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291-384- Playwright to answer cocaine charge in court *Cik*

By **NANCY WEBB**
Staff Writer

Charlotte playwright and producer David Terry Payton faces a cocaine charge in Mecklenburg Superior Court.

Payton, who wrote and produced "A Good Man Is Hard to Find," was arrested by Charlotte vice and narcotics officers earlier this month and charged with possession of cocaine, a felony.

Payton's play — about the difficulties black women face in finding a mate — debuted in Charlotte in 1991, then toured the country.

Payton, 32, was associate pastor at Temple Chapel Baptist Church when he wrote the play. He could not be reached for comment.

He is scheduled to appear in

Mecklenburg Superior Court on March 2.

According to police reports, Payton and two women were arrested Feb. 8 at the Ramada Inn on East Independence Boulevard. Police say they stopped Robin Belk in the motel lobby and seized four bags of crack from her.

Police charged Belk, who gave police a Pecan Avenue address, with possession of cocaine with intent to sell and deliver. They say she led them to room 269, where Payton and Izzie Banner of Jones Street were arrested on cocaine possession and drug paraphernalia charges after police found what they say was crack cocaine on a table in the room.