



ARTS-A-FIRE YOUTH THEATER TROUPE

AMAZING GRACE by Shay Youngblood & Mary Hoffman

Comedy/Drama; Cast: 3 women, 4 girls, 4 boys, extra children, offstage voice

Amazing Grace is about a little girl who loves acting out stories, those told and read to her by her grandmother as well as those she reads on her own. Grace is told by her classmates that she cannot be Peter Pan in the school play because she is a girl and because she is Black. But Grace shows us that she can indeed do anything she sets her mind to. The play is based on West African Anansi and traditional storytelling techniques such as songs, rhythm and repetition.

SMOLDERING FIRES by Kermit Frazier

Drama; Cast: 12 boys, 6 girls,

Dashaun Johnson and Corey Tyler are 12 year old black boys who seem unlikely friends. Dashaun can barely make it through the school day without getting into trouble. Corey excels. But the two have a special bond, and together they share a dream of cleaning up their sometimes violent, drug-infested urban neighborhood. They fashion their fight after the young activist who fought during the Civil Rights Movement. This drama applies the ideals and struggles of the civil rights movement to contemporary city life.

April 1 2–Fri & Sat 7:00 pm, ★ April 3–Sun 3:00 pm

FREEDOM IS MY MIDDLE NAME – Music by Lee Hankins

Musical Drama: Cast 3 males, 3 females

“You got to have goals and dreams ... You got to find love in your hearts!” With these words, and the help of a magic quilt, five urban students are taken on a journey into the past by Stagecoach Mary, a vibrant and powerful character from African-American history. The students take on the roles of people from another time and place. First stop: Atlanta, Georgia, 1858. They meet Preacher Man, a conductor for the Underground Railroad who daringly gives escape routes in sermon and song. Next: Roxbury, Massachusetts, 1878, where they meet Mary Eliza Mahoney, a women who went up against seemingly insurmountable odds to become the first African-American woman in the country to graduate from a nursing program. At the end of the play, the students return to the present, and they begin to realize that you don’t have to be famous to make a difference, you just need courage to make a dream come alive. This play, filled with magic, excitement and humor, received its highly successful premiere at The Open Eye Theatre/New Stagings in New York as part of Black History Month.

MAY 13- 14, Fri & Sat 7:00 pm, ★ May 15–Sun 3:00 pm

BUBBLING BROWN SUGAR – by Loften Mitchell and Rosetta LeNoir

Musical Revue – Entire Troupe, Guest Performers including Community Leaders

A musical revue featuring the music of numerous African-American artists who were popular during the Harlem Renaissance, 1920-1940 including: Duke Ellington, Eubie Blake, Count Basie, Cab Calloway and Fats Waller . Three middle-aged Black entertainers Irene, John and Checkers meet a young white couple, Jim and Ella in Harlem. The entertainers lead Jim and Ella back to the days of Swing and Blues when Black entertainers in Harlem’s nightclubs used to fascinate the white visitors. With the youthful entertainers Irene, John and Checkers many legendary black show numbers come to life again.



Celebrating & Nurturing the Arts & Black Heritage Since 1982

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