

Media Advisory



**For Immediate Release
March 7, 2006**

THE AUGUST WILSON CENTER FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURE SERVES UP A FULL PLATE OF EVENTS DURING MARCH

PITTSBURGH, PA – Riding the tide of excitement following a busy February, which brought a change of name, the announcement of a construction team, and funding commitments from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, The August Wilson Center for African American Culture continues its momentum with an exciting line-up of events and presentations during the month of March.

With a unique and dynamic lineup of national and local artists, the August Wilson Center presents a stellar schedule of programs including a concert by gospel sensation CeCe Winans, a community forum to complement its current “Extreme Canvas” exhibition, a multicultural showcase during the 15th National Family Reunion Conference, a poetry workshop and performances by theater ensemble, Universes, and the closing reception for “Extreme Canvas.”

Saturday, March 11 8:00pm
CECE WINANS in Concert
Heinz Hall, Downtown

Pittsburgh audiences will have the chance to see CeCe Winans, winner of two 2006 Grammy Awards, in concert for one night only. One of the world’s most recognized and gifted singers, Ms. Winans will deliver a powerful evening of song and worship.

Tickets for “CeCe Winans in Concert” are on sale now, and can be purchased at the Heinz Hall Box Office (600 Penn Ave.), by calling 412.392.4900 or online at www.pittsburghsymphony.org. Tickets are \$27, \$37, \$47 and \$57. Discounts are available for students and groups of 10 or more.

ONGOING THROUGH APRIL 1
EXTREME CANVAS
209/9th Street Gallery, Downtown

“Extreme Canvas” is a collection of hand-painted movie posters from Ghana created from the mid-1980s to the late 1990s. In this exhibition, many of the posters are presented in the fashion in which they were originally intended – as marketing devices used to advertise film screenings in rural Ghana. The resulting posters became instant works of art that offer an unusual twist on form and function and an intriguing combination of traditional African art and modernity.

Regular hours for 209/9th Street Gallery are: Wednesdays through Saturdays: Noon to 5 p.m. Thursdays: Noon to 7 p.m. All visual arts exhibitions are free and open to

Regional Enterprise Tower
425 Sixth Avenue, Suite 1750
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

p 412 258 2700

f 412 258 2701

www.africanaculture.org



the public.

Thursday, March 16 6:00pm-8:00pm
CREATIVE FORUM: EXTREME CANVAS
209/9th Street Gallery, Downtown

The August Wilson Center for African American Culture hosts its second arts-related community discussion, "Creative Forum: Extreme Canvas," which is designed to engage the community and provide insights into the acclaimed "Extreme Canvas" exhibition. This evening of conversation and creative exploration is hosted by WAMO's Anji Corley, and features panelists Aisha White, executive director of Rights and Responsibilities; Billy Jackson, filmmaker; Dr. Ralph Proctor, historian and African art scholar; and Kyle Holbrook, muralist. In addition, guests will enjoy music from DJ SMI and a performance by Nathan James and Steven Chatman.

Creative Forum: Extreme Canvas is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

March 17-19
National Family Reunion Conference
Pittsburgh Marriott City Center

The August Wilson Center for African American Culture is proud to welcome the 15th Annual National Family Reunion Conference to Pittsburgh. The conference is designed for those who plan, attend and are thinking of starting a family reunion tradition. The August Wilson Center will host the private Opening Reception for the conference attendees, and will also treat them to a Multicultural Showcase, which will spotlight several of Pittsburgh's performing arts groups.

Registration for the National Family Reunion Conference is required. For more information, contact 1-800-VISITPA or sfordgeorge@portfolioassociates.net

Thursday, March 23 Noon – 2:00pm
POETRY IN PERFORMANCE WORKSHOP with THE UNIVERSES
Kelly-Strayhorn Theater, 5941 Penn Avenue, East Liberty

Known for creating moving, challenging and entertaining theatrical works, the multi-disciplined Universes break the boundaries of traditional theater to create their own brand of performance. Kicking off their Pittsburgh engagement, Universes will lead a "Poetry in Performance Workshop" for emerging performing artists. The free workshop will help participants learn how to translate their poetry to the stage.

Space is limited, and reservations are required. Interested participants can contact the August Wilson Center for African American Culture for an application. Call 412.258.2700 or info@africanaculture.org.

Regional Enterprise Tower
425 Sixth Avenue, Suite 1750
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

p 412 258 2700

f 412 258 2701

www.africanaculture.org

Later that evening, **the Universes will pay a cameo visit to The Shadow Lounge, located at 5972 Baum Blvd. in East Liberty.** For more information, visit www.shadowlounge.net or call 412.363.8277.

Friday, March 24 & Saturday, March 25 8:00pm
THE UNIVERSES' SLANGUAGE
Kelly-Strayhorn Theater, 5941 Penn Avenue, East Liberty

Described by the *New York Theatre Experience* as "the unmistakable birth of new art for a new generation," *Universes' Slanguage* arrives in Pittsburgh with a fusion of poetry, theater, jazz, hip-hop, politics, down-home blues and Spanish boleros, creating an all-new theatrical experience. Co-Presented with The Andy Warhol Museum's "Off the Wall " Series.

Tickets for the Universes' Slanguage are on sale now, and can be purchased by calling 412.394.3353 or online at www.proartstickets.org. Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$15 for students.

Friday, March 31 6:00pm-8:00pm
EXTREME CANVAS CLOSING RECEPTION
209/9th Street Gallery

To wrap up the month, the August Wilson Center for African American Culture hosts a **Closing Reception for "Extreme Canvas."** The event, which features entertainment and refreshments, is free and open to the public.

About The August Wilson Center for African American Culture

The August Wilson Center for African American Culture (formerly The African American Cultural Center) presents, interprets and preserves the art, culture and history of African Americans in Pittsburgh and of people of African descent throughout the world. The Center realizes its mission with an engaging schedule of visual and performing arts programs as well as educational and public programs.

The programs of the Center's 2005-2006 season are supported by lead gifts from The Heinz Endowments, The Pittsburgh Foundation and The PNC Financial Services Group. More information is available at www.augustwilsoncenter.org.

###

Media Contact: Heather D. Clark
Phone: 412.258.2700
E-mail: hclark@africanaculture.org

Regional Enterprise Tower
425 Sixth Avenue, Suite 1750
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

p 412 258 2700

f 412 258 2701

www.africanaculture.org