

CREATIVE TIME PRESENTS
THE CLASSICAL THEATRE OF HARLEM AND PAUL CHAN

WAITING FOR GODOT

IN NEW ORLEANS

NOVEMBER 2 and 3, 2007, LOWER NINTH WARD

NOVEMBER 9 and 10, 2007, GENTILLY

August 27, 2007

The OBIE, Drama Desk and Lortel Award-winning Classical Theatre of Harlem (CTH) is pleased to announce that their acclaimed production of *WAITING FOR GODOT*, directed by Christopher McElroen, will be presented in New Orleans by Creative Time and visual artist Paul Chan. In 2006, CTH staged a post-Katrina production of *WAITING FOR GODOT* hailed as "bracing and immediate ... A thrilling new *Godot* for our times" by Time Out New York.

By means of a series of partnerships with visual artist Paul Chan, New York based public arts organization Creative Time, University of New Orleans, Xavier University, the 9th Ward Renaissance Project, the 7th Ward Porch Project, the Neighborhood Story Project, and four local high schools, the Classical Theatre of Harlem will present free outdoor performances of *WAITING FOR GODOT* in the Lower 9th Ward of New Orleans on November 2nd and 3rd and in the Gentilly section of New Orleans on November 9th and 10th. The production, which will once again feature New Orleans native and CTH company member, Wendell Pierce, represents an opportunity to be part of a truly unique alliance between New York and New Orleans organizations in a joint effort to help foster community development and recovery through the arts in a post-Katrina New Orleans. This project is being funded by CTH's New York partner, Creative Time.

"*WAITING FOR GODOT* in New Orleans" has evolved into an ambitious multi-faceted undertaking including a number of community projects. Chan is now in New Orleans to teach at Xavier University and The University of New Orleans; and members of The Classical Theater of Harlem are working with high schools and community organizations and will hold auditions for the play in August. A series of community dinners and conversations will be held in different neighborhoods with the producers and cast in October, and a "shadow" fund, matching the production budget dollar-for-dollar, will be given to local organizations for re-building efforts in neighborhoods where the play is presented. Creative Time Books will release a New Orleans Reader and host events with the artists in NYC in early spring 2008.

About The Classical Theatre of Harlem

Classical Theatre of Harlem (CTH), a nonprofit theatre company, was founded in 1999 by Christopher McElroen and Alfred Preisser. In each of its productions—which have included numerous works by Shakespeare, a new stage adaptation of Richard Wright's *Native Son*, Melvin Van Peebles' *Ain't Supposed To Die A Natural Death* and Jean Genet's seminal political drama, *The Blacks: A Clown Show*—the Classical Theatre of Harlem is dedicated to producing theatre that truly reflects the diversity of ideas and racial tapestry of America. Their long list of awards includes 5 OBIE Awards, 2 Lucille Lortel Awards, Drama Desk Award, Edwin Booth Award for Artistic Excellence, among many others.

About Paul Chan

Working in a variety of mediums, from video to installation to drawing, Paul Chan has achieved international acclaim for both his installations and his digital projections that blend a novel drawing and animating style with philosophical reflections on politics, war, and life in the present tense. Chan's work has been exhibited worldwide for the past several years. Recent solo exhibitions include: Serpentine gallery, London; StedelijkMuseum, Amsterdam (2007); Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston; UCLA Hammer Museum, Los Angeles (2005). He has also worked with the Nobel peace prize nominated aid group Voices in the Wilderness (with whom he spent an unsanctioned month in Iraq) and designed The People's Guide to the Republican National Convention (an agitprop map of New York City for use by protesters and delegates in 2004).

About Creative Time

Creative Time, the New York based non-profit public arts organization, has presented innovative art for the past three decades. We work with artists and audiences to explore ideas that shape society to ensure that art remains a meaningful part of society, available and relevant to millions of people beyond differences of race, class, religion, or culture. At times commemorative and spectacular, recent projects range from *Tribute in Light*, which served as a gesture of hope and healing after 9/11, to *Light Cycle*, an experimental explosion of fireworks that celebrated Central Park's 150th anniversary, and *Who Cares* a series of projects that explored art and social action.

For more information about this special event, please visit www.creativetime.org and www.classicaltheatreofharlem.org.

###