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Classical Theater of Harlem Receives Drama Desk Nomination for

AIN'T SUPPOSED TO DIE A NATURAL DEATH

The Classical Theater of Harlem (CTH) is pleased to announce that they have received Drama Desk Award Nomination for their production of Melvin Van Peebles' *AIN'T SUPPOSED TO DIE A NATURAL DEATH*. *AIN'T SUPPOSED...* was nominated for Outstanding Revival of a Musical. The company received a nomination last season for Lizan Mitchell's performance in *Trojan Women*, as well as receiving a Drama Desk Distinguished Achievement Award.

The nomination caps the end of a highly successful season for CTH. Their production of *Macbeth* toured Germany before coming back to Harlem to kick off the 2004-2005 season. After *AIN'T SUPPOSED TO DIE...* the company presented a highly acclaimed revival of *The Cherry Orchard*, which starred Earle Hyman and Wendell Pierce. Their most recent show was *Caligula*, a new play starring André De Shields.

The Classical Theatre of Harlem is a dynamic and unique theatre company dedicated to producing the classics for a new, young, and culturally diverse audience. Since 1999, CTH has been in residence at the Harlem School of the Arts and presented numerous classic plays, garnering 5 AUDELCO Awards (54 nominations) for Excellence in Black Theatre, 2 Drama Desk Nominations and a Drama Desk Award, in addition to winning five OBIE Awards, off-Broadway's most prestigious honor.

CTH will announce their 2005-2006 season in the coming weeks. To order tickets, please call Smarttix at (212)868-4444, or visit CTH's website at www.classicaltheatreofharlem.org.

Praise for The Classical Theatre of Harlem's 2004-2005 Season:

"If 'renaissance' means 'rebirth,' then the AIN'T SUPPOSED revival represents a slice of present-day Harlem Renaissance." – The Village Voice

"Savage and beautiful, the play tears through conventions -- of the theater, of morality, of history -- to unleash a vicious new view of the world...The provocative power of CALIGULA must be experienced." - Variety

"THE CHERRY ORCHARD [is] stunningly powerful...Extraordinary performances." – New York Times

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