



North Carolina Gets RESPECT



Photo: Patty Reitkopf

The Respect Project, a youth empowerment theater project, co-produced by HAI and the Faison Firehouse Theater, will be featured at the National Black Theater Festival in Winston-Salem, NC, from July 31st to August 5th. *The Respect Project* is honored to be the only youth theater production selected to appear during the festival.

The National Black Theatre Festival attracts over 60,000 attendees to more than 100 theatrical pieces during the six day event. The Festival was begun in 1989 under the guidance of Poet Laureate Maya Angelou. According to the *New York Times*, "[It] is one of the most historic and culturally significant events in the history of black theatre and American theatre in general."

The Respect Project is written and performed by talented young people (aged 14-21) who work in collaboration with George Faison, the first African-American choreographer / director to win a Tony Award (*The Wiz*, 1976). Using monologue, dialogue, rap, dance and song, cast members create vignettes about incidents when they were denied respect. The performance piece frequently tours city schools and select community venues. Both the young performers and audiences discover their ability and responsibility to choose a positive life course and realize new approaches to coping with daily challenges.

The Respect Project has been cited for its relevance and artistic achievement in portraying real-life issues and motivating teenagers through powerful presentations that incorporate the bold language of the streets.

The Faison Firehouse Theater is a project of the American Performing Arts Collaborative (APAC), a not-for-profit (501c3) organization founded by Mr. Faison in 1997.

HAI (Hospital Audiences, Inc.), a not-for-profit (501c3) organization, founded by Michael Jon Spencer in 1969, uses the power of the arts to inspire, educate and engage culturally underserved New Yorkers. HAI will soon be celebrating its 40th Anniversary Year 7/08-6/09.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO VIEW A CLIP OF *THE RESPECT PROJECT*,
PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT

www.hospitalaudiences.org/hai/prev-ed/respect.html

HAI (Hospital Audiences, Inc.)

www.hospitalaudiences.org
email: hai@hospaud.org

548 Broadway, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10012-3950

phone: (212) 575-7676
fax: (212) 575-7669

This August HAI will provide Hope And Inspiration to an audience totaling 15,422 at 773 events.

HAI HAI's **Cultural Events Program (CEP)** opens the world of concert halls, theaters and other venues to individuals who are culturally isolated due to mental or physical disability, age or frailty. Featured in August:

FINIAN'S RAINBOW * NY WATERWAYS * TAMBOURINES TO GLORY

▷ HAI's **Summer Program** arranges transportation to and special seating directly in front of the stage for thousands of frail elderly and wheelchairs users at city parks events. In August, 21 performances of the New York Shakespeare Festival's Midsummer Night's Dream at the Delacorte Theatre in Central Park will be attended by approximately 550 people.

▷ The two **Omni*Buses** enable people who are bed confined and those using wheelchairs to enjoy life outside of institutions. In August, the Omni*Buses have 60 trips scheduled, including trips on Harbor cruises, to Yankees & Mets games, Brooklyn Cyclones games, Shakespeare in the Park, American Museum of Natural History, NY Aquarium, a Wheelchair Olympics event, and various park picnics, movies, and restaurants.

▷ Through HAI's **STEP Program**, New York City public school students have purchased discounted tickets to Broadway shows *The Color Purple*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Mary Poppins*, and *The Lion King*. These arrangements are made possible through a vendor agreement between HAI and the NYC Department of Education.

HAI The **On-Site Performance Program** will present Cantor Daniel Pincus, tenor, who will sing from the classical repertoire at Carnegie East House, an assisted living facility and Deborah Fortier, pianist, who, taking a break from her role as Artistic Director of the Bar Harbor (Maine) Music Festival, will perform at Jewish Home and Hospital. Her repertoire includes Bach, Chopin, Schubert, as well as some of her own compositions.

HAI On August 7th and 9th the **Youth Leadership and Education Program** will be conducting workshops in conflict resolution, goal-setting, and violence prevention to 600 youths from the NYC Housing Authority's Summer Youth Employment Program.

HAI HAI's **Arts Workshop Program** provides ongoing, weekly participatory workshops led by professional artists in music, dance/movement, performance, visual and computer arts. Most arts workshops are subsidized by government or private grants that specify a particular consumer population. In addition, HAI is now able to serve groups that are not eligible for such subsidies or grants through direct purchases of HAI's services. Contact Betty Marks at (212) 575-7696.

HAI **The Gallery at HAI** exhibits art by self-taught Outsider artists with mental disabilities and is also available to community groups for exhibition. Applications are now available for SURVEY 2008, the January juried exhibit to be shown in The Gallery at HAI. SURVEY 2008 coincides with the international Outsider Art Fair held every year at the Puck Building around the corner from The Gallery. HAI is inviting submissions by self-taught Outsider artists with mental disabilities from around the U.S. Applications can be downloaded from our website or call Betty Marks at (212) 575-7696.

The Gallery currently features *Piñatas and Paintings*, an exhibit presenting extraordinary piñatas from FEGS and paintings from both HAI workshops and from a program called Kursisten, in Arhus, Denmark, that also serves mentally retarded/developmentally disabled adults. The paintings from Kursisten is the third in a series of exchanges with HAI.

For more information please visit our website at
<http://www.hospaud.org>

This August HAI will reach a projected audience of 15,422 at 773 events...through the:

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| Cultural Events Program | 2,800 at 120 events |
| On-Site Performance Program | 3,000 at 100 performances |
| Arts Workshop Program | 8,622 at over 535 hours of workshops |
| Prevention Education Program | 1,000 at over 18 workshops |