

PILLSBURY HOUSE THEATRE

mainstage breaking ice chicago avenue project

For immediate release August 21, 2009

For more information contact:

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Quick Info: Pillsbury House Theatre presents ***Non English Speaking Spoken Here: The Late Nite Series*** on September 12, October 10 and November 14. The September performance includes Minnesota native and jazz sensation José James.

LATE NITES AT PILLSBURY HOUSE THEATRE SHOWCASE UP AND COMING NATIONAL TALENT

Minneapolis, MN – **Pillsbury House Theatre** presents **Non English Speaking Spoken Here: The Late Nite Series** on **September 12, October 10, and November 14**. The September Late Nite kicks it off hard with performances by José James, Kenna Sarge, D'Lo, The St. Paul Soapboxing Slam Team, and DJO. It's going to be a full night of jazzy music, intense dance, new theatre, slammin' poetry, and fresh beats. Food is served at 8pm and performances begin at 9pm.

The Late Nite Series, curated by Laurie Carlos and co-curated by e.g. bailey. Late Nite is a transformation of culture where text, music, spoken word, sounds and images weave together in a fearless celebration of new voices and new art. Witness the beginnings of brand new performances as artists from an array of disciplines come together to explore the cross currents of social change, community and identity. Each performance brings new and original acts to the Pillsbury House Theatre stage.

As always, the audience is welcome to join the artists before the performances for a variety of delicious foods each lovingly created by local cooks. There is no additional cost for food.

Tickets for each performance are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students/seniors. Single tickets go on sale online Monday, August 24 at 10am but audiences can get tickets earlier by purchasing a Late Nite Ticket Package. A package that includes tickets to all three Late Nite performances is only \$24 (\$6 savings) and a package that includes all three performances plus a ticket to the October 10th performance of *King of Shadows* is only \$40 (\$10 savings). Tickets and packages can be purchased by visiting www.pillsburyhousetheatre.org.

Pillsbury House Theatre is located at 3501 Chicago Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN, 55407

The mission of Pillsbury House Theatre is to create challenging theatre to inspire choice, change and connection.

For media information including images, arranging interviews, and actor bios, please contact Neal Spinler, Director of Marketing, at 612.787.3622 or spinlern@pillsburyhousetheatre.org.

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Saturday, September 12 8pm: Food; 9pm: Performances

José James featuring Chris Smith, Gideon van Gelder and Brandon Commodore

Since his arrival on the international scene in 2008, Minneapolis native and vocalist José James has consistently dazzled critics and audiences alike with his deft combination of soul, hip-hop and jazz.

Using his musical mentors John Coltrane, Marvin Gaye and Billie Holiday as compasses, he continues to successfully blur the lines between musical genres through his love of connecting to audiences worldwide and in the sheer joy of creation.

José has toured internationally at venues such as the North Sea Jazz Festival, the Vitoria Jazz Festival, Billboard Live Tokyo, Centro Cultural Sao Paulo, the Hermitage St. Petersburg, Central Park Summerstage New York and London's Royal Festival Hall.

Signed to Gilles Peterson's Brownswood Recordings, his debut album "The Dreamer" was released in 2008 to worldwide acclaim, including 21 of JazzTimes Top 50 Jazz Albums of 2008.

<http://www.myspace.com/josejamesquartet>

Kenna Sarge

Kenna Sarge started teaching West African dance when she got "the nod" from Youssouf Koumbassa, a master touring artist from Guinea. Kenna has been learning about West African dance from her family and community her entire life and has been dancing, studying, teaching and organizing in the Minneapolis area for over 10 years. Kenna is the curator of Black Choreographers' Evening '03-'05, Minnesota's only showcase of Black dance. Kenna is a member of Nimley Pan African Dance Company, Baato Askan Wii Drum and Dance in the Gambia, West Africa. Kenna currently teaches West African dance around the Twin Cities with various arts in education organizations and directs Voice of Culture Drum and Dance in Minneapolis.

D'Lo

Described as a "jolt of creative and comedic energy", D'Lo is a Tamil Sri Lankan-American, political theatre artist/writer, music producer and director.

In 2004, D'Lo had a sold-out NYC run of "Ballin With My Bois" D's queer hip-hop theater piece. Aside from touring the university/college circuit, this year, D'Lo did a Cornerstone Theater production of "For All time" at CIW, a staged reading of Terry Wolverton's play "Embers", sound design for Adelina Anthony's "Brusing for Besos", directed 2 solo shows for Teada's Healing Aloud Season (Raquel Salinas and Shyamala Moorty), wrote and collaborated with Theater Mu in Minneapolis on a Taiko Show and performed at the Bay Area's Fresh Meat Festival. Currently, D'Lo is touring with "Ramble-Ations: A One D'Lo Show" which received the NPN Creation Fund Grant co-commissioned by Pangea World Theater and New World Theater.

<http://www.dlocokid.com/>

St. Paul Soapboxing Slam Team (with Khary Jackson, Guante, & Sierra DeMulder)

On August 4th, The St. Paul Soapboxing All Star team competed against 67 other teams to become the first MN team to win The 2009 National Poetry Slam. Three of the five members of the National Team will show us what the best slam in the country sounds like. (Bios from [www.soap-boxing.com.](http://www.soap-boxing.com/))

Khary J. (aka 6 is 9) likes bubbles, strawberry covered pancakes, and his future puppy. Oh yeah, he does poems too. You knew that.

Kyle "Guante" Myhre is an emcee, poet, activist and writer based in Minneapolis. He's shared the stage with Talib Kweli, Brother Ali, Sage Francis, Zion I and many others, and signed to Tru Ruts/Speakeasy Records in 2008. A three-time National Poetry Slam competitor, Guante has won Grand Slams in Madison, Minneapolis and St. Paul. He's currently working with the Minnesota Spoken-Word Association facilitating spoken-word and hip hop workshops for youth. For more information, see www.myspace.com/elguante.

Sierra DeMulder is a member of the Intangibles Spoken Word Collective out of upstate New York and competed with Oneonta at the 2007 National Poetry Slam in Austin, Texas where her team proudly won the Spirit of the Slam award (what's up knoxeonta). She moved to Minneapolis on a whim because she thought it would be cool to freeze to death. Sierra has been trying not to trip since 1986.

<http://www.soap-boxing.com/>

DJO

Spinning between sets is local artist DJO of the ever-growing company, Death Ray Scientific. Described as a dirty rocks glass filled with a hip-hop, shaken with a drum'n'bass influence, a splash of trip-hop and the after taste of the classic breakbeat, then kick it in the side with a boom/bap and garnish it with a scratch.

DJO is the dj for BottomFeeders, but also has backed up DefSound, GWMC, Ecid, El Guante + See More Perspective, Analytical, Ernie Rhodes, Phillip Morris, Rhetoric Ramirez, Diatribe, and One Be Lo.

<http://www.reverbnation.com/djowrecks>

October 10, (Food and performance to immediately follow King of Shadows; approximately 9:15pm)

Zell Miller III, Katie Ka Vang, Kim Thompson

November 14, (8pm - Food, 9pm - Performance)

Pramilla Vasudevan (featuring Sarah Beck-Esmay, Romina Takimoto, Chitra Vairavan, and Matt Wells), Joette Poehler, Bill Cottman (featuring J. Otis Powell and directed by Dipankar Mukherjee) and more artists to be announced!



José James



D'Lo



Kenna Sarge



DJO



St. Paul Soapboxing Slam Team (Top to Bottom,
Khary Jackson, Guante, & Sierra DeMulder)