

WORLD AIDS DAY KICK-OFF

Art Creates Life in partnership with Duke Ellington School of the Arts

Presents

‘Patience Wept’

-A story of strength, hope and the power of the human spirit in the wake of the HIV/AIDS pandemic

In honor of World Aids Day, Art Creates Life in partnership with Duke Ellington School of the Arts is pleased to announce the forthcoming production of ‘Patience Wept’, written, directed and produced by Art Creates Life and performed by Duke Ellington Students.

In **Africa**, HIV/AIDS statistics hover around 1 in 3 people living with the disease. **Washington, DC** has the highest rate of new AIDS cases among blacks in the United States - 87.8%. HIV/AIDS cases among teens ages 13-19 is 70%.

The Play

‘Patience Wept’, a One-Act original play, deals with the issue of HIV/AIDS and specifically AIDS orphans and attempts to capture story where most see only condition and epidemic. The numbers of AIDS orphans is staggering. This play is about the extraordinary resilience of *these* children, both here in Washington, DC and in Africa and how they with such similarity, live amidst despair with the most human of our attributes -- hope and the patience that is implicit within hope. At the center of the play is story, how we learn about these children’s stories, here and far across the Atlantic, stories that live behind shame and secret faces. How story is the thing that enables the children, gives them strength to find hope, and how these orphans can teach us something about the power of the human spirit. The play’s narrative also draws on student interviews with various constituencies affected by HIV/AIDS, directly and indirectly, in the DC metropolitan area as well as in Senegal, West Africa.

**‘Patience Wept’ comes to Duke Ellington’s Theatre for 6 performances only:
February 7th, 8th, & 9th 2007**

Showtimes and Dates:

February 7th - 10:30am & 8pm

February 8th - 10:30am & 8pm

February 9th - 10:30am & 8pm

Where:

Duke Ellington School of the Arts
3500 R ST, N.W., Washington, DC 20009

Tickets:

Matinees / \$10 for Adults / \$7 for Students & Seniors
Evenings / All seats \$15.00

*February 9th evening benefit performance tickets will include VIP reception: (\$50) and are available at the Duke Ellington Theatre box office or call Art Creates Life @ 202-207- 1359

The Senegal Project – Creating Theatre for Change

‘Patience Wept’ is part of a larger Art Creates Life effort called *Crossing Waters – The Senegal Project*. For the second year, 20 Duke Ellington students who will continue the project’s journey to Senegal, West Africa, in June, 2007 for ten days will perform the play at The Dakar National Theatre and participating in various HIV/AIDS conferences with high school students in Senegal. This in-depth look into this pandemic will encourage and inspire the youth to live, interrupting history and forging a future full of courage and hope.