

# Professor Dorothy Phaire's *Murder And The Masquerade*

BY SHALA GOOLSBY

Not your average English professor. UDC's own Dorothy Phaire is an accomplished playwright, poet, director, and novelist. For the last seven years she has also been an adjunct professor in the English Department at Montgomery College. As if her plate isn't full enough, she also founded and is president of the HHTC (Heralds of Hope Theatre Company). How does she find time to undertake all of these important tasks and challenges?

"It's called balancing, discipline, perseverance, and time management. By balance I mean I make sure that I spend time, on what's important-my spiritual growth, family, and my health, because without positive mental, spiritual and physical health you're no good to anyone," says Phaire. "I know that writing and teaching are my God given gifts because they are my passions; thus, I organize myself to find time to pursue ~~those~~ gifts as if it were a personal mis-

Although writing it one of her many gifts, surprisingly Phaire's first dream as a child wasn't to become an author.

"My dream as a ballet dancer didn't last long, because my guidance counselor sat me down one day and said I could never be a professional

dancer because I had flat feet! End of story. End of that dream. My vivid imagination then led me to writing poetry, short stories and eventually longer stories. That's when I embraced the dream of becoming a writer," says Phaire.

Of her second and latest book, *Murder and the Masquerade* (book one of the Dorothy Phaire Romantic series) Phaire was "intrigued with the idea of an educated, professional woman who had achieved a level of success in her career, but who was still unfulfilled, passion-less and searching for happiness," said Phaire.

"The story is about these two woman's search for happiness and fulfillment, their ultimate self-discovery and awakening as they learn that you cannot guarantee how your career, your children, your health, or your relationships will turn out. The only thing you have control over in life is yourself and your own choices."

Phaire cites author of *The Invisible Man* Ralph Ellison in describing herself, while his words also apply to the characters in her novel *Murder and the Masquerade*.

"When I know who I am then I shall be free."

To learn more information about Phaire, her life, and extraordinary work, visit [www.dorothyphaire.com](http://www.dorothyphaire.com).



DOROTHY PHAIRE

