

News Release

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**THE AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER of GREATER
PITTSBURGH PRESENTS CHOREOGRAPHER, DIRECTOR AND DANCER
RALPH LEMON'S "COME HOME CHARLEY PATTON"**

Part 3 of The Geography Trilogy, co-commissioned by the AACC

PITTSBURGH, PA – The African American Cultural Center of Greater Pittsburgh presents the latest work from acclaimed choreographer, dancer and director **Ralph Lemon**. *Come home Charley Patton*, the final part of Lemon's acclaimed *Geography Trilogy*, comes to Pittsburgh for one performance only, **March 19, 2005, 8:00pm, at the Byham Theater**, in the Cultural District.

Motivated by examining his own identity as an African American artist, and by his family's history, heritage and culture, Lemon's *Come home Charley Patton* is the most autobiographical piece from his *Geography Trilogy* (an epic pan-cultural dance project spanning ten years).

Come home Charley Patton explores the complex and rich culture of the American South. Its histories, myths, and traditions are examined through a mix of storytelling, literature, dance, video, digital animation and a range of musical sources.

The work juxtaposes the past with the present, the culture of the Delta blues with post-modernism, as it questions how memories are passed on from one generation to the next.

Lemon's inspirations for *Come home Charley Patton* include significant events related to the Civil Rights movement, the original environment of the "blues" in the Mississippi Delta, lynching sites and other historically charged places, as well as the work of contemporary writers and artists such as James Baldwin and Bruce Nauman.

Come home Charley Patton was developed over a four-year period (2000-2004) and included extensive research, creative residencies and a variety of community workshops in such places as Sapelo Island and Atlanta, GA; Selma, AL; Memphis, TN; Como, Senatobia, Money, Greenville, Yazoo City, Betonia, Philadelphia and Jackson, MS; Chicago, IL; and Duluth, MN.

Directed and choreographed by Ralph Lemon, *Come home Charley Patton* includes an original score by Christian Marclay, lighting design by Roderick Murray, set/visual design by Ralph Lemon with associate scene designer R. Eric Stone, installation by Nari Ward, sound design by Lucas Indelicato, video design by Mike Taylor, dramaturgy by Katherine Profeta, documentary video by Chelsea Lemon Fetzer (Mr. Lemon's daughter) and Ralph Lemon, and animation design by face2face Animation, Inc. *Come home Charley Patton* is performed by David Thomson, Djédjé Djédjé Gervais, Okwui Okpokwasili, Gesel Mason, Darrell Jones and Ralph Lemon.

Tickets for Ralph Lemon's *Come home Charley Patton* can be purchased by calling 412.456.6666, visiting the Box Office at Theater Square, or online at www.africanaculture.org. All Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. **Students with valid I.D. can purchase tickets for \$12.**

Come home Charley Patton is a co-production of Cross Performance, Inc., the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts at the University of Illinois, Urbana and MultiArts Projects & Productions/MAPP. The project has been co-commissioned by

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The African American Cultural Center of Greater Pittsburgh, Arizona State University, New Jersey Performing Arts Center, the Walker Art Center and Meet the Composer's Commissioning Music/USA. Dance. The African American Cultural Center's presentation of **Ralph Lemon's *Come home Charley Patton*** is made possible with the support of The National Dance Project of the New England Foundation for the Arts.

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 African American Cultural Center's 2004-2005 season are supported by lead gifts from The Heinz Endowments and The Pittsburgh Foundation. Operating support has been provided by the Allegheny Regional Asset District.

More information is available at the African American Cultural Center's website, www.africanaculture.org.

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