



OFFICE OF COMMUNICATION
TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
3100 Cleburne Street – Houston, TX 77004
(713) 313-4205

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 19, 2009

CONTACT EVA PICKENS or Angela Anderson
(713) 313-4205 or 713-313-7865

TSU Fine Arts Professor Play Opens in Oklahoma



TSU playwright and professor of Fine Arts, Thomas Meloncon play, "Jump the Broom" will open at 7 p.m. March 28th, at Douglass High School in Oklahoma City. The play is being sponsored by the Oklahoma Marriage Initiative.

The play's title "Jump the Broom" was taken from an antebellum wedding ritual used by black slaves who wished to express their commitment to one another though they were often legally forbidden to marry. Couples jumped over a broom before friends and family in secret ceremonies. "Jump the Broom" has been performed in Atlanta; Dallas; Washington, D.C.; and Chicago, as well as other communities. It was written to portray both the triumphs and the challenges of black marriages and relationships.

Kendy Cox, the marriage initiative's director of service delivery, for the Oklahoma Marriage Initiative, states, " 'Jump the Broom' is our first big opportunity to reach out to the African-American community in a fun and interesting way. It really is about making choices." An audience discussion with the actors and counselors will be held after the play.