

Show me the Franklins! Juneteenth Performances

Theatre for Transformation, a South Central Pennsylvania and Delaware County company, has received a grant from the Pennsylvania Humanities Council (PHC) to present Show me the Franklins! Remembering the Ancestors, Slavery and Benjamin Franklin a play by Dr. Amanda Kemp in honor of Juneteenth 2008.

Theatre for Transformation and fiscal sponsor Pendle Hill were selected by the PHC to participate in its Our Stories, Our Future initiative on American history.

Free and open to the public, the performances will take place at 3pm on June 9 at Chester Eastside Ministries and at 11am on June 10 at the Chester Senior Center.

Juneteenth is a holiday commemorating the end of slavery in the U.S.

"We are honored to receive this support from the PHC. We look forward to continuing our work to heal the wound of slavery through this heart opening play" said Dr. Kemp.

Dr. Kemp, who has taught at Franklin & Marshall College, Cornell University, Dickinson College and Millersville University, is the founder and Artistic Director of Theatre for Transformation. She has just returned from performances in Paris, France where she was filming a documentary entitled "Benjamin Franklin, Slavery and Me."

Show me the Franklins! is a performance that weaves together ritual, lecture and theatre to recover the stories and perspectives of Benjamin Franklin's African contemporaries. Meet Peter, Jemima, George, Othello, and King, all owned by Benjamin Franklin as well as runaway Abby Jay and freed woman Phillis Wheatley. Hear their stories and conflicts regarding slave master and renowned abolitionist, Benjamin Franklin.

Funny, compassionate and informative, this play has garnered recognition from diverse audiences. Running about 40 minutes, the performance is appropriate for children aged 8 and above.

Show me the Franklins! has been performed at diverse sites including Stanford University, Franklin & Marshall College, the Missouri History Museum as well as elementary and middle schools, high schools, and community centers throughout Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The play will also be featured in the 2008 Philly Fringe Festival.

Dr. Amanda Kemp, who plays the Scholar in the production, is the 2007-08 Cadbury Scholar at Pendle Hill, a Quaker Center for Study and Contemplation, in Wallingford, PA. The play also features Vision, a well-known Philadelphia spoken word artist, eborah Billups of Freedom Theatre and Mary Ferrell of Swarthmore. The play is co-directed by Amanda Kemp and Dave Ebersole, Associate Artistic Director of Hovering Above the Gutter Theatre Company.

OUR STORIES OUR FUTURE is funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities as part of WE THE PEOPLE, a national initiative exploring the history of the United States.

The Pennsylvania Humanities Council inspires individual to enjoy and share a life of learning enriched by human experience across time and around the world. Since 1973, the PHC has empowered local groups to offer high-quality public programs that have a positive impact on the everyday life of their communities. The PHC represents Pennsylvania in the Federal-State-Partnership of the national Endowment for the Humanities.

For more information, visit:

www.dramandakemp.com

www.pahumanities.org

www.chestereastsideministries.org

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