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**AWARD-WINNING NOLLYWOOD ACTRESS STEPHANIE LINUS'S FILM *DRY*
TO BE SCREENED AT DILLARD UNIVERSITY**

NEW ORLEANS- Award-winning Nollywood actress Stephanie Linus will discuss “*The Emergence of African Storytellers and Their New Narrative*,” on Thursday, October 25, in the Dillard University Lawless Memorial Chapel from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Then on Friday, October 26, Linus’s award-winning film *Dry* will be screened in the Dillard University Student Union Movie Theater, on the third floor from 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Both events are free and open to the public.

Dry is a 2014 Nigerian drama directed by and starring Linus, in response to the controversial practice of child marriage in Nigeria. The film’s theme also focuses on fistula and how the practice of underaged marriage affects Nigerian girls. It depicts a fictional story about, a thirteen-year-old girl, Halima whose poor uneducated parents marry her off to Sani, a 60-year-old man, who constantly rapes her. Halima becomes pregnant and suffers vesicovaginal fistula after delivering her child. Consequently, Halima's husband abandons her thus, leaving her to be discriminated against by her community. Thankfully, Halima meets Zara, played by Linus, a medical doctor who also suffered a horrific childhood. Zara serves as a mentor to Halima and other young women, helping them heal from their similar upbringing and circumstances.

Following the screening, Linus will participate in a Q&A session with the audience. The events are sponsored by the Dillard University Ray Charles Program, Dillard University Film and Dillard University African World Student Organization.

Linus has earned a reputation as Africa’s foremost actress, especially in Nollywood, the Nigerian film industry, which *The New York Times* reported to be the world’s third largest. She has starred in more than 100 films and received several awards and nominations for her work as an actress. These include; the Afro-Hollywood Awards, Film Makers USA Award for Excellence, Reel Awards for Best Actress and recently, the prestigious AMVCA 2016 Award for Best Overall Movie in Africa and AMAA Awards Best Nigerian Film for her most recent work-*Dry*, a film that addresses genital mutilation in Africa.

Beyond her work as an actress, Linus is passionate about women's rights and strongly advocates against child marriage. Through her foundation "Extended Hands," she has done extensive work to end the practice of fistula. This has earned her the Miriam Makeba Award for Excellence in 2007, and the Beyond the Tears Humanitarian Award for her work against rape and VVF. Linus is one of the most respected actresses in Nollywood.

For more information about the talk or film screening, call (504) 816-4091 or email Dr. Sheryl Kennedy Haydel, shaydel@dillard.edu or Zella Palmer, zpalmer@dillard.edu.

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Dillard University, located in New Orleans at 2601 Gentilly Blvd., is a private four-year liberal arts historically black institution with a history dating back to 1869. Dillard will celebrate its 150th founding anniversary in 2019. For more information, please visit www.dillard.edu. Also, follow us on Twitter, Facebook (@DU1869) and Instagram (Dillard University).