

An Afternoon of Theater and Fun with the Award-Winning  
**Classical Theatre of Harlem**

At The Home of Dr. Bonnie Maslin & Dr. Yehuda Nir  
307 Kingspoint Road East Hampton, NY 11937

Sunday, August 17, 2008

12:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Guests of honor will include

The Legendary **Melvin Van Peebles**, TONY Award nominee **André DeShields**  
& OBIE Award winner **Ty Jones**

**About the Event**

**Dr. Bonnie Maslin** and **Dr. Yehuda Nir** will host a party for **The Classical Theatre of Harlem** at their **East Hampton home on Sunday, August 17**. The event, which will begin at 12:00pm and continue through 3:00pm, is designed to introduce the **award-winning New York City theatre company** to the Hamptons community. Guests of honor include legendary filmmaker **Melvin Van Peebles**, TONY Award nominee **André DeShields**, and OBIE Award winner **Ty Jones**. These three artists are among the many theatrical talents that regularly work with **The Classical Theatre of Harlem**.

**About The Classical Theatre of Harlem**

**The Classical Theatre of Harlem** is dedicated to producing theatre that truly reflects the diversity of ideas and racial tapestry of New York City. Their long list of awards includes 13 AUDELCO Awards, 5 OBIE Awards, 2 Lucille Lortel Awards, a Drama Desk Award and the Edwin Booth Award for Artistic Excellence.

Since being founded in 1999 by Alfred Preisser and Christopher McElroen, the Classical Theatre of Harlem has staged thirty-six productions that have included numerous works by Shakespeare, August Wilson's *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, Euripides' *Medea* and *Trojan Women*, a new stage adaptation of Richard Wright's *Native Son*, Douglas Turner Ward's *Day of Absence*, an extremely successful revival of Melvin Van Peebles' *Ain't Supposed To Die A Natural Death*, Jean Genet's *The Blacks: A Clown Show* (4 OBIE Awards), Anton Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard* (featuring Earle Hyman), Adrienne Kennedy's *Funnyhouse of a Negro* (directed by Billie Allen), *King Lear* featuring stage and screen veterans André DeShields and Ted Lange (*Love Boat*), and Peter Weiss' *Marat Sade*. Recent work includes Langston Hughes' *Black Nativity*, presented by at the New 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, and free performances of a site-specific production of Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot* (with Wendell Pierce – HBO's *The Wire*) staged outdoors in the devastated Lower Ninth Ward and Gentilly neighborhoods of New Orleans.

The upcoming 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season kicks off with a free outdoor version of their acclaimed production of *Ain't Supposed To Die A Natural Death*. The season continues with Anton Chekhov's tragicomic *Three Sisters*, followed by Supreme *Jealous Divine*, an adaptation with music of Molière's classic *Tartuffe* set in The Harlem Renaissance, and concludes with the first New York City revival of Paul Carter Harrison's 1974 play *The Great MacDaddy*. In addition, the company will present several readings of new plays as part of their Future Classics Series at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture and a workshop of Melvin Van Peebles' *Sweet Sweetback's Baadasssss Song* at the Apollo Theater. Additional anniversary special events, celebrity readings and concert performances are currently being scheduled, so be sure to check the website.

**About the Guests of Honor**

**André DeShields** received Tony Award nominations for his work in *Play On!* and *The Full Monty*. His other Broadway credits include *The Wiz*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *Stardust*, and *Prymate*. He most recently appeared in New York in the Classical Theater of Harlem's *Black Nativity*, for which he received Drama Desk and Lucille Lortel Award nominations.

**Melvin Van Peebles'** numerous credits include directing the 1970 comedy "Watermelon Man", writing, directing and starring in the independent feature, "Sweet Sweetback's Baadasssss Song", which is credited with creating the "blaxploitation" film genre, and writing the book, music and lyrics for musical *Ain't Supposed To Die A Natural Death*, currently being revived by CTH. The original Broadway production of *Ain't* was nominated for numerous awards, and the recent revival has been touring the country.

**Ty Jones** received a 2003 OBIE Award for his work in the off-Broadway production of Jean Genet's *The Blacks: A Clown Show*. His numerous television and movie roles include Brian De Palma's 2007 film "Redacted." He recently starred in the world premiere of his first play, *Emancipation*, in an acclaimed production by Classical theatre of Harlem.

**About the Hosts**

**Dr. Bonnie Maslin** is a psychologist and best-selling author of such books as [Picking Your Battles: Winning Strategies for Raising Well-Behaved Kids](#) and [The Angry Marriage](#). Her husband, **Dr. Yehuda Nir** is a psychiatrist and author; his books include [The Lost Childhood](#). The couple has written books together, including [Not Quite Paradise: Making Marriage Work](#). The longtime Hamptons residents were profiled in the New York Times for their extensive collection of "postwar American kitsch."

**For more information visit [www.ClassicalTheatreofHarlem.org](http://www.ClassicalTheatreofHarlem.org)**

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