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MELBA TOLLIVER & GUESTS UNTANGLE BLACK HAIRSTORY **'HEADS UP! A Soulful Celebration of Our HAIRitage' Will Lift Spirits**

April 29, 2009 (BROOKLYN, NEW YORK) — **Melba Tolliver**, the first Black person to anchor a network TV news show, will take part in a frank discussion and liberating celebration of Black Hair on **Wednesday, May 20, 2009 at 6 pm** at the **Kumble Theater for the Performing Arts** on the Long Island University campus in downtown Brooklyn. **Heads Up! A Soulful Celebration of Our HAIRitage** will gather women and men of all ages for an evening of healing, wholeness and appreciation through dialogue, film and performance. Admission is **FREE** and all hair styles and viewpoints are welcome!

Joining us will be filmmaker **Kathe Sandler**, author, cultural activist **Naanana Camille Yarbrough**, panelists **Farah Jasmine Griffin**, **asha bandele**, **Adémola Mandella**, **Michaela angela Davis**, and **Mireille Liong-A-Kong**, environmentalist **Majora Carter**, actress **Dominique Morisseau**, dancer **Fatima Friday** and percussionist **Mten Halsey**. **Rev. Malika Lee Whitney** and actress **Phyllis Y. Stickney** will host. Khamit Kinks founder **Anu Prestonia** conducts an interview and her salon presents a mini bridal hair show.

Ms. Tolliver will read from her upcoming memoir, *Accidental Anchorwoman: Chance, Choice, Change* (see melbatolliver.com). Thirty-eight years ago, while a reporter at WABC-TV, she stopped relaxing her hair. Her new Afro was deemed unsuitable and Ms. Tolliver was told she'd have to straighten it or cover it up while on assignment for the White House wedding of President Nixon's daughter Tricia. When she failed to comply, she was banned from the news studio set until supportive viewers demanded her reinstatement. Back then, a Black woman was criticized for visiting the White House on her own terms. Today a Black woman lives at the White House!

Heads Up! will salute natural-hair pioneers, accomplished professionals and everyday folk. Attendees are invited to bring along a "Natural Inspiration" friend or colleague and the event's theme, "Let's talk, laugh and be fearlessly tender-headed," will set the tone. This event is presented in association with the Kumble Theater and is sponsored by Khamit Kinks salon, Nu Web Order Designs, and Hostivity. Books and CDs will be sold. Visit www.headsuphairitage.com for more info and to reserve your Heads Up! logo designed by Sheila Prevost.

The Kumble Theater is located at 1 University Plaza (Flatbush Avenue Extension, between DeKalb and Willoughby). Call the theater at 718.488.1624. To RSVP, call Khamit Kinks salon at 718.422.2600 or email info@headsuphairitage.com