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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Veteran Screen, Stage Actor Bill Nunn to Help Students
Prepare for August Wilson Monologue Competition**

August Wilson Center hosts regional competition in April; Finals held on Broadway in May

PITTSBURGH, PA—February 3, 2011—Veteran screen and stage actor Bill Nunn is offering free coaching sessions to Pittsburgh-area high school students wishing to enter the **August Wilson Monologue Competition**. The competition, which has regional and national components, is presented by Atlanta-based True Colors Theatre Company, in collaboration with the August Wilson Center for African American Culture.

Every year, Nunn prepares students from a few select Pittsburgh-area high schools for the competition, as part of the Bill Nunn Theatre Outreach Project.

However, this year, Nunn also will hold free coaching lessons on Saturdays for students from other local high schools that wish to participate in the competition.

“Our young people need to be aware of Pittsburgh’s own August Wilson,” Nunn said. “I believe that the depth and breadth of August Wilson’s insight is on a level comparable to William Shakespeare. He is truly one of the premiere voices of American literature.”

Participation is free, but students must first download an application from AugustWilsonCenter.org and submit it to be eligible.

Rehearsals will be held at the August Wilson Center for African American Culture, 980 Liberty Avenue, in Downtown Pittsburgh’s Cultural District. Rehearsals are every Saturday, starting in March and ending April 23.

August Wilson Monologue Competition

Started in 2008, the August Wilson Monologue Competition, created by Kenny Leon’s True Colors Theatre

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Company, is now held regionally in Pittsburgh, New York, Atlanta, Seattle, Chicago and Los Angeles. High school sophomores, juniors and seniors will perform a one to two minute monologue from any of the plays in August Wilson's Century Cycle. The panel of judges will be comprised of theatre professionals from the respective communities.

The top three finalists from each city will travel to New York City for the national finals at the August Wilson Theatre on Broadway.

Point Park University will award the top three Pittsburgh finalists scholarships of \$10,000, \$7,000 and \$5,000.

The August Wilson Monologue Competition in Pittsburgh will be held **7 pm Sunday, April 24** at the August Wilson Center. The national competition will be held **May 3** in New York City. Last year, the Pittsburgh finalists met the cast of Kenny Leon's Tony Award-winning revival of August Wilson's *Fences* on Broadway, including Denzel Washington and Viola Davis.

The August Wilson Center extends grateful appreciation to the following contributors of major support during the 2011 winter/spring season: Allegheny Regional Asset District, The Buhl Foundation and Henry C. Frick Education Fund, The Heinz Endowments, Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, Richard King Mellon Foundation, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, National Endowment for the Arts and The Pittsburgh Foundation.

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About Bill Nunn

Nunn, a native of Pittsburgh, has starred in more than 60 feature films. He created one of film's most famous and indelible characters when he played "Radio Raheem" in Spike Lee's *Do The Right Thing* (1989). He has appeared in three other films for Lee, as well as countless other hit movies, including the three *Spider-Man* films for director Sam Raimi; *Sister Act*, starring Whoopi Goldberg; *Runaway Jury*, starring Oscar-winners Gene Hackman, Dustin Hoffman and Rachel Weisz and *The Legend of 1900*, directed by legendary award-winning filmmaker Guiseppe Tornatore.

Nunn appeared in the 2004 Broadway revival of Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun* and, in 2008, was in the milestone production of "August Wilson's 20th Century" at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

About Bill Nunn Theatre Outreach Project

The Bill Nunn Theatre Outreach Project collaborates with Atlanta-based True Colors Theatre Company, headed by internationally renowned stage and film director Kenny Leon, to prepare and coach students from local high schools for the August Wilson Monologue Competition in Pittsburgh. The mission of the Bill Nunn Theatre Outreach Project is to create a platform for underserved public school students in the Pittsburgh region to gain access to theatre arts and work with seasoned professionals within the field.

About August Wilson Center for African American Culture

Named for Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning playwright and Hill District native August Wilson, the August Wilson Center for African American Culture engages regional and national audiences in its mission of preserving, presenting, interpreting, celebrating and shaping the art, culture and history of African Americans in Western Pennsylvania and people of African descent throughout the world.

Located in Downtown Pittsburgh's Cultural District, the multidisciplinary August Wilson Center is reflective of all aspects of African American culture.

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The Center's striking, two-story, green building houses seven exhibition galleries, a 486-seat theater for performances in all disciplines, a cultivation center, a café and gift shop, and multipurpose spaces for community programs and events. The Center is among a select few African American cultural institutions presenting visual and performing arts, the humanities and educational programs in a state-of-the-art venue. The August Wilson Center – At The Center Of It All!

More information is available on The Center's website at AugustWilsonCenter.org and by calling 412.258.2700.