

BRETT SINGER & ASSOCIATES, LLC

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PRESS CONTACT: Brett Singer (212) 307-7181

Classical Theater of Harlem Announces The Return of Their Production of

MEDEA

A New Treatment of the Classic Greek Tragedy

Adapted and Directed by Alfred Preisser

Original Music by Kelvin Bell

Featuring Earle Hyman (“The Cosby Show”), April Yvette Thompson and Lawrence Winslow

Previews Begin on September 15th – Scheduled to Open on September 23rd

At The HSA Theater, 645 St. Nicholas Ave. (near 141st Street)

The OBIE Award-winning Classical Theater of Harlem (CTH) will begin their seventh season with the return of CTH Artistic Director Alfred Preisser's adaptation of *MEDEA*, based on the classic Greek tragedy by Euripides. Performances will be at the HSA Theater (645 St. Nicholas Avenue). Previews begin on September 15th with the opening scheduled for September 23rd and will continue through Sunday, October 23rd.

Using live, original music, chant, dance, and a highly theatrical treatment of text emphasizing contemporary speech, CTH will create a vital, present tense *MEDEA*, that, at 70 minutes in length, is far shorter than most versions of the Greek tragedy. The all-black cast features a chorus of tattooed, body-painted Corinthian women, who will employ dance and song to reinvent the choral passages as the ritualistic counterpoint to the dramatic story line they were originally intended to be. When CTH presented *MEDEA* in 2002, *The New York Times* wrote, “I suspect that no matter how many versions [of *Medea*] I see in the future, my perception of them all will be affected by the revelations here.”

Leading the cast of nineteen will be veteran actor Earle Hyman who is best known for his role on “The Cosby Show” as Bill Cosby’s father. He also appeared in CTH’s *Cherry Orchard* last season in the role of Firs. Mr. Hyman is featured as Kreon, the “aging lion” who makes a last attempt to control Medea’s destructive passion. Harlem resident and CTH regular, April Yvette Thompson, will reprise her role as Medea, a woman who poisons her younger female rival and slaughters her children with disturbing realism “to break” her faithless husband. The cast of *MEDEA* will also feature Shamika Cotton, Lorey Hayes, Zora Howard, Zainab Jah and Lawrence Winslow.

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. Their numerous awards and honors include a 2004 Drama Desk Award (as well as several nominations), 5 AUDELCO Awards (along with 54 nominations) for Excellence in Black Theatre, and five OBIE Awards, off-Broadway’s most prestigious honor. Their recent season included the Drama Desk-nominated revival of Melvin Van Peebles’ *Ain't Supposed To Die A Natural Death*, a highly acclaimed revival of *The Cherry Orchard*, and their first original work, *Caligula*, which starred André De Shields. This next season promises to be just as spectacular.

MEDEA will begin performances on Thursday, September 15th, and will continue through Sunday, October 23rd. Performances will be Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8:00pm, with Sunday matinees at 3:00pm. Tickets will be \$35.00 for all seats; student and group discounts are available. Tickets may be purchased by calling (212) 868-4444 or visit www.smarttix.com. Photos will be available for download at www.brettsinger.com/clients/medea.html.

MEDEA

Adapted and Directed by Alfred Preisser

At The HSA Theater, 645 St. Nicholas Ave. (near 141st Street) in Upper Manhattan

Thursday, September 15th through Sunday, October 23rd.

SCHEDULE: Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8:00pm, Sundays at 3:00pm

TICKETS: \$35.00; Call (212) 868-4444 or visit www.smarttix.com

311 WEST 43RD STREET, SUITE #1107
NEW YORK, NY 10036
www.brettsinger.com

PHONE: (212) 307-7181
FAX: (212) 307-7178
EMAIL: info@brettsinger.com

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