

NEWS FROM PENUMBRA THEATRE

For Immediate Release

November 30, 2005

Contact:

Julie McGarvie, Director of Marketing
651-290-8686 x250
julie.mcgarvie@penumbrateatre.org

Tickets:

Penumbra Theatre Box Office
651-224-3180
or www.penumbrateatre.org

EXTENDED RUN--7 SHOWS ADDED!

Black Nativity

A Celebration of Family, A Celebration for the Soul... Testify!

November 30, 2005; St. Paul, MN: Penumbra Theatre Company, the nation's premier African American theatre, announces the addition of 7 new performances of *Black Nativity* due to popular demand.

Additional shows will include:

- Tuesday, Dec. 20 at 7:30 p.m.**
- Wednesday, Dec. 21 at 10:00 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.**
- Thursday, Dec. 22 at 7:30 p.m.**
- Friday, Dec. 23 at 2:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.**
- Saturday, Dec. 24 at 2:00 p.m.**

This year's *Black Nativity*, illuminating the role of family in caring, healing and rejuvenation, resonated with the community in its first week of shows. It is a "rich and hearty" "rousing gospel concert" with "resounding energy" and "infectious rhythm" according to local critics. Demand to offer shows during Christmas week has been overwhelming. The extended run now ends on December 24th with an afternoon performance.

This production was inspired by members of the community. "Their stories are about us. Infused with song and dance, T. Mychael and I have attempted to dramatize these reflections in celebration of the Christmas season and the ways in which the community comes together for this labor of love," stated Lou Bellamy, founder and artistic director of Penumbra Theatre.

Conceived by Penumbra Company member T. Mychael Rambo and Lou Bellamy, *Black Nativity* marks the 18th production of this acclaimed holiday tradition. With newly arranged and originally composed music by Keith McCutchen, this show invites you to sing along and share the joy and excitement, with old favorites like "No Room at the inn," "Angels We Have Heard On High," "Silent Night," "Joy to the World," and many more! Directed by Bellamy, the performance features original dance choreographed by the renowned Uri Sands of Tu Dance Company, formerly with Alvin Ailey Dance Company, and Penumbra Company member Austene Van. The stellar choir ensemble includes members of "Moore by Four" and the Grammy-Award winning "Sounds of Blackness." Featured vocalists include Erika Blackwell, Geoff Jones, Ashley Commodore, Ginger Commodore, Cameron Hughes, Tonia Hughes Patricia Lacy-Aiken, Greta Oglesby, Jamela Pettiford, Thomasina Petrus, T. Mychael Rambo, and Jack Yates. The power and energy released on stage promises to move, inspire and stir your soul!

***** MORE *****

Quick Reference

Production: *Black Nativity*
A Celebration of Family, A Celebration for the Soul...Testify!

Artists: **Lou Bellamy (Co-conceiver, Producer and Director),**
T. Mychael Rambo (Co-Conceiver and Ensemble Member)
Keith McCutchen (Musical Director)
Uri Sands (Choreographer)
Austene Van (Ensemble Choreographer)

Ensemble: Erika Blackwell, Ashley Commodore, Ginger Commodore, Cameron Hughes, Tonia Hughes, Geoff Jones, Patricia Lacy-Aiken, Greta Oglesby, Jamela Pettiford, Thomasina Petrus, T. Mychael Rambo, Jack Yates

Dancers: Bernard Brown, Dinita Nicole, Toni Pierce-Sands

Musicians: Craig Deon (percussion), Sam Reeves (Keyboard)
Jay Young (Bass)

Sponsor: **Thrivent Financial for Lutherans**

Dates: **Now through December 24, 2005**

Performances:	Nov. 25 – Dec. 18	Dec. 20 – Dec. 24
	Wed. 10:00 am	Tues. Dec. 20, 7:30 p.m.
	Thurs. 7:30 pm	Wed. Dec. 21, 10:00 am & 7:30 pm
	Fri. 8:00 pm	Thurs. Dec. 22, 2:00 & 7:30 pm
	Sun. 2:00 & 7:30 pm	Fri. Dec. 23, 2:00 & 8:00 pm
	Sat. 2:00& 8:00 pm	Sat. Dec. 24, 2:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$40
Discounts available for students, seniors & groups
Box Office at 651-224-3180 or www.penumbratheatre.org

Theatre Location: Penumbra Theatre
270 North Kent Street
St. Paul, MN 55102

Media Contact: **Julie McGarvie**, Director of Marketing
651-290-8686 x250 julie.mcgarvie@penumbratheatre.org