate its 25th anniversary. For DeTitta and

World Communities Theater, the play reveals the versatility of the author and augments the structure and methodology of their theater mission.

Performances for "Darkness Lifting" will be at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 6, 7 and 8 at the Rylander Theatre in downtown Americus.