

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 11, 2010

CAPA AND THE OSU DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE PRESENT *A SONG FOR CORETTA*

Inspired by the long line of mourners at Ebenezer Baptist Church paying their respects to Mrs. Coretta Scott King, this play introduces five fictional African-American women, aged 17 to 57, who find laughter and hope while waiting in the rain to say goodbye. The production explores the impact Mrs. King had on the lives of these women, and the connections they build with one another through her memory and legacy.

Produced by CAPA and the OSU Department of Theatre, *A Song for Coretta* plays the Lincoln Theatre (769 E. Long St.) March 5-7. Show times are Friday, March 5, 7:30 pm; Saturday, March 6, 3 pm and 7:30 pm; and Sunday, March 7, 3 pm. **Tickets** are \$18 at the Ohio Theatre Ticket Office (39 E. State St.), all Ticketmaster outlets, and www.ticketmaster.com. To purchase tickets by phone, please call (614) 469-0939 or (800) 745-3000. The Lincoln Theatre Ticket Office will open two hours prior to the performance. Students between the ages of 13-19 may purchase \$5 High Five tickets while available. Presented in association with The King Arts Complex, this Spectrum Series presentation is made possible through the generous support of series sponsors **David and Mo Meuse**.

Directed by Lesley Ferris, the five main characters in this one-act, hour-long production will be played by Nakia Smith (Helen), Terita Parms (Mona Lisa), Sierra Hall (Zora), Jazzmen Harris (Keisha), and Tamika Thomas (Gwen).

Helen is a righteous 56-year-old woman who met Coretta Scott King many years before and remembers the civil rights struggles Martin Luther and Coretta Scott King lead. Zora is a 22-year-old journalism student who hopes her interviews with people in line will be aired on National Public Radio. Their talk reveals Helen's concern with what she considers to be the decline of young peoples' values and their lack of interest in the history of the struggle for equal rights.

They are joined by Mona Lisa, a 40-year-old artist who survived the destruction of Hurricane Katrina, but lost almost everything and has been living in her car. Later, Keisha, a pregnant

teenager, and Gwen, a traumatized Iraq war veteran, join them and all find compassion and strength through their companionship and the inspiration they draw from Coretta Scott King's life.

The production will tour to several area schools prior to the engagement at the Lincoln Theatre. Schools on the tour include Baldwin Road Middle School, Dublin Scioto High School, Pickerington High School North, Ashton Middle School, Clinton Middle School, Johnson Park Middle School, and Linden-McKinley Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics High School.

About Author Pearl Cleage

Pearl Cleage is a fiction writer, playwright, poet, essayist, and journalist who has lived in Atlanta for more than 30 years. In her writing, Cleage draws on her experiences as an activist for AIDS and women's rights, and she cites the rhythms of black life as her muse. Cleage's first novel, *What Looks Like Crazy on an Ordinary Day*, was an Oprah Book Club selection in 1998 and appeared on the *New York Times* best-seller list for nine weeks.

CALENDAR LISTING

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March 5-7, Lincoln Theatre (769 E. Long St.)**

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The **Ohio Arts Council** helped fund this program with state tax dollars to encourage economic growth, education excellence, and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans. CAPA also appreciates the support of **the Abigail Simpson, Grace K. and Robert L. Rohe, and Martha G. Staub Funds of the Columbus Foundation**, assisting donors and others in strengthening our community for the benefit of all of its citizens, and the **Greater Columbus Arts Council**, supporting the city's artists and arts organizations since 1973.

About CAPA

Owner/operator of downtown Columbus' magnificent, historic theatres (Ohio Theatre, Palace Theatre, Southern Theatre) and manager of the Riffe Center Theatre Complex, Lincoln Theatre, Valentine Theatre

(Toledo, OH), and Shubert Theater (New Haven, CT), CAPA is a not-for-profit, award-winning presenter of national and international performing arts and entertainment now celebrating 40 years of service. For more information, visit www.capa.com.

Contact: Rolanda Copley
(614) 719-6624
rcopley@capa.com