

**Norma Adams-Wade:**  
**Read-in speaks to people in different ways**

**06:58 AM CST on Wednesday, February 1, 2006**

The annual African American Read-In means different things to different people.

Some people see the free stage performance of literary works by black writers as a perfect way to kick off Black History Month.

Others see the show as a way to bring families, individuals, organizations, schools, churches and folks from various ethnic groups together. Through the spoken word, dance, music and celebrity guests, the audience and multiethnic participants celebrate the joy of reading and show appreciation for the culture and literary assets of black Americans.

Still other people love receiving the free goodies that include a colorful tote bag, T-shirt and book.

So when it's time to let people know that the read-in is coming, it's hard to pinpoint just what draws most of the overflow crowds that show up each year. The read-in will be from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday at Majestic Theatre, 1925 Elm St. downtown. Dallas County Community College District, which presents the show, urges people to arrive early to get a seat.

The event encourages families and groups who come to the show to hold their own read-ins during February to continue the fun and learning.

The production will feature *A Prince Came Out of Egypt: A Tribute to Ossie Davis*. **Anyika McMillan-Herrod** of Dallas wrote the script, and **Monique Ridge-Williams** of Dallas is the director. The production celebrates the life and legacy of **Ossie Davis**, the actor and activist who died last February at age 87, and it lauds the characters and personalities he represented through his work – artists, humanitarians, writers, husbands and fathers. The production offers poetry, music and writings by Mr. Davis and his wife, **Ruby Dee**, and by other writers and artists, including **Ernest Gaines** and **Julius Lester**.

Participants will include national artists and dozens of local artists and groups, including the Dallas Black Dance Theatre, Percussion Things, New Arts Six, **Richmond Punch** and **Brent Nance**. The two guest readers will be actor **Avery Brooks**, who played Capt. Benjamin Sisko on *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*, and **Johnny Wimbrey**, a Dallas-based author, corporate trainer and motivational speaker.

**Carla Ranger**, a community college administrator who founded the Dallas read-in, said the seventh annual production, as in previous years, would draw people of all cultures to share in the fun. Officials of Dallas-based Alliance Data, the main sponsor collaborating with the college district, said they are pleased to help carry the message.

The read-in is part of a national literary campaign that **Jerrie Scott** created, Mrs. Ranger said. Dr. Scott is on the University of Memphis faculty and is a member of the Black Caucus of the National Council of Teachers of English. The caucus has documented that more than 1 million people have participated in read-ins nationally. The goal in Dallas last year was 10,000 participants. But public schools alone documented more than 10,000 student participants, and throughout the city, more than 35,000 people in groups and families participated. To learn more, visit [www.readin.dcccd.edu](http://www.readin.dcccd.edu).

**ABOUT TOWN:** The seventh annual Black College Alumni Night at the Dallas Mavericks game is at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at American Airlines Center, 2500 Victory Ave. Halftime will feature PV's "Black Foxes" and

"Marching Storm." The Dallas Metroplex Council of Black Alumni Association also will host the free, sixth annual black alumni college fair for high school students and their families from 8:30 to 10 a.m. Saturday at the center. Representatives from historically black colleges will talk with students and their families. For game ticket information or to help with the fair, call 214-658-7123.

The Run a Mile, Save a Mind Scholarship Program is trying to raise \$10,000 during Black History Month in February for education funding. The effort also promotes healthy living. The nonprofit National Black Marathoners' Association sponsors the program. High school distance runners may apply for the scholarships. To participate or learn more, call 214-264-1379 during the day or 214-660-1666 in the evening, or e-mail [scholarship@blackmarathoners.org](mailto:scholarship@blackmarathoners.org).

E-mail [nwade@dallasnews.com](mailto:nwade@dallasnews.com) or fax information to 214-977-8319

---

Online at: [http://www.dallasnews.com/s/dws/dn/localnews/columnists/nwade/stories/DN-wade\\_01met.ART.State.Edition2.136551da.html](http://www.dallasnews.com/s/dws/dn/localnews/columnists/nwade/stories/DN-wade_01met.ART.State.Edition2.136551da.html)