



**PRESS RELEASE....**

**For Immediate Release....**

**Contact: Glenn Joseph (754) 224-8150**

**FILM & TELEVISION ACTRESS SHERYL LEE RALPH TO SERVE AS  
NATIONAL SPOKESPERSON FOR CARIBBEAN AMERICAN HERITAGE  
MONTH 2006**

Film and Television Actress Sheryl Lee Ralph has signed on as National Spokesperson for Caribbean American Heritage Month. The actress who has roots in the island of Jamaica and who popularized the term 'Jamerican' accepted the duties of spokesperson for Caribbean American Heritage Month to help bring more visibility to Caribbean Americans and the contributions they make. Best known for her role as Moesha's stepmother in the long lived television series, Miss Ralph remains a popular and much loved figure in her mother's native home of Jamaica because of her long running love affair and active support of the island. As Producer of the Jamerican Film Festival, the actress brought a new offering to the island's menu of entertainment events, which has earned her the admiration of nation's political elite and placed her on the social circuit A List.

Ms. Ralph stated that, " **The idea of a month long celebration to commemorate Caribbean American heritage and the contributions of immigrants from places like Jamaica where my Mother came from is one with which I resonate and so serving as spokesperson is a privilege I accepted without any hesitation.**"

As National Spokesperson, Ms. Ralph will make appearances at several events being hosted by the Institute of Caribbean Studies and ICS affiliates around the country. Among this will be the premiere events being hosted and organized by ICS in Washington DC. These include the 8th Annual Legislative Forum and Reception on Capitol Hill to honor Congresswoman Barbara Lee and Senator Charles Schumer for their leadership in this effort, scheduled for June 20th. Ms. Ralph will also serve as Co-Host for the Commemorative BlackTie Dinner to be held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, June 19th following a Special Briefing and Reception being organized by the White House.

The Caribbean diaspora in the US is estimated at near 5 million. Given this significant number and the current political/economic environment, and anti-immigrant climate, ICS efforts to establish a National Caribbean American Heritage Month which began in 1999, remain significant and critical in making visible the Caribbean American identity, developing the agenda and recognizing Caribbean Americans who contribute significantly to the American landscape.

For small business and/or corporate sponsorship and other information about Caribbean American Heritage Month, call Claire Nelson (202) 907-6140 or Yasmine Anderson at (202) 879-1887 or visit [www.caribbeanamericanheritage.org](http://www.caribbeanamericanheritage.org).

#####