

**NO JIVE**  
PRODUCTIONS, INC.

*Presents*

HIS *Double* LIFE

**MEDIA KIT**

NoJiveProductions.org

Twitter: @nojiveceo

[facebook.com/HisDoubleLifePlayStagePlay/](https://facebook.com/HisDoubleLifePlayStagePlay/)

IG: nojivep

# MISSION STATEMENT

To provide a diverse multi-cultural group of minority youth and adults in the community an opportunity to explore new avenues of learning and self-expressions through the fine arts that will serve to shape their dreams and develop their minds into mature responsible men and women.

# VISION STATEMENT

We will work to maintain a leadership role within the community by enthusiastically embracing new ideas and emerging technologies that support our mission. Our strategy will include developing and nurturing key strategic alliances with partners whose products, missions or visions support our own.

# VALUE STATEMENT

Every member of No Jive Productions Inc is committed to meeting the needs and exceeding the expectations of our customers and colleagues with honesty, integrity and accountability. We work together as member of the same team and are accountable for our individual actions. We value the contributions of our co-workers and treat each other with respect.

We do not take stability and growth for granted and continuously work to improve what we do and the way we do it with our talent, employee, employers and customers in mind.

# NIAL MARTIN

## WRITER / DIRECTOR / PRODUCER / AUTHOR

A native of Miami, Florida, Nial A. Martin was born May 9, 1979. His ambition, magnanimous deeds, and passion for the arts have distinguished him as a rising star on the South Florida arts scene. Emerging from a past of filled with pain and unrest; he has transcended his work in such a way that allowed fellow actors and audiences to be released from their pain through his words and actions. His company, No Jive Productions, Inc. was founded on February 25, 1995, and incorporated on March 29, 1996. This organization is a non-profit entertainment entity created to foster talent, promote artistry in the truest sense,

and inspire audiences everywhere with pride, dignity, and respect. No Jive, Inc. is an extension of Nial's commitment of providing the underserved residents of the South Florida area opportunities to achieve and excel in their personal, civic and academic endeavors through exposure to the performing arts. This commitment has and will continue to be a conduit for some of Miami's most talented artists. The credo stating, "Anyone can become a winner in all aspects of their lives" is actualized and nurtured through live stage performance, art training, and artist showcases.

A graduate from Allison Academy in North Miami Beach Florida and the Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale, Nial began acting at the age of seven. Nial was a shy child growing up and theater was a way for him to shine bright. He made his debut in the motion picture "Fair Game" starring Cindy Crawford. For nine years, he performed with the Coconut Grove Children's Theatre. He has appeared in television commercials for Nike, Burger King, 163rd Street Mall,

Wendy's and the Dade County School Board just to name a few. His outstanding work in the South Florida community has been consistently acknowledged. From donating his time to speak at local community organizations and schools he has inspired other young people to reach for their dreams. Nial has been recognized throughout South Florida by WEDR 99 Jamz On-Air Personality/Public Service Director, Cheryl Mizell and received a certificate of appreciation from the City of Miami and Robert Renick Educational Center. Miami Dade County Commissioner Betty T. Ferguson presented Nial with a congratulatory letter in recognition of his outstanding work and contribution to the arts and was designated Ambassador of the Arts by the Miami Dade County Board of Commissioners. These and other accolades for his remarkable community achievements lead to the distinct honor of working in the House of Representatives, alongside Willie Logan.

Not resting on his past successes, Nial Martin is marching boldly into the future with his heart wide open. He will continue to offer timely and innovative art programming to South Florida area and share his story with other parts of the country as he ventures out to tour his original stage play "His Double Life". No Jive Inc. is constantly expanding its audience base to have a larger regional presence throughout the Southeast, representing Miami, Florida with pride. "There are so many people who just need to be inspired. If you work hard and believe in your vision, anything is possible. We all want to make a difference with our work and how we live our lives." **-Nial A. Martin**

**" Love and  
give love  
from the  
heart.,,**



# HIS DOUBLE LIFE SYNOPSIS



***His Double Life*** is a play that tells the story of a young man who craves the unconditional love of his father but finds that no matter what he does, he is unable to measure up. But he faces even more serious obstacles that threaten to destroy the relationship with his high school sweetheart and one day wife, tear his family apart and cause an irreconcilable breach between him and his father. The play illustrates how toxic secrets can be to a family's well-being and explores problems that many families endure alcoholism, life-threatening illnesses and hidden sexual desires. In the end ***His Double Life*** provides us with a view of what can happen when we accept the differences that exist in others and shows that no matter how terrible things may seem, love can still conquer all.

*"Closet Packed With Secrets"* - *Miami Herald*

# CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

## **Reverend James E. Sanders, Dad**

Rev. Sanders is the pillar of the community. He is 55 years old and has been a pastor of the community church for numerous years. He has been diagnosed with a life threatening disease (because of drinking) that requires a kidney transplant. The only person able to help him is his (D.L.) son Matthew. Rev. Sanders is an opinionated alcoholic who physically and emotionally abuses his wife Brenda.

## **Matthew Sanders, Son “DL”**

Matthew is an All American High School athlete who graduated with honors from Howard University. He has a muscular build which carried over from his high school years (being the star quarterback). His girlfriend Vanessa, who is now his fiancée, is his high school sweetheart. Matthew's age range is 22-25 and handsome. His job title is the General Manager of the 7 Seasons Hotel.

## **Brenda Sanders, Mom**

Brenda is an elementary school teacher and despite her husband's abuse, she hangs on his every word. She's who keeps this family together. She is 55 years of age. No matter what her husband does, she always agrees with him, until now.

## **Vanessa Clark, Matthews' Girlfriend/Fiancée**

Vanessa is the high school sweetheart of Matthew Sanders. Vanessa is very much in love and sees no other man as her husband. She is a Marketing Manager for BMI 22-25 years of age. Vanessa is looking forward to this dinner with the Sanders family with hopes of Matthew proposing.

## **Wynikka Jones, Vanessa's best friend from childhood**

Wynikka is ghetto and ghetto is. She is wild and loud and doesn't care who knows it. She is fast and anytime she has a chance to chase a boy, guy or man, she does it. Wynikka is the manager of Walmart between the ages of 22-25 years old.

## **Theo Martin, Matthews' best friend**

Theo is Matthew's best friend from high school and through college. He is just like one of Matthew's brothers. He and Matthew are inseparable, (more than anyone knows). Theo is the head chef at the 7 Seasons Hotel 21-25 years of age, muscular build and very handsome.

## **Cheryl Jones-Sanders Vanessa and Wynikka's close friend and married to Matthews' brother Tim**

Cheryl is married to Tim Sanders whom she met and dated while in high school with the gang. She graduated from Fisk University with a degree in Accounting. Cheryl is somewhat grandiose but humble. She is 22-25 years of age.

## **Doctor Curtis Harvey**

Doctor Harvey is speaking to Vanessa about 10 stages to know when your man is on the DL. He is also talking about AIDS, HIV, sexuality and statistics regarding these problems plaguing our communities.

# SCENE BREAKDOWN

## **Scene 1 - The Conversation**

While arriving to the family Bed and Breakfast, Matthew, Vanessa and Theo were walking in. Matthew receives a phone call from his parents. The phone call only upsets him because the parents only wanted to know when Matthew will start a family. Vanessa agrees wanting to know the same but when questioning Matthew, Theo more or less interrupt and Matthew decides to leave with Theo.

## **Scene 2 - Girl Talk Moment**

Wynikka enters while Theo and Matthew were leaving. Wynikka wants Vanessa to open up about Matthew and her relationship because Vanessa thought she was losing Matthew.

## **Scene 3 - Mama Spill the Beans**

Reverend Sanders and Brenda arrives at the B.B. where Rev. Sanders discloses to her his illness and what his will have done when they get back home. Rev. Sanders doesn't want any of his family to know of his problem.

## **Scene 4 - Oprah or Football**

Everyone finally meets at the B.B. only to sense the hostility from Rev. Sanders towards Matthew as always. Wynikka makes a spectacle of herself as always.

## **Scene 5 - Rev. Sanders Hidden Secret**

Mother Sanders catches the Rev. drinking and all hell breaks loose.

## **Scene 6 - Matthew Confronts his Mother**

Matthew tries to tell his mother but she thinks its something else. She decides to tell Matthew about his father anyway.

## **Scene 7 - Heart to Heart Talk**

Mother Sanders talking with Vanessa about her and Matthews' relationship and what's missing in it. Mother Sanders and Vanessa are joined by Wynikka in discussion about relationships and love. When trying to leave with Mother Sanders and Vanessa, Wynikka runs into Theo and decides to stay to comfort him. He refuses 'of course'. They start talking about issues like DL and Matthew and his father walks in on the conversation. Matthew gets mad with Theo because of how he's flirting with Wynikka. Matthew and his father talks about his relationship with Vanessa to which Matthew wants him to keep his opinions to himself.

## **Scene 8 - The Cat is Out of the Bag**

Matthew and Theo alone in Theo's room talking about what happened today (Wynikka walking by the room hearing the talking). She hears what was discussed about the D.L. and overhears the two talking like a couple. Wynikka walks in when Matthew and Theo kiss (NEED I SAY MORE).

## **Scene 9 - Thanksgiving Showdown**

Everyone sitting around Thanksgiving dinner. Vanessa thinks Matthew is about to propose so Wynikka says she will tell Vanessa if Matthew doesn't. Everything comes to light and afterwards Rev. Sanders tells Matthew and Theo to leave his house only to fall out and go to the hospital.

## **INTERMISSION**

## **Scene 10 - The Apologies**

Momma Sanders explains to Matthew about what he did for to Vanessa. Matthew finally faces Vanessa about the lies and deceits. Vanessa slaps Matthew.

## **Scene 11 - The Truth Hurts !!**

Momma Sanders and Wynikka in the kitchen talking when Vanessa walks in. Wynikka and Vanessa talks about not letting hurt take control of you and how to heal with the help of god. Momma Sanders talks about how strong black women are. Momma Sanders talks with Matthew about having Vanessa forgive him. Matthew tells his mother that he decided to give his father the transplant. Rev. Sanders refused the help from his son.

## **Scene 12 - A Son's Love**

Matthew back from giving his father the transplant at home on the couch healing. Matthew tells his mother how he did the transplant for her not his father. Matthew also tells his mother how she hid the father's drinking and domestic abuse from them. Vanessa and Matthew finally make amends and she decides to forgive him. Rev. Sanders and Momma Sanders come in from the hospital and leaves Matthew and his father to talk. Rev. Sanders still disregarding Matthew and his choice of lifestyle. Momma Sanders tell her husband how their son saved his life. Rev. Sanders finally tell Matthew how he grew up with all the evils in his past that he kept hidden for all these years. Matthew explains to his father the difference of how he and his brother were treated. They both forgive each other with one final hug from his father (FINALLY).

## **Scene 13 - Forgiveness**

Vanessa moving on with her life about to be married and decided to speak with Matthew to ask for his forgiveness.

# CAST MEMBERS

Cast is subject to change.



**NIAL MARTIN**  
Writer / Director / Producer



**BENJAMIN CARLTON**  
as Matthew Sanders



**ROBYN LAJOYA CHARLES**  
as Vanessa Clark  
(Daughter of Ray Charles)



**ALICIA SIMPSON**  
as Momma Sanders  
(From No Jive Productions)



**DAVID TOLLIVER**  
as Rev. Daddy James Sanders  
(From the music group "Men At Large")



**DUVONNE T. MOORE**  
as Wynnika Jones  
(From No Jive Productions)



**SHERROD WILLIS**  
as Theo Martin



**QUINCY T. BONDS**  
as Dr. Curtis  
(From Tyler Perry's "House of Payne")

# FEEDBACK FROM VIEWERS

## **Subject: His double life**

From: Jessy Schuster

Such an emotional moment for me. His Double Life showed me a new aspect of the down low situation I had not focused on before. The internal pain one man can feel for being ashamed of his own sexuality and the turmoil he faces everyday while lying and cheating on his loved ones.

This play was different than movies or talk shows I had seen on the topic. It felt real and true. The actors portrayed the character in such manner that I actually forgot all about the theatre, the decor, the spectators.. I was watching real life. I was watching a true story.

A true story that hit close to home for me. Having been around down low men, I could relate to it all. The difference with His Double Life is that it did not focus on the homosexuality alone, it was really about forgiveness and learning how to understand another human being before passing judgment.

The father and son relationship was the most emotional moment to me surprisingly. It reminded me of how crucial such relationship is for the well being of any men. Being able to accept yourself, live in your own body and be able to confront life are all related to the way you grew up and the play portrayed this fact in a subtle yet powerful way.

I laughed, I cried, I simply felt..... That is the power of this play...you actually feel something. The dialogue was my favorite part. It did not feel forced, fake or exaggerated. The play had a great flow and was written as it was a true story. I think it should be mandatory for women and men who went through this or considering going through this to watch this play. It is impactful and truly portrayed how devastating such lies can be to not only a partner, but his entire family and his or her own life. Two thumbs up are too cliché, I have to add : standing ovation.

**Subject:** A finished product in the making

I thought the show was extremely thoughtful, most of all pleasurable and enjoyable. I have a passion for many things in life, and one is the mode of expression (theater), the performing arts. Anytime someone has the ability to express him or herself at center staged, needs to be applaud. The show "His Double Life" really touched home, there were so many point that came upon my doorstep. The scenes with Daddy Sanders and Matthew really bought tears to my eyes. In life today many fathers are absent, and should not be, its that father who is missing out on a life that is going to live regardless, it is the father who took the easy way out and left the child behind questioning and wondering why. Where did I go wrong? What did I do? Could I have done something different? Was it me or was it him? My father. Daddy Sanders was present, but yet to me seemed absent due to Matthew feeling isolated, desolate, forlorn and a waste. He felt emptied. He felt lost, he felt that he was missing so much but all that one has could not equate to that of love being loss, needed or felt.

Thank You

Nial

**Subject:** His Double Life

Hello Nial, I have to just say that being in the audience last night and watching the play "His Double Life" was such a great experience. This show was a true to life of so many family dynamics that no matter whether your gay, straight , bi, black green or blue there was something for everyone. Each scene there was life lessons learnt as well as some great humor as well. I can relate to the scene with the father finally acknowledging his scene and letting him know that he in fact does LOVE him. My father and i have had a rough relationship and i always wanted to do things to please him and really felt like i was always in the shadow of my oldest brother. But when i was 24 years old and hear my father being called up to give a word of testimony in church on new years eve and out of the blue he asked me from to stand up and say in front of the church how proud of me he was and loved me! Was my validation in my life and here i am at 44 we have a great relationship ever since. He has some health issues now however i don't know how much time i have left with him but knowing that 20 years ago he said what he said and we are still close is a blessing and was the best gift that he could have given me while he is still alive and of sound mind! Great play and look forward to seeing more of what No jive productions is going to bring to the rest of the world. Thanks and keep up the good work! Peter D.

**Subject:** MY Feed back about the show (i saw 2 weeks ago) when i wasinMiami! all the way from sunny ARUBA

GOOD AFTERNOON MR. NIAL

I was in miami 2 weeks ago and had the honor of looking at your show with a very good friend of mine. . The story line of the show was wonderful and i my self could identify with so many different parts of that show.. the first half the timing was great , i found the show very funny and serious all in one.. at times tears came to

my eyes (not only mine) and if i must say at other times i wish i was the run being rubbed down with all that oil... but that very handsome young man. I dont remember the names of the actors and actresses but that friend of the main charactors girlfriend was just very funny and i fould all of them very nice.. dressed well for ever scene.

i would have loved to meet some of them and personally know that they did an excellent job..and i also found it nice that the producer (cute guy in pink) took the time to meet some of the people that showed up to watch at his play..

I am now back home in Aruba and since i was only there for vacation.. i would love the opportunity to see more of his work.. its wonderful to watch such plays since so many of us can associate with one part or the other of it..

Have a blessed day and keep up the good work  
i enjoyed every moment of a fun filled evening...

ERIC Andrews  
Aruba (where the sun and fun never ends)

**Subject:** A GREAT PLAY!!!

Dear Mr. Martin,

It is with great pleasure and a "Sincere Thank You!!!!" that this note of thanks is sent you. "His Double Life," was a very well written and well executed play. The surprise element for me was the basic elements of foundational truths from God's word and true (heterosexual) love, which is woven throughout the play. Each character had an element of integrity to his/her character and was identifiable to most families in the audience.

You have a great gift Mr. Martin and I thank God for you and your gift. We as Pastors, leaders and members in the Body Of Christ, must embrace and show love to the Homosexual community. We must allow the love of God to flow through us to all, bringing healing, help and deliverance to those desiring such.

Please keep up the great work!!! Thanks again for your organization's support of "Partners In Christ Faith Ministries International" Radio Broadcast.  
Our community looks forward to hearing of your continued success as we pray for you all and watch God work.

Warmest Regards,  
Apostle Dr. Lolida T. Dobbs

# NEWSPAPER / MAGAZINE ARTICLES

## MIAMI-BASED NO JIVE PRODUCTIONS KICKS OFF NATIONAL TOUR

BY ERIC FOSTER



NIAL MARTIN  
CREATOR

### NO JIVE PRODUCTIONS, INC.

Miami-based No Jive Productions, Inc. will launch its tour for Nial Martin's compelling and controversial stage play *His Double Life* in Atlanta 2017. The play – based loosely on Martin's personal experiences – focuses primarily on the relationship between a father and his son. "It's about a young man who's struggling with his sexuality and trying to come to terms with it, while craving that unconditional love from his father."

The son, Matthew Sanders (played by newcomer Benjamin Donlow), continually seeks approval from his father, Rev. James Sanders (played by Dave Tolliver of the R&B group, Men at Large). In addition, Matthew has been leading a double life that is eventually revealed, widening the rift with his father. Meanwhile "Momma" Brenda Sanders (played by Miami's own Alicia Simpson) seeks to maintain peace in the household and keep her family together.

## KICKS OFF NATIONAL TOUR

It's a story that many of the actors can relate to, having strained relationships with their fathers. Benjamin Donlow and Troy Brooks, who plays Matthew's best friend Theo Martin, both noted how they could relate to the story because of their own struggles with seeking parental acceptance.

*His Double Life* though is more than just about the family dynamic. It addresses some of the major issues that we often fail to talk about – issues such as sexuality and acceptance, depression, and alcoholism.

"It's a story that needs to be told," said Robyn LaJoy Charles, daughter of the legendary Ray Charles, who plays the role of Vanessa Clark, the girlfriend of Matthew Sanders. "It's really controversial and taboo for many people. There are a lot of homosexual men that are shunned because of their sexuality and are not given a voice."

"The biggest problem we have is pride," said Tolliver. "We say we want the truth but we're so afraid to deal with the truth in today's society. And at the same time, we deny other people the chance to live their truth."

"People shouldn't have to hide who they are," said Quincy Bonds (from Tyler Perry's House of Payne) who plays Dr. Curtis Harvey.

***"It's important that people can be open and honest about who they are and who they love, especially in light of the tragedy in Orlando."***

Ultimately, Martin hopes to not just open a dialogue, but open hearts with this play and spread a message of love, honesty and acceptance. "My ultimate goal is that I want to be able to help so many people that are going through what I've been through – people that have been bullied in school, people who have been called names because of how they look or act."

"A person's sexuality doesn't change who they are and doesn't define them," added Simpson. "No matter what people go through or how they live their lives, there needs to be unconditional love."

*Eric Foster is the founder and editor of YBE Magazine, an online publication about the young black experience. You can follow him on social media @YBEMagazine or visit ybemagazine.com.*

# YBE MAGAZINE

Playwright, producer, director

## NIAL MARTIN

On "His Double Life"

And how **Janet Jackson** saved his life

### PLUS

Interviews with the cast  
for the national tour of

"**His Double Life**"

12

### No CHAINS IN THE REP ZONE

Georgia State University's visit from

**Usher** for their "Chains" contest video

# NIAL MARTIN

*"A journey of 1,000 miles begins with a single step." – Lao Tzu*

## Nial's Journey...

For most of us, the journey of life is filled with ups and downs, but how we handle them can make or break us. For playwright, director, producer and entrepreneur Nial Martin, the down times became almost too much to bear. Yet, through his own resilience, great friends, divine intervention and one very special legend, he has survived to not only tell his story to YBE Magazine, but to share his struggles through the upcoming national tour of his play *His Double Life*.

Follow along as we take a look at Nial's journey in his own words.

## Learning disability

A lot of people don't know I'm dyslexic. Going through school, I had a major issue with reading. I didn't learn how to read until I was in the 9th or 10th grade. And that's something I've struggled with. Even now, I have to stare at something and sound the words out. I take it as a gift because there's so many young people out there now who are dealing with the same thing, who are dealing with the shame of that.

You know how sometimes in school we had to select a chapter of a book to read, I would always excuse myself whenever it was my turn, because I didn't want to read in front of the class. So my mom entered me in private school to help me with my reading, which it did. I was also out of school a lot because of doing commercials and print work.

## Trying to fit in

I struggled with my sexuality. I tried playing football, but I hated it, because I didn't understand anything of it. I played football and baseball just to please my family, because that was the manly thing to do.

I remember trying to date females. I had this one girlfriend in school and I hated it because I was so uncomfortable. I regret it because I broke her heart. But I was trying to please other people instead of pleasing myself. So I took all of those situations and used it to write *His Double Life*.

## On depression

Well, for me, with depression, that was something I definitely dealt with for a long time. Not having my father in my life, not really feeling loved by people. Even though I knew my mom loved me, I felt like I was missing something – that unconditional love. I guess because I just had this "dark" secret and a lot of people couldn't understand me.

I'm the type of person that's hard to figure out sometimes. I'm very shy, I'm very insecure. That's something that I have been working on. I've been depressed for a long time. I tried to commit suicide twice – once by taking pills, once by slicing my wrists. I just didn't want to be here anymore. I got tired of people putting me down, telling me that I'm not good enough, that I'm too ugly or too fat. I just felt alone in this world and being picked on in school.

## Suicide attempt

There was a point in my life where I got so depressed. I was driving home on I-95, and someone had lied to me about something, made me feel like I wasn't good enough, and I just lost it. I drove to my friend's house, went into the kitchen, grabbed a knife, went to the bathroom and sliced my wrist. When I did it, it hurt but felt good because it was a relief. I went out to get another knife to cut deeper and my friend took me into the room, prayed over me and I went to sleep. I slept like a baby. It was a peace I had never had before when I slept. I remember my friend telling me that if I killed myself, I would never meet Janet Jackson.

## The turning point - meeting a legend



Photo credit: From Janet Jackson's Unbreakable World Tour

Ten or fifteen years [after my suicide attempt], I met Janet Jackson and I told her my story of how she inspired me and how her music saved my life. She gave me a big hug and told me "I didn't save you; God saved you. He only used me as a vessel to get you through."

At that point, it was like a spirit talking to me. There was a calmness in her voice telling me that I could do anything I wanted to, despite anybody's decisions or anything they say about me. God has the final say so in life.

## Overcoming

I just never felt like myself, I never felt truly loved. I didn't love myself. But now, at age 36, I love Nial. There was a point in my life where I had to revamp myself, revamp my soul.

I had to come to a point where I admitted to myself that I like men. I'm at a point now where I don't give a fuck [about other people's opinions]. I'm just trying to get back to a place where I love Nial. Hopefully I'll meet that special one some day to share my life with. I'm about family life. I truly want to settle down with somebody special. But we'll see.

## Creating No Jive Productions

Life is truly a journey for me. I created No Jive Productions at the age of 16 years old. A guy with a dream that wanted to pursue something, wanted to be my own boss, wanted to make change in the community, wanted to make change in people's lives through theater. Theater has changed my life in so many ways. I'm able to be somebody on stage that I'm normally not in person. As I said before, I'm very shy in person, so I won't go up to you and start a conversation, but my alter ego will.

As far as the meaning behind No Jive, the 'N' in 'No' stands for Nial, the 'J' in 'Jive' stands for Journey. So No Jive Productions is Nial's Journey and where that journey takes me, that's where I'll end up. Right now, it's taking us on a national tour, starting in October.

In my meeting with the team about launching this tour, we said we don't know how we're going to do it, but we're going to do it. I'm not trying to and I don't want my team to live from paycheck to paycheck. That's not the way to live. You need to live life at a point where you can travel when you want to or just live comfortably. You don't need to be rich to be happy. When you're not stressed, you're not worried about anything – to me that's living comfortable.

## His Double Life

The stage play somewhat mirrors my life. It's about a young man who's struggling with his sexuality and trying to come to terms with it and looking for and craving that unconditional love



from his father that he never received. There's a point in the show where the father needs a kidney transplant and the only person who can give it to him is his gay son.

Throughout the play, you see how the son, Matthew, is fighting to gain his father's affection and approval. I'm still struggling to build that relationship with my dad.

### On family and the relationship with his father

I feel like he's abandoned me more than one time. I have reached out to him to say, "Hey, I'm here. Can you see me? What else do I need to do to get your love, get your affection, get your attention?" It's not like I'm a bum or crack addict. I'm making moves, doing stuff with my life. It makes me wonder what I did wrong.

I remember going to North Carolina to visit my father's side of the family. I never had an opportunity to meet them before. I met my aunt and my grandma for the first time two years ago. My aunt didn't even know he had another child. She came to the door with tears in her eyes and said, "You look just like your father."

I do have to give credit to my mom. One thing she's never done is spoken badly about him. She told me growing up that she needed me to see it

for myself, because she didn't want to flood you with a perception of him that you might not think is true. I thank her for that all the time, for letting me see it with my own eyes.

I used to look at myself as being at fault in some way. I don't anymore. That was one of the reasons I wanted to commit suicide, because I felt so alone. There's only so much a mother can do to show their son how to be a man. My mom is a strong woman, she's been there for me, she put me through college, she helped me in theater.

I still struggle with the desire to see him. Some days I feel like it's not worth it, and some days I feel like I wish I had my dad. Sometimes, I just feel very lonely. Even though I'm at a point in my life where I've just accepted it and knowing there's nothing I can do about it.

*There comes a point where you just have to let go*

### Outside support

Carlos Harris, Vice President of No Jive, he's like the father I never had. I talk to him pretty much about everything. He's really been the backer of No Jive, helping me out as far as finances and even emotionally. He's been the dad I never had. And I'm so thankful for him. He said to me "Nial, I believe in you and whatever it takes, we're going to make it happen."

It's a good feeling. It's a really good feeling to know you have somebody that's in your corner and to have a team that's in your corner that works like they are making millions of dollars. It's hard to find people to come together like that. When you have deadlines they work hard to meet those deadlines. It says a lot to me about character.

As long as I have people that continue to believe and support me and I believe in myself, everything's going to work out. I don't forget people who help me out along the way. When you value people and you treat people good, then they'll value you in return.



## The future

My ultimate goal is that I want to be able to help so many people that are going through what I've been through – people that have been bullied in school, people who have been called faggot or punk because they're not built a certain way or acting manly. I want to build jobs and generate income for people from all walks of life so I can help them to pursue their dreams.

Right now, I just finished writing six episodes for my sitcom. Next step is filming it and pitching it to the networks. I also wrote the movie version for *His Double Life*. I'm going to film and pitch that. I've also got the national tour.

I'm excited about the tour. I'm excited, afraid, nervous, a little of everything. Even though I've done the play before, it's a step up as far as having major names in the show. So it's scary, but I'm ready for the challenge.♦

Follow Nial Martin on social media:

Facebook: [His Double Life](#) or [Nial Martin](#)

Twitter: [nojivecea](#)

Instagram: [nojivep](#)

Photography by [Micheal Anthony Clark](#)



Catch up on past issues at [YBEMagazine.com!](#)

## BEHIND THE SCENES

# He's out with honest look at the down low

BY STEVE ROTHaus  
srothaus@MiamiHerald.com

When Nial Martin created and produced the 2006 play *His Double Life* — about closeted gay black men — he lived a double life.

"We're not trying to bash the [down low] or the whole gay lifestyle, we're just trying to bring awareness to be honest and faithful to the one you are with," Martin told The Miami Herald three years ago, while not revealing his own homosexuality. "If you are living a double life, it's just not fair."

Saturday night, Martin's No Jive Productions company brings *His Double Life* back to the Joseph Caleb Auditorium in Miami, but this time he's fully out and wanting to talk.

"I was a DL brother myself," he now says. "I had a little girlfriend, but at the same time I was unhappy because I wasn't being true to myself. Don't get me wrong, I love [women], but my heart wasn't there."

Martin, 30, of Miami Lakes, didn't come out publicly until seven months ago.

Twelve years ago he told his mother that he's gay.

"I was so scared. I thought she was going to kick me out. She looked at me and said, 'I can't judge you. The only one who can judge you is God. You have to live your life.' That really threw me."

Martin confided in no one else, and he dated women.

"I felt pressured by society. By my straight friends. They all had girls, so I needed something



NO JIVE PRODUCTIONS

**STAGING PLAN:** 'His Double Life' producer-co-writer Nial Martin, left, with 'On the Down Low' author JL King, who makes his stage debut in the show.

to talk about, too. I was afraid they were going to talk about me, and I didn't want any of that," Martin said. "I met guys through other friends I knew who were gay. Nothing serious. But I was still feeling ashamed. I felt I would go to Hell. Every time I went to church they said, 'You shouldn't be gay. It's an abomination.' I wanted God to love me."

At 21, Martin hit rock bottom

**MiamiHerald.com/**  
**Watch Steve Rothaus**  
**interview Nial Martin at**  
**MiamiHerald.com/gay**

and tried to kill himself.

"I felt I was all alone. I tried to commit suicide twice. The first time I took a pill. I thought I would just fall asleep, but it didn't work."

He tried again at a friend's house. "I sliced myself four times

on my wrists. It started to bleed, but the butter knife wasn't sharp enough."

Martin went into therapy and spent about eight years coping. Seven months ago came a breakthrough.

"I was in a dressing room one day and I looked at myself in the mirror 15 minutes before a show and I just broke down and cried. I said, 'Why don't I love myself, God?' I snapped out of it and I said to myself, 'you are somebody. You are somebody special. You're here for a purpose — to touch someone through theater.'

*His Double Life* is set during a family reunion in Savannah. Lead character Matthew is a 27-year-old businessman who brings his girlfriend to Thanksgiving dinner to meet his family. That's when Matthew tells his father, a reverend, that he's gay.

This production features a name familiar to the gay black community: JL King, author of the 2005 New York Times best-seller, *On the Down Low: A Journey into the Lives of 'Straight' Black Men Who Sleep With Men*.

"The way he wrote the characters, they're everyday folk," said King, who will make his stage debut as a psychiatrist in the show. "That's why it's empowering. People can relate to the characters."

Saturday night's performance of *His Double Life* coincides with the third annual Miami Beach Bruthaz conference, in which dozens of gay black and Hispanic men meet in South Beach for a long weekend of socializing and

## If you go

### "His Double Life"

**Where:** Joseph Caleb Auditorium,

5400 NW 22nd Ave., Miami

**When:** 7:30 p.m. Saturday

**Cost:** \$15-\$34; students \$15-\$28; through Ticketmaster, [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) or 866-448-7849

**Info:** [www.nojiveproductions.com](http://www.nojiveproductions.com)

### MIAMI BEACH BRUTHAZ

**Where:** Royal Palm Resort Hotel,

1545 Collins Ave., Miami Beach.

Events at Yuca Lounge, 501 Lincoln Rd.; Score Bar, 727 Lincoln Rd.; Discoteca, 950 NE Second Ave., Miami

**Cost:** Passes are \$120 and \$80; individual events also available

**Info:** [www.miamibeachbruthaz.com](http://www.miamibeachbruthaz.com). Click "Schedule & Tickets" for event details and pricing.

networking. Bruthaz events include workshops to help boost attendees' self-confidence as openly gay men.

"I definitely don't like the idea of men being on the down low. They're not just hurting themselves, but innocent people — their girlfriends and wives," said Kenzie Perry, 29, a Miami decorator and Bruthaz production assistant in a nine-year relationship with partner Craig Stafford.

"Men on the down low give a bad impression of good, honest gay men — black, white, Hispanic, Asian, whatever you are," Perry said. "It has to stop. It's ridiculous."

## Playwright's "His Double Life" on DVD

Writer and producer, Nial Martin, whose smash-hit "His Double Life" took Liberty City by storm last summer in an encore performance at the Joseph Caleb Center Auditorium, says that South Florida has some of the finest actors in the county. And with the recent DVD release of his provocative play, he says he's certain that others from around the U.S. and across the globe will soon agree, after watching the play in the comfort of their homes. "His Double Life," the first installment of a three-part series featuring the Sanders family, illustrates how toxic secrets can be to a family's well-being and explores problems that many families endure: alcoholism, life-threatening illnesses and hidden sexual desires. The DVD, filmed live at the Caleb Center, also features the comedic stylings of George W who opened the show.





# Move over Tyler Perry!

## Miami playwright Nial Martin stands on the brink of stardom.

- By D. Kevin McNeir

### NO JIVE PRODUCTIONS, INC.

When Nial Martin founded No Jive Productions in 1996, he says he was following a lifelong dream to write, produce and direct plays that would positively influence the culture and shape the views of South Florida's citizens. His first play, "His Double Life," is loosely based on the challenges he experienced with his own family while struggling to learn how to love himself and to appreciate who he was born to be. He has since extended his repertoire of theatrical works to include two other plays — "Why Does Love Hurt So Bad?" and "A Family Affair."

And consider this — while the incomparable Tyler Perry has made his mark on the stage and silver screen with his character Madea, folks in Miami and across the U.S. are talking about Martin, whose trilogy featuring the Sanders family is quickly establishing itself as the kind of productions that are full of surprising turns, memorable scenes and messages of love, hope and forgiveness that one will never forget.

"I remember when I first got the idea for 'His Double Life' — I was in a meeting with my staff and was struggling with my own identity," Martin said. "I was watching the Oprah Winfrey Show and she was interviewing J.L. King [known for his book about men on the down low]. I said we need a play about life on the down low but it needs to go more in-depth and really deal with the complexity of the issue."

#### ***Does momma or daddy know best?***

The protagonist of his trilogy is Momma Sanders, but there's also a Daddy Sanders. Martin says that his personal struggles with his father have not only shaped him but have been expressed, to a certain extent, in his plays.

"I don't have a relationship with my own father — he doesn't even remember my birthday; he's the one that's missing out," he said. "Sometimes I feel like he wishes I had never been born. I have tried to call him many times but he never picks up the phone. I am okay with it now and have had to let it go and forgive him. To my mother's credit, she never spoke negatively about him — she just kept on encouraging and loving me."

As for the frequent comparisons that fans make between Martin and Perry, he says he's honored.

"Sure, Tyler Perry is one of the best in the business and a real role model for younger writers and producers like me," he said. "I admire his work but we are two different people and have two different ways of creating theater and telling a story."

#### ***To whom much is given much is required.***

Martin is a one-man show in some regards, casting actors, promoting his theater company, utilizing social media and of course directing and producing each play. He says that he has a mission and purpose in life and intends on staying the course.

"The biggest influence in my life has been God," he said. "My faith has sustained me, particularly as I have grown older and realized that just because life throws you curves doesn't mean you should give up. As I was dealing with my own sexuality during my youth, I attempted suicide several times. I know there are other young people going through the same thing. But thank God I survived. My faith and the love of my family and friends helped me make it through." However, while he has conquered his personal demons, he reminds us that life as a producer isn't as glamorous as some might think. In fact, some days he says it's actually a very lonely walk.

"My goal remains the same: To make No Jive Productions the kind of theater company that inspires people from all over the world — one that opens up job opportunities for people who are interested in the arts and help them realize that their dreams can come true."

Watch out Tyler Perry — you've got some real competition nipping at your heels and as the saying goes, "You ain't seen nothing yet!"

For media inquiries e-mail [Kevin@nojiveproductions.org](mailto:Kevin@nojiveproductions.org).

#### **NEXT PRODUCTION**



July 21, 2012  
Joseph Caleb Auditorium

For Tickets:  
[NoJiveProductions.org](http://NoJiveProductions.org)  
[ticketmaster](http://ticketmaster.com)  
Joseph Caleb Box Office  
or Call 1-800-745-3000



The Miami Times

# Lifestyle & Entertainment

FASHION • HIP HOP • MUSIC • FOOD • DINING ARTS &amp; CULTURE • PEOPLE

SECTION C

MIAMI, FLORIDA, JULY 13, 19, 2011

THE MIAMI TIMES

## WATCH OUT TYLER — HERE COMES NO JIVE's “His DOUBLE Life”

FOUNDER NIAL MARTIN MAKING HIS  
MARK IN SOUTH FLORIDA

By D. Kevin McNeir

kmcneir@miamitimesonline.com

Nial Martin knows the struggles that go with being a Black man in America. But when the issue of sexual identity is added to the mix, the complexities become even more challenging. Now the founder and CEO of Miami-based No Jive Productions, Inc., founded in 1996, is bringing his stand-out play that confronts all of these issues and more — “His Double Life” — back for an encore performance.

And with a new cast of mostly local actors, a few surprise changes and the added bonus of the show being recorded for DVD filming, he thinks people will be more than satisfied with the production.

“His Double Life” is the first installment of a three-part series featuring Momma Sanders and the rest of her family,” Martin said. “One of our [No Jive Productions] goals is to open up dialogue within families so that there is better communication on a variety of issues. In this show the conflict centers on a father who has difficulty with his son because of his sexuality.”

Jean Q, 28 and Britanny L. Smith, 23 are featured as Matthew Sanders (the embattled son) and Vanessa Clark (his girlfriend) who appear to be the perfect couple — longtime sweethearts

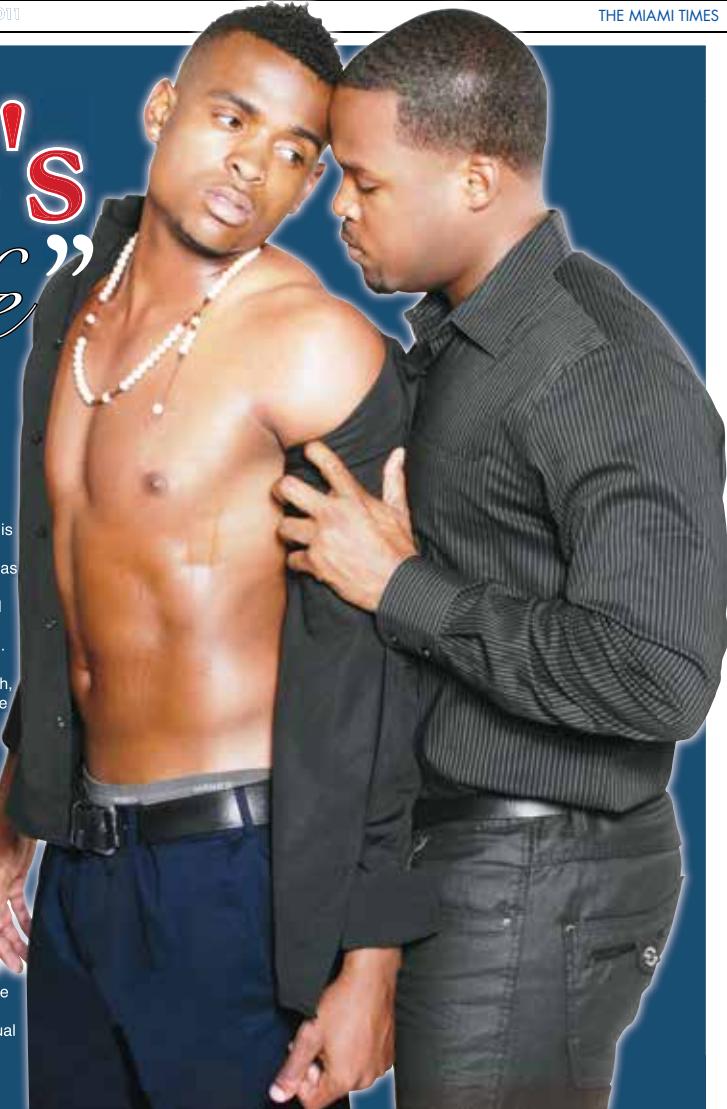
since high school. But Matthew realizes that he is now harboring feelings for someone else — another man named Theo Martin, played by Thomas Troy Brooks. And as he seeks clarity in his life, he finds himself walking down an unfamiliar and sometimes lonely path.

“Black theater is needed to tell Black stories . . . it’s needed to stimulate audiences and arouse conversations about sensitive topics,” said Smith, a Miami native with Virgin Islands roots. “No Jive doesn’t play it safe in dealing with the theme of homosexuality, a less-than-perfect husband and the fragile relationship between a father and a son.”

Jean Q, who has been acting for five years, says that in many ways his real life mirrors the fictional character that he portrays. But even he has become more aware since being cast for the role.

“Some will say that Matthew lives his double life as a lie but I disagree — he meant no harm and other sought approval and love,” Jean Q said. “But the key is that he wants people to accept him as he is not for what he isn’t. The show has caused me to reach back into my closet and feed on those moments of doubt I used to have about my sexual identity.”

Please turn to NO JIVE 2C



## “His Double Life” will make you laugh and cry

### NO JIVE

continued from 1C

Assistant Director Joseph Reed III said that the show isn’t just about a brother on the down low — its focus is more on the secrets that we all “hold prisoner in the dark” that eventually will come to light.

Martin is the show’s writer and director and in his stead as the founder of No Jive, he has been dedicated to changing the lives of youth and adults through the medium of live theater since 1996.

As for Tyler Perry, Martin says he is honored by the comparison but thinks his work



The cast of “His Double Life”

and his theater company offer something unique and different from the more co-

mediac productions of Perry. Reed agrees.

“No Jive shows are more

hard core, straight to the point, throw it in your face type of shows focusing on real life situations,” Reed said.

Martin has had more than his share of bumps and bruises throughout his life, including the emptiness that comes from never having a relationship with his own father. But he uses that to inform his work and help others with similar challenges. And the result is “pure magic.”

The show begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Joseph Caleb Center Auditorium on Saturday, July 16th. For tickets go to [www.nojiveproductions.org](http://www.nojiveproductions.org) or call 305-636-2350.



[Click here to ask me a question, which I'll answer online.](#)

About Steve Rothaus' Gay South Florida

[FOLLOW ME ON twitter](#)

[facebook](#)

[Like](#) 2K

Search This Blog

[Search](#)

### Categories

- AIDS and Health
- Arts
- Bisexual
- Books
- Bullying
- Business
- Census
- Crime
- Current Affairs
- Fashion
- Film
- Florida
- Food and Drink
- Fort Lauderdale & Broward County
- Gay
- Immigration
- Key West & Monroe County
- Lesbian
- LGBT
- Marriage
- Media
- Miami & Miami-Dade County
- Miami Beach
- Military
- Music
- Obituary
- Palm Beach County
- Pets
- Politics
- Religion
- South Florida
- Sports
- Television
- Theater
- Transgender
- Travel
- Web/Tech
- Weblogs

[« Video | Queer Rock Camp for LGBTQQIA youth \(and allies\) runs Aug. 8-13 in Olympia, Wash. | Main | Court orders immediate halt to gay military ban »](#)

### 'His Double Life' returns July 16 to Caleb Center; performance to be recorded for future DVD release

From No Jive Productions:



NO JIVE PRODUCTIONS RETURNS THIS SUMMER FOR AN ENCORE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROVOCATIVE STORY OF ONE MAN'S STRUGGLE WITH THE CHALLENGES AND CHOICES OF LIFE

#### "HIS DOUBLE LIFE"

Show begins at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 16th

For tickets, go to [TicketMaster.com](#), [nojiveproductions.org](#); or call the Joseph Caleb box Office 305-636-2350 or charge by phone 1-800-745-3000.

MIAMI (June 13) — No Jive Productions is thrilled to bring back to the stage the story of one man's internal struggle with life's reality and the complications that often come when destiny leads us down an unfamiliar path in "*His Double Life*" — written, produced and directed by No Jive Founder and President/CEO Nial Martin.

After rave reviews following its world premier last summer and with a fan base that asked for an encore, "*His Double Life*" is back with a brand new cast. No Jive Productions will also be filming the show for later DVD distribution. It all takes place at the Joseph Caleb Center Auditorium, 5400 NW 22nd Avenue, Miami, on Saturday, July 16th at 7:30 p.m.

Since founding the company in 1996, Martin has provided shows that "educate, enlighten, inform and entertain" while helping to influence the culture and shape the views of South Florida citizens. He attributes the growing success of and respect for No Jive Productions to the support of the community. The play has been hailed by *The Miami Herald* as "a closet packed with secrets," while *The Miami Times* calls it "an outstanding show that gives a refreshing course on unconditional love."

The all-star cast features Alicia Simpson as Momma Sanders, the family matriarch along with Nathaniel Cooper (Daddy Sanders), JQ (Matthew Sanders), Brittany L. Smith (Vanessa Clark), DuVonne Moore (Wynnika Jones), Annisha Battle-Rollins (Cheryl Sanders) and Thomas Troy Brooks (Theo Martin). Carlos Harris is the producer, Joseph Reed III is the assistant director and Simpson serves as associate producer.

The hit play is the first in a trilogy about the Sanders family. Martin, as well as members of the cast are available for interviews. A question and answer session with Martin about the show, the company and the motivation behind the plays is available to the press upon request.

The mission of No Jive Productions is to give minority youth the opportunity to explore new avenues of learning and expression through the arts, increase academic performance and to completely eradicate low self-esteem. Since its inception, the company has remained committed to using the fine arts as a way to change the lives of today's youth and adults.

For more information, visit [www.nojiveproductions.org](#).

Posted by Steve Rothaus on July 6, 2011 in Arts , Bisexual , Business , Current Affairs , Film , Gay , Lesbian , LGBT , Media , Politics , Religion , Television , Theater , Transgender , Weblogs , Workplace , Youth | Permalink

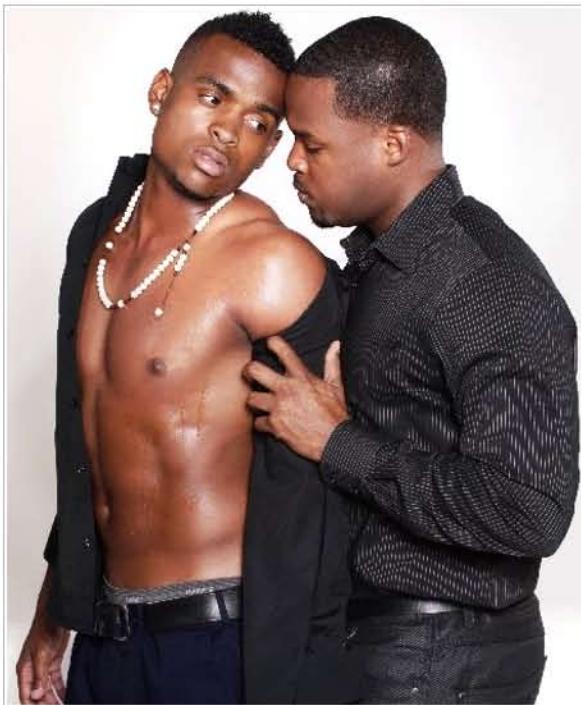


# GBM NEWS YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS SOURCE

Americas - Africa - Asia - Australia - Europe

HOME ARTS BOOKS COMMUNITY ENTERTAINMENT HIV/AIDS LGBT LIFE MAIN NEWS SPORTS WOMEN WORLD  
ABOUT COMMUNITY EVENT CALENDAR SUBSCRIBE TO GBMNEWS RADIOPBM

## Move Over Tyler Perry – Here Comes Nial Martin and No Jive Productions



First play, "His Double Life," in Sanders family's saga will make you laugh and cry

By D. Kevin McNeir  
Sr. Correspondent

We are all familiar with Madea, the hilarious character of the stage and screen, conceived, portrayed and made famous – if not infamous – by the one-and-only Tyler Perry. But there's another young Black brother who has emerged from the wings with a trilogy of staged productions about Momma Sanders – a real woman, wife and mother by the way – and her clan that has audiences buzzing in South Florida and throughout the southeastern U.S.

And with the rising fame of No Jive Productions, Inc., and its 30-something founder, CEO, writer, director and producer, Nial Martin, it may be appropriate to tell Perry to "watch out" or at least to "move over and make room."

Martin is all too familiar with the vicissitudes of life that accompany being a Black man in America. But when the issue of sexual identity is added to the mix, the complexities and sometimes even the barriers to success become even more challenging. But Martin, the consummate perfectionist who has been working on making his dream come true since he was a high school student brainstorming with friends, continues to plug away, increasing his fan base and producing some amazingly good plays.

The Miami-based No Jive Productions, Inc., founded in 1996, focuses on issues that include love, forgiveness, healing and sexual identity. Most recently in an encore performance that was also recorded for DVD filming that will be released in time for the Christmas shopping season, Martin brought a new cast of mostly local actors who did a stellar job in this revised presentation of "His Double Life."

The play is the first of a three-part series about a typical, Black family who illustrates that phrase made famous by poet Maya Angelou: "We are more alike than unalike." And despite the play making its second appearance in South Florida, the almost 1,200-seat Joseph Caleb Auditorium, located in the heart of Miami's mostly-Black Liberty City community, had very few empty seats – a testament to the reputation for high-quality works earned by Martin, his staff and actors.

And despite the play making its second appearance in South Florida, the almost 1,200-seat Joseph Caleb Auditorium, located in the heart of Miami's mostly-Black Liberty City community, had very few empty seats – a testament to the reputation for high-quality works earned by Martin, his staff and actors.

Martin says that comments continue to pour in from fans that came from as far as the West Coast and even Aruba to see the show. So far, their remarks have been encouraging – at times even full of praise and thanks for his courage in producing shows that have helped them to face their own personal demons.

"One of our goals for No Jive Productions is to open up dialogue within families so that there is better communication on a variety of issues," Martin said. "In 'His Double Life,' the conflict centers on a father who has difficulty accepting his son for a number of reasons, including his sexuality."

JQ, 28 and Britanny L. Smith, 23, are featured as Matthew Sanders (the embattled son) and Vanessa Clark (his girlfriend) who appear to be the perfect couple – longtime sweethearts since high school. But Matthew is forced to come to grips with the fact that has feelings for someone else, his best friend Theo Martin, played by Thomas Troy Brooks. As he seeks clarity in his life and his secret is uncovered, Matthew finds himself walking down a lonely and unfamiliar path.

"Black theater is needed to tell Black stories . . . it's needed to stimulate audiences and to arouse conversations about sensitive issues," said Smith, a Miami native with the beauty that reflects her Virgin Island heritage. "No Jive doesn't play it safe in dealing with the theme of homosexuality, a less-than-perfect husband and the fragile relationship between a father and his son."

JQ, who has been acting for five years and recently moved to LA in efforts to propel his career to greater heights, shines in the play, including a moving monologue that he nails with great emotion near the conclusion of the play. He has the skills, the demeanor and the physique needed to take him far.

"Some will say that that Matthew lives his double life as a lie but I disagree – he meant no harm and only sought approval and love," JQ said. "The key is that he wants people to accept him as he is not for what he isn't. The show has caused me to reach back into my own closet and feed on those moments of doubt I used to have about my sexual identity."

Other actors to look out for include the sultry and seductive Duvonne Moore who plays Vanessa's best friend, Wynnika Jones and is the vamp that will keep you in stitches; Nathaniel Cooper as the multi-layered and troubled father, Daddy Sanders, and the best friend and love interest, Theo played by Brooks.

As for Tyler Perry, Martin says that he is honored by the comparison but thinks his work and his theater company offer something unique and different from the more comedic productions of Perry. Martin readily admits that he has suffered a wide range of bumps and bruises in his young life, including the emptiness that comes from never having a relationship with his father. But he has clearly weathered the storm, using that pain to inform his work while helping others with similar challenges.

The result is pure magic!

For more information go to [www.nojiveproductions.org](http://www.nojiveproductions.org)

Short URL: <http://gbmnews.com/wpi?p=11732>

# Westside Gazette

Ivocare County's Oldest and Largest African American Owned and Operated Newspaper

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7 - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2006

## Stage play explores brothers on the DL

By Nikki Clifton

What do you get when you mix a tablespoon full of soul, a few cups of passion, several ounces of love, a batch of lies and a whole lot of deception? A recipe for drama that will cook up just right before your eyes as No Jive Productions, Inc. brought to the stage *His Double Life*, recently at the Joseph Caleb Auditorium. *His Double Life* is a stage play about one man's struggle with life's reality, a successful Black man, his beautiful live-in girlfriend, his strong Christian family and his best friend!

Nial Martin, president and CEO of No Jive says that the mission is to provide a diverse multi-cultural group of minority youth and young adults in the community an opportunity to explore new avenues of learning and self-expressions through the fine arts that will serve to shape their dreams and develop their minds into mature responsible young men and women.

Martin shared this with the Westside Gazette:

**Westside Gazette:** How did you first become interested in theater?

**Nial Martin:** I was in middle school and I discovered my interest in the arts. I remember watching *Different Strokes*, seeing Arnold (Gary Coleman) say, "What you talkin' about Willis?" At that point I knew I wanted to be an actor, producer, director and leader. My mom enrolled me in the Coconut Grove Children's Theater where I was educated and learned the craft of becoming a successful entrepreneur.

**WG:** Who wrote the play *His Double Life*?

**NM:** Myself (Nial Martin) and Edward Jacobs, a freelance writer.

**WG:** Was there any one in particular who inspired the play?

**NM:** Yes, I have a few friends who are living a double life and they told me their stories of how hard it is to live up to everyone's expectations and restrain from desires that are not the norm or accepted in the Black community. This inspired me to push forward with the project and bring it to life on stage. Also, I could not have done this without my team, the "kids:" Carlos A. Harris, Joseph Reed III, Roderick Harvey, Alicia Simpson and the cast and crew. They really helped make the show happen. They also inspired me to go forward with the show and do something different; something that other stage companies have not done on the scale we are doing it. Right now we are the leading company bringing light to a situation that is having an effect on so many people.

**WG:** Why did you choose this medium as an educational tool?

**NM:** This was chosen because in today's society there are young people and families who are going through the exact same scenarios shown in our productions. Through the use of theater, people can actually see themselves and their situations displayed on a live stage. This in turn, may shed new light on the situation and allow individuals to see things from a different perspective. People often have problems dealing with how to approach loved ones and friends about certain things. So, by showing them "how to" in a form where both parents and friends could understand, we not only allow them to see each other's points of view, but we educate them as well.



**WG:** Why should someone see this production?

**NM:** *His Double Life* is a play about love and understanding and building a relationship between a father and his son. Back in May when we first did this production, people were telling us thank you for doing a play like this. Its not too far left or too far right, its right down the middle and it's about being honest and faithful to the one you love.

**WG:** What have been your biggest successes/challenges with this particular play?

**NM:** One of the biggest successes for No Jive has been developing raw talent...meaning we take people who have NEVER stepped foot on stage and mold them into superb actors and actresses. One of the biggest challenges of the play has been a lack of understanding and tolerance within the community to the subject matter.

**WG:** Are there any other upcoming projects?

**NM:** Yes... No Jive Productions is working on a 24 city tour of *His Double Life*, several plays such as *The Value of Life*, *Anne from the Hood* and there are many more to come. We do an annual *Back to School Jam* to promote kids reading and staying in school. We strive to let them know that success can and will be theirs. I let them know that at the young age of 16 years old, I started No Jive Productions and they can do anything if they work hard.

We are also working on a project called *We Are All One*. This project is to bring awareness to the community about drugs, AIDS, diabetes and cancer to people from all walks of life, letting them know we are all one.

**WG:** What did you do as a profession prior to theater?

**NM:** I was going to school. I started the company at the age of 16.

**WG:** Are you currently (or considering) training up and forthcoming actors/actresses?

**NM:** Yes. The good thing about No Jive Productions is that we look for talent within the community. I believe there is so much talent out there that is just waiting to be discovered.

*Send all feedbacks\_nikki@yahoo.com:  
<mailto:feedback\_nikki@yahoo.com>*

# CONTACT INFORMATION

**Mr. Nial Martin**  
**Writer / Director / Producer / Author**

**Email**  
**nial@nojiveproductions.org**

---

**Mr. Carlos A. Harris**  
**Producer**

**Email**  
**charris@nojiveproductions.org**

---

**Website**  
**nojiveproductions.org**