

## NEWS FROM PENUMBRA THEATRE

*For Immediate Release*

December 6, 2006

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**Tickets:** Penumbra Theatre Box Office

**651-224-3180 or penumbratheatre.org**

### **EXTENDED RUN—8 SHOWS ADDED!**

#### ***Black Nativity A Homecoming* “A Passionate Gospel Hymn to Christmas”**

December 6, 2006; St. Paul, MN: Penumbra Theatre Company, the nation’s preeminent African American theatre, announces the addition of eight performances of *Black Nativity A Homecoming* due to popular demand. **The extension runs through December 31, 2006.**

#### **Additional Show times are:**

**Tuesday, Dec. 26 at 7:30pm**

**Wednesday, Dec. 27 at 2:00pm and 7:30 p.m.**

**Thursday, Dec. 28 at 7:30pm**

**Friday, Dec. 29 at 8pm**

**Saturday, Dec. 30 at 7:00pm and 9:30pm**

**Sunday, Dec. 31 at 2:00pm**

This powerful gospel journey, conceived by T. Mychael Rambo and Lou Bellamy, co-directed by Austene Van and Lou Bellamy with musical direction by Sanford Moore, includes old favorites such as, “No Room at the Inn,” “Angels We Have Heard on High,” “Silent Night,” and “Joy to the World.” New songs have been added this year, including “Rise Up Shepherd & Follow,” “Children Go Where I Send Thee,” and the “Little Drummer Boy.” The performance features live music by award winning musicians, original dance choreographed by the renowned Uri Sands of TU Dance Company, and a stellar gospel choir ensemble that includes members of Moore by Four and the Grammy-Award winning Sounds of Blackness.

Featured vocalists include Ansa Akyea, Aimee Bryant, Ginger Commodore, Cameron Hughes, Tonia Hughes, Greta Oglesby, Thomasina Petrus, T. Mychael Rambo, Xavier Rice, Dennis Spears, Jennifer Whitlock, and Jack Yates.

For the third year in a row, this spectacular holiday production plays on the Penumbra stage, marking the 19<sup>th</sup> year of this popular Twin Cities’ Christmas tradition. The 2006 production, set in the present, preserves the intent of the very first show in 1987 by bringing together the African American gospel tradition with traditional community values as it celebrates the bonds of family and the power of faith through story, song and dance.

**\*\*\*MORE\*\*\***

*Penumbra’s 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season presented by Target and Star Tribune*

## QUICK REFERENCE

**Production:** *Black Nativity A Homecoming*  
**Conceived by:** T. Mychael Rambo and Lou Bellamy

**Producer:** Penumbra Theatre Company & Lou Bellamy  
**Show Sponsor:** Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Foundation

**Co-Directors:** Austene Van and Lou Bellamy

**Musical Direction:** Sanford Moore

**Choreographer:** Uri Sands

**Ensemble Choreographer:** Austene Van

**Ensemble:** Ansa Akyea, Aimee Bryant, Ginger Commodore, Cameron Hughes, Tonia Hughes, Greta Oglesby, Thomasina Petrus, T. Mychael Rambo, Xavier Rice, Dennis Spears, Jennifer Whitlock, Jack Yates, Gremaul Gaines (Dancer), and Yvonne Glenn (Dancer)

**Musicians:** David Hurst (Keyboards), Kenyari Jackson (Percussion), Jay Young (Bass)

**Design Team:** Jason Allyn-Schwerin (Scene Design), Mark Dougherty (Light Design), Martin Gwinup (Media & Sound Design), Gregory J. Horton (Costume Design)

**Dates:** November 30 – December 31, 2006

**Performances:** **Tuesdays 7:30 pm**  
**Wednesdays 2:00 pm**  
**Thursdays 7:30 pm**  
**Fridays 8:00pm**  
**Saturdays 7:00pm and 9:30.pm**  
**Sundays 2:00pm and 7:30.pm**

**NOTE:**

**Sunday, Dec. 24 at 2:00 p.m. matinee only**

**Wednesday, Dec. 27 at 2:00 pm and 7:30 p.m.**

**Sunday, Dec. 31 at 2:00 pm matinee only**

**Tickets:** 651-224-3180 or [penumbratheatre.org](http://penumbratheatre.org)

**Price:** \$15 - \$40

**Theatre Location:** 270 North Kent Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102

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