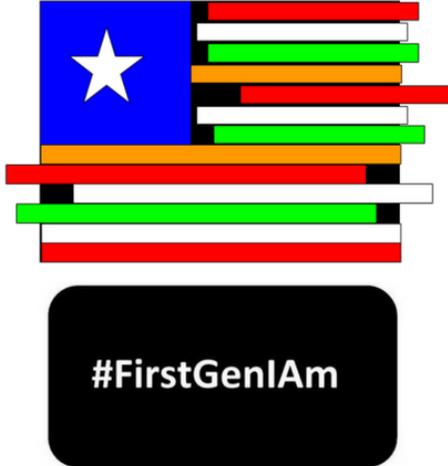


For Immediate Release

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**MUTIYAT ADE-SALU'S NEW PLAY *SUNNY CAME HOME* TO BE PRODUCED BY FEHINTY AFRICAN THEATRE ENSEMBLE IN CHICAGO THIS MAY**

**May 4, 2018 - Chicago, Illinois, USA** - As of 2015, there are nearly 1.7 million Sub-Saharan African immigrants in the United States with roughly 20% coming from Nigeria. Nigerians also happen to be the most highly educated among this group. With these statistics in mind, Fehinty African Theatre Ensemble (F.A.T.E) presents the new play

*Sunny Came Home*, May 25-June 3 at Prop Thtr, 3502-04 North Elston Avenue. Centered around a Nigerian-American daughter and an early 2000s college graduate, *Sunny Came Home* oozes with both drama and comedy and shrewdly tears into the issues of identity and immigration between Nigeria and America. This performance run is the play's first fully-staged production in the U.S.

Written by actress and playwright Mutiyat Ade-Salu, produced by F.A.T.E.'s founder Dr. Teju Adesida, and directed by Morayo Orija, *Sunny Came Home* is a groundbreaking play about the first-generation American experience through theater and multimedia. The play's title is partially inspired by the legendary Nigerian juju musician King Sunny Ade. Mr. Ade's music provided comfort and entertainment to waves of Nigerians who crossed the Atlantic and emigrated to America in the 1980s/90s. With a cast of 7 African and African-American actors, the play focuses on themes of marriage, family tension, coming of age, Yoruba customs, American values and destiny. Audiences can join the conversation about being first-generation American on social media with the hashtag #FirstGenIAm.

Performances are at 8pm on Fridays and Saturdays and 3pm on Sundays. A special discussion with the playwright will follow after the show on May 27th. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased 3 ways: Brown Paper Tickets (<https://sunnycamehome.brownpapertickets.com/>), Fehinty Theatre ([www.fehintytheatre.org](http://www.fehintytheatre.org)), or by phone at (773) 417-9997.

Playwright Mutiyat Ade-Salu is a first-generation Nigerian-American of Yoruba descent. Miss Ade-Salu is a 2007 graduate of the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor where she studied African-American Theatre. From 2009-2010, she was one of 6 original members of the *1st Generation Nigerian Project*, an ensemble of first-generation Nigerian-American actresses/writers including Yvonne Orji (HBO's *Insecure*) and Ngozi Anyanwu (*The Homecoming Queen*). After the project, she was the first Nigerian-American in the New York

area to blog about her first-generation American experience with *SPEAK!* ([www.mutiyatspeaks.blogspot.com](http://www.mutiyatspeaks.blogspot.com)). From 2016 to 2017, Miss Ade-Salu served as Contributing Editor for Entrepreneurship and Innovation for the online magazine *Applause Africa* after also contributing articles with personal reflections about the Nigerian-American experience for its print publications from 2012-2013. In 2017, she was named 2nd runner up Miss Black America Coed and, as part of her platform, raised funds to support trafficking victims in Nigeria through Pathfinders Justice Initiative, Inc. Miss Ade-Salu has been a professional actress for almost a decade and is currently working on her Master of Fine Arts degree in Acting at the University of Louisville. She is the 2018 Playwright-in-Residence at Fehinty African Theatre Ensemble.

In 2012, the play *Sunny Came Home* received its first public performance at the DC Black Theatre Festival in Washington, D.C. with the invitation of then-Board Chair Nana Malaya Rucker. It was subsequently invited by producers Cordis Heard and Richard Gaffield to perform for a small audience in New York City at the Red Harlem Cafe and sparked invigorating conversation about the friction between foreign traditions and American culture.

Fehinty African Theatre Ensemble believes that performance illuminates our many trajectories and our common humanity. Its mission is to stage creative works from Africa and its Diaspora through a process that actively engages African communities, facilitates the development of emerging artists and fosters dialogue and creative exchanges.

For more information, about Mutiyat Ade-Salu and *Sunny Came Home* visit [www.meetmutiyat.com](http://www.meetmutiyat.com).

For more information about Fehinty African Theatre Ensemble, visit [www.fehintytheatre.org](http://www.fehintytheatre.org), Facebook, and Twitter.

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