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## Rave reviews for Trini-born comedienne

Tuesday, August 25 2009

**TRINIDAD-BORN actress and comedienne Hazelle Goodman will host the tenth anniversary celebration of entertainment outfit Tropicalfete at the Crash Mansion in New York City on Wednesday.**

Tropicalfete, which has as its mission entertaining and educating the global community on Caribbean culture, is regarded as the "home of Caribbean entertainment" in the United States.

Goodman harboured dreams of a show business career from age six when she saw the film version of *The Sound of Music*. She spent her formative years in Bedford Stuyvesant, Brooklyn and East Elmhurst, Queens, eagerly awaiting the day when she would attend the famed High School of Performing Arts, but to her dismay she was not accepted.

Devastated at the rejection, Goodman abandoned her aspirations, obtained a degree at the Fashion Institute of Technology and began working in the fashion retail industry. Bored by a series of dead-end jobs, she quit working and enrolled as a drama major at the City College of New York, eventually graduating Cum Laude.

Recognising the difficulties of being both female and a woman of colour, Goodman, inspired by her teacher Robbie McCauley, began developing her own one-person show, which she spent close to seven years developing.

Then HBO's John Rubin and Bridget Potter were intrigued by an invitation to one of her performances and attended, an event which led to Goodman headlining her own one-woman special *Hazelle!* on HBO for which she received unprecedented ratings and was nominated for two Cable Ace Awards — Best Comedy Special and Best Performer.

As a result, Goodman began making inroads in features appearing in Michael Mann's *Heat*.

Goodman created the memorable role of crime queen Georgia Rae Mahoney, out to revenge her brother's death, in the NBC drama series *Homicide: Life on the Street*. Goodman made screen history when Woody Allen cast her in the role of the prostitute Cookie, the voice of reason amidst chaos, in *Deconstructing Harry*, making her the first African American actress to have a major role in one of the writer-director's films.

The Trinidadian actress and comedienne delivered a tantalising, scene-stealing turn that made audiences and film critics sit up and take notice.

An acclaimed outing as the "Queen" in the Public Theatre's production of *Cymbeline* marked Hazelle's Shakespearean debut. She powerfully performed alongside noted celebrities Oprah Winfrey, Jane Fonda, Glenn Close and others at the Madison Square Garden premier performance of the *Vagina Monologues*.

Goodman recently received rave reviews for her extraordinary performance in the off-Broadway production of *Leftover Stories To Tell*, a moving body of work celebrating the late Spalding Gray. She is currently starring in her off-Broadway one-woman show *Hazelle Live!*

Print 

Sunday, August 14 2011

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