

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
Contact: Faye Price 612-824-0708 x108

## **Pillsbury House Theatre announces 2001 season**

Pillsbury House Theatre is pleased to announce its 2001 season: *Angels in America, Part Two: Perestroika* by Tony Kushner (March 16-May 5), *The Gimmick* by Dael Orlandersmith (July 20-August 11), and *Riff Raff* by Laurence Fishburne (October 19-November 10).

One year after a successful staging of *Angels in America, Part One: Millennium Approaches*, Pillsbury House Theatre will open its 2001 season with the final half of Tony Kushner's contemporary masterpiece, *Angels in America, Part Two: Perestroika*. The production will be directed by Noel Raymond, Co-Artistic Managing Director of Pillsbury House Theater.

*Perestroika* resumes the fantastical epic journey of characters that were introduced in *Millennium Approaches*. Comedy It's 1986 and the world is threatened by widespread illnesses of body and spirit, God has abandoned everyone and the angels have banded together to plot a mysterious plan to help mankind. The saga continues. "Perestroika is not only a stunning resolution of the rending human drama of *Millennium Approaches*, but also a true millennial work of art, uplifting, hugely comic and pantheistically religious in a very American style." Frank Rich, *New York Times*.

*The Gimmick*, by Obie-Award Winner Dael Orlandersmith is an extraordinarily powerful and moving one-woman play that tells the story of a young girl coming of age in Harlem, and her love of literature that proves to be her triumphant escape from the world of poverty. Combining multiple characters with language that adroitly alternates between rhapsodic and gritty, Orlandersmith paints a stirring portrait of the power of art and its ability to transcend circumstance.

*The New York Times* praises Orlandersmith for having a "journalist's devotion to detachment and accuracy and a playwright's love of showmanship and poetry." Orlandersmith's writing, honest and passionate, fulfills her main character's youthful dream: "to be a word magician."

Written by renowned film and stage actor Laurence Fishburne, *RIFF RAFF* is a raw, explosive drama that explores the criminal element of New York drug culture. When their drug heist goes awry, two half brothers take refuge in a rat infested abandoned crackhouse. Joined by a former partner in crime, allegiances are shifted, guns are drawn and secrets revealed as the play races towards its chilling climax.

*The New York Times* calls *RIFF RIFF* “surprisingly and effectively understated, with bubbles of anxiety breaking through a surface of a numbed calm.” And *The New York Post* praises Fishburne: “He possesses one of the vital requirements of a playwright—a good ear for the things people say and the way they say them...An hour and fifteen minutes of bone-chilling suspense.”

Pillsbury House Theatre is located at 3501 Chicago Avenue South in Minneapolis. For tickets and information, call 612-825-0459.