

*Paul Laurence Dunbar Senior High School
and
Jah kente International, Inc.*

Present

**Redemption Ritual:
Inviting the Ancestors
to Be Present**

Directed by Ed Bishop

Friday, February 17, 2006

10: 00 am & 8:00pm

PAUL LAURENCE DUNBAR HIGH SCHOOL

Dr. Harriett F. Kargbo, Principal
1301 New Jersey Avenue, NW
Washington, DC

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Jah Kente International, Inc.

Presents

Redemption Ritual: Inviting the Ancestors to Be Present

Directed by Ed Bishop

Set Design
Tiefing

Lighting and Sound Design
Prince Nora

Chorography
Melvin Deal

Assistant Director/Stage Manager
Maurice Johnson

ssdc

The Director is a member of the *Society of
Stage Directors and Choreographers, Inc.*,
an independent national labor union.

Thunder comes resounding out of the earth.
The image of ENTHUSIASM.
Thus the ancient Kings made music
In order to honor merit,
And offered it with splendor
To the Supreme Deity,
Inviting the ancestors to be present.

Special Thanks to:

Clark – Winchcole Foundation
District of Columbia Escheated Estates Fund
Philip L Graham Fund, The Washington Post Company
Black Entertainment Television (BET)
Mr. Ed Bishop
Ms. Vernice Turner and Dr. Jean Purchas-Tulloch
The Dunbar Maintenance and Engineering staff

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Mrs. Muriel Martin-Horns

Dunbar Reading Initiative Committee

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Mr. Sanston Foster
Mr. Willie Loving
Mr. Semere Ambaye
Mrs. Muriel Martin-Horns

HISTORICAL DUNBAR SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Dunbar High School is named in honor of the famous poet, Paul Laurence Dunbar, who was born in Dayton, Ohio, in 1872. A sculptured likeness of him and books of his poems are located in the media center.

The present building opened for occupancy in March 1977 as an open-space senior high school with a construction cost exceeding \$23.7 million. Paul Laurence Dunbar Senior High School provides a quality education to all of its students to prepare them for success in a highly competitive and technological society. In 1993, Dunbar became the first comprehensive public high school in Washington, D.C., to be awarded the Blue Ribbon School of Excellence award by the U.S. Department of Education in its National Secondary School Recognition Program.

The old Dunbar building, demolished in 1977, opened in September 1916 and was dedicated on January 15, 1917. However, the school dates back to November 1870, when a Board of Trustees of Colored Schools of Washington and Georgetown, D.C., founded it. It became the first high school for black youth in America.

The first principal was A. E. Newton. One year later in 1871, Mary J. Patterson, the first American Black college graduate, became principal. In 1877, the first high school commencement exercise was held for 11 students. Nearly all of the early graduates became teachers in the lower grades.

Richard T. Greener, the first Black graduate of Harvard College, became principal for one year in 1872, after which Mary J. Patterson was re-appointed principal. Francis L. Cardozo succeeded her in 1884. At that time, the initial enrollment of 50 pupils had increased to 172, and by 1886 to 247 pupils. In 1891, the curriculum was enriched by the addition of several electives, the term was lengthened to four years, a new building was erected, and the school was renamed the M Street School.

Drew W.S. Montgomery became principal in 1896 followed by Robert H. Terrell in 1899. Between 1901 and 1916, three other outstanding educational leaders served as principals: Anna J. Cooper (1901-1906), William T. S. Jackson (1906-1909), and Edward C. Williams (1909-1916).

Garnet C. Wilkinson became principal of the newly named Dunbar High School in 1916. In 1921, Walter L. Smith became principal and held the position for 22 years. During his tenure, the National Honor Society of Secondary Schools chartered our chapter in 1924. Harold Haynes became principal in 1943. When Mr. Haynes became assistant superintendent, Charles S. Lofton, a graduate of Dunbar High School, became principal in February 1948.

Howard F. Bolden became principal in January 1965. Phyllis Beckwith became acting principal in February 1970 and received the principalship in 1971. Dr. Thomas Harper succeeded her in 1977. In December 1984, when Dr. Harper became assistant superintendent of the High School Division, Dr. Eva R. Rousseau, a Dunbar graduate, became principal. In February 1996, when Dr. Rousseau became D.C. Public Schools (DCPS) Director of Employee and Labor Relations, Ms. Judith C. Richardson became acting principal and received the principalship in 1997. In November 2002, Ms. Richardson became a DCPS performance officer of Elementary School Division II.

Prior to her appointment, Ms. Richardson served in Dunbar as a teacher, coordinator of the Pre-Engineering Program, and assistant principal. Mr. Reginald Burke served as interim principal from November 2002 to August 2003. In August 2003, Dr. Harriett F. Kargbo became principal. Prior to her appointment, Dr. Kargbo was an assistant principal at Dunbar.

In the years of Dunbar's existence, our graduates have achieved many outstanding accomplishments. More than 28,000 young men and women have graduated. Approximately three-fourths of these graduates have pursued a college education. In all parts of the United States, and even abroad, there are Dunbar graduates making significant contributions to society. The school's growth has been steady and consistent. The Department of Manual Training at Dunbar became the Armstrong Manual Training School in 1902; the Department of Business Practice became the Cardozo High School in 1928. Today, Dunbar offers quality education in academic subjects preparatory to college entrance, as well as preparation for the world of work.

In September 1982, DCPS opened five career-focused high schools. Dunbar was selected as the site for the Pre-Engineering Program. Dr. Floretta Dukes McKenzie, school superintendent; Dr. Thomas Harper, assistant superintendent; and Ms. Judith C. Richardson, former principal, organized private-public partnerships with General Motors and IBM as national business partners. Potomac Electric Power Company (PEPCO) and the District of Columbia Metropolitan Consortium for Minorities in Engineering (METCON) became local business partners. The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation gave planning assistance with guidance from a curriculum designer at the Houston School of Engineering.

Fifty ninth-grade students comprised the first class, and a core staff was chosen and trained at General Motors Institute in Flint, Michigan. Since 1982, the Pre-Engineering High School (PEHS) has been an outstanding addition to the overall program, and has produced excellent students, student government leaders, scholarship awardees, and numerous contest winners. The first class graduated in 1986; the Dunbar valedictorian was from the Pre-Engineering Program. In April 1994, the Pre-Engineering Program-PEPCO cooperative arrangement was one of five outstanding business partnerships recognized nationally by the *Wall Street Journal*. Currently, Mrs. Marcia Exum is the director of the PEHS.

Current trends indicate that today's great trust in education focuses on meeting the needs of a student population that possesses divergent learning styles and rates of learning. In view of this fact, the instructional staff at Dunbar subscribes to a sequential approach to academic skills. They use lectures, small group work, peer instruction, audio-visual presentations, computer-aided instruction, and standards-based education methods. The staff challenges students with manageable learning tasks through portfolios, exit projects, and multi-media. Mastery of these goals and aspirations provide Dunbar students with directions that are limitless. Paul Laurence Dunbar students will be able to enter successfully the world of work or pursue post-secondary education.

PROGRAM

DRUM CALL

Welcome

Dr. Harriett F. Kargbo
Principal – Dunbar SHS

Greetings

Mrs. Muriel Martin-Horns
Project Director – Dunbar SHS

1600 – 1800

Creation – James Weldon Johnson

Heritage, Countee Cullen

Afro-American Fragment, Langston Hughes

Middle Passage, Robert Hayden

FREEDOM vs. LYNCHING

1800 – 1900

Runagate, Runagate, Robert Hayden

Between the World and Me, Richard Wright

SANKOFA – It is a taboo to return and fetch it when you forget you can always undo your mistakes

1900 – Present

Africa, Langston Hughes

We have Been Believers, Margaret Walker

Strong Men, Sterling Brown

For My People, Margaret Walker

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CAST

Dunbar Students

Ashley Jones
Lakendra Nelson
Ivan Alston
Jalesia Bush
Jabbeh Massaquoi
Donesha Long
Maurice Wilkins
Simone Simmons
Jazmine Williams
Princess Best
Sir Reigns Robinson
Joyce Ishola
Afuw Muhammad

Jah Kente International, Inc. ARTS EDUCATION STAFF

INSTRUCTORS/CONSULTANTS

Directing/Acting Specialist
Theater Arts Specialist
Technical Theater Specialist
Music/Choreography Specialist
Costume Design Specialist
Public Relations and Marketing Specialist
Musical Direction
Performance Mentor
Performance Mentor
Performance Mentor
African Heritage Dancers & Drummers
Project Director/Educator

Ed Bishop
Maurice Johnson
Prince Nora
Melvin Deal
Charisma Wooten
Norris Wiggins
Daniel R. Hodge
Princess Best
Sir Reigns Robinson
Afuw Muhammad
Melvin Deal
Muriel Martin-Horns

PRODUCTION STAFF

Producer
Student Production Assistants
Director
Public Relations and Marketing
Production Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Manager
Choreographer/Music Director
Set. Lighting and Sound Design
Sound Technician
Costumes and Properties
Costume Assistants

Technical Assistant (lighting)
Technical Assistant (sound)
Stage Assistant
Stage Assistant
Stage Assistant

Rufus Stevenson
Nwadi Onyegbala & Chynna Cole
Ed Bishop
Norris Wiggins
Maurice Johnson
Saraj
Melvin Deal
Prince Nora
Willie (Stu) Gardner
Charisma Wooten
Blair Larkins, Brittany Larkins,
Rachel Ho, & Teresa Bockai
Dontea Beasley
Salina Harris
Brittany Blakney
Chris Joppy
Shekita McCallister

The Harlem Renaissance

In the early 1900s, particularly in the 1920s, African-American literature, art, music, dance, and social commentary began to flourish in Harlem, a section of New York City. This African-American cultural movement became known as "The New Negro Movement" and later as the Harlem Renaissance. More than a literary movement, the Harlem Renaissance exalted the unique culture of African-Americans and redefined African-American expression. African-Americans were encouraged to celebrate their heritage.

The main factors contributing to the development of the Harlem Renaissance were African-American urban migration, trends toward experimentation throughout the country, and the rise of radical African-American intellectuals.

The Harlem Renaissance transformed African-American identity and history, but it also transformed American culture in general. Never before had so many Americans read the thoughts of African Americans and embraced the African-American community's productions, expressions, and style.

"Redemption Ritual" is an anthology of eleven classic poems written by seven African-American poets from the Harlem Renaissance. Strung, together they trace the African American presence from pre-captivity to the present-day. Douglas MacArthur Johnson, a teacher and scholar, known in theater circles as **Sincere Thunder Namefree**, conceived *"Redemption Ritual"* to speak clearly and honestly of their journey; utilizing the poetic works of Countee Cullen, Langston Hughes, Robert Hayden, Richard Wright, Margaret Walker, Sterling A. Brown, and James Weldon Johnson: These poets illuminate the core of the African-American experience in Africa and America as it relates to bondage and freedom. They describe in details the trials, tribulations, and successes of that struggle. These poems have the ability to birth racial healing through education, but more importantly through presentations. In the summer of 1973, Sincere Thunder Namefree joined the ancestors. Mr. Rufus Tiefing Stevenson, CEO and Executive Vice President of Jah Kente International, Inc. continue to present the anthology of the African presence in America.

Thunder comes resounding out of the earth.
The image of ENTHUSIASM.
Thus the ancient Kings made music
In order to honor merit,
And offered it with splendor
To the Supreme Deity,
Inviting the ancestors to be present.

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Mr. Semere Ambaye
Mrs. Muriel Martin-Horns

Sankofa Project: "Redemption Ritual: Inviting the Ancestors to be Present"

Ed Bishop: Directed "The Emperor Jones," "Porgy" (The American Century Theater 'Rescues' Series), Co-directed "Uncle Tom's Cabin" and assisted with "Mr. Roberts" (The American Century Theater). Directed "Out of the Whirlwind," "A Night With Jackie 'MOMS' Mabley" (Helen Hayes nominees) and "Metamorphosis" (American Theatre Project), and "Jonin" (Church Street Theatre). Off-off Broadway: "...Nobody Seems To Care" (Master Theater and national tour). "Bumps" (Back Alley Theater), "Norman Is That You?" (The Historic Takoma Theater) "The Blacks: A Clown Show" (Birmingham Festival Theater) Musicals: "...Deadwood Dick: Legend of the West" (Black Fire Company), and "Get To Tomorrow" (Source Theatre Company). He is Artistic Associate with The American Century Theater, a member of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers, and the Screen Actors' Guild.

Rufus Tiefing Stevenson, PRODUCER is a native of NEWNAN, Georgia, a graduate of Morehouse College and the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, the Johns Hopkins University; a former Peace Corps Volunteer in Africa, a Vietnam Veteran, and a U.S. Diplomat in Europe and in Africa. He is the CEO/Executive Vice President of JAH Kente International, Inc. and the CEO and creator of TIEFING Collection of African and South Pacific Artifacts. As an actor, he recently performed in Eugene O'Neal's play "The Emperor Jones" and "The Story of Ron Brown." He is a member of Metropolitan A.M.E. Church and the PHI DELTA KAPPA International Association, UDC #1521.

Maurice Johnson – Assistant Director/Stage Manager is a native of Ft. Wayne Indiana, and MFA graduate of Catholic University teaching Drama at A. Mario Loiederman Magnet School for the Performing ARTS, Montgomery County School System. Mr. Johnson is the Managing Partner and Producer with Marshall, Johnson and Torrey Television that specializes in PBS documentaries.

Born **Sir Robinson**, Sir has been performing in one way or another since age six; be it Spoken Word, Hip-Hop, Theatre or Multimedia services. Most recently, he has been contracted to teach; working while concentrated on sculpturing, and maintaining a position as Director of Multimedia at HOT-Ice Multimedia.

Saraj Margurillett, Assistant Stage Manager, originally, from Jamaica, in the Caribbean, was educated in England, before completing her education in the U.S.A. She has been part of the Performance Arts Troupe which acted in the show, *Redemption Ritual: Inviting the Ancestors to be Present*, since the opening at The Corcoran Gallery of Art, Sept., 1999, and has also written grant proposals for the Jah Kente International, Inc.

Charisma Wooten [Costume Designer] is a graduate of the University of Maryland and a member of Refreshing Spring Church of God in Christ, Riverdale, Maryland, James E. Jordan, Jr. Pastor. She is Managing Director of Mary's First Child, and a Helen Hayes nominated playwright and actor.

Melvin Deal (Music / Choreography) a dancer, Cultural Anthropologist, Administor, and teacher is a native Washingtonian who began his dance in near Northeast, Washington, D.C. in 1959. The African Heritage dancers and Drummers, under Mr. Deal's founding guidance has saved the lives of thousands of "At-Risk" children and youths and has earned a renowned reputation for excellence, locally, nationally and internationally. Mr. Deal has saved several teams as a commissioner on the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities. He is the recipient of many prestigious awards some of which include, the Washingtonian of the year, 1981, Whitney Young Memorial Award, 1981; Malcolm X award, 1989; Dance Africa Award, 1995-96; Pola Norinska Dance Africa Award, 2000, and many others.

My name is **Ivan Austin**. I am 16 years old. I enjoy the movies and acting like some of the actors. One of my favorite actors is Jack Black. I also like hanging out in the malls and buying clothes. I have dreams of becoming an actor and having my own restaurant business.

Hello, my name is **Simone Simmons**. I've been acting every since elementary school. My goal in life is to become a professional singer, actress, and director. I want to be known as, "The Entertainer," someone that can do it all. Acting is a challenge. You will see my name in lights, no one is going to stop me. I WILL GO FAR!!!

My name is **Maurice Wilkins**, and I am a senior. I plan to attend Morehouse College or Bucknell University major in history with a minor in vocal performance. I have been a part of numerous productions throughout the community. I would like to thank family, friends, and OUDC for being there for me.

Jalesia Bush was born in Tallahassee, Florida. She is a senior at Dunbar Senior High School. She enjoys acting, earning community service hours, and spending time with my friends and family. In the fall of 2006, she will attend Florida A & M University and major in communications.

Lakendra Nelson is an outgoing senior at Dunbar. She has Osteogenesis Imperfecta, better known as OI. She lives everyday like it is her last. LaKendra is a kind, loving, and respectful young lady.

Hello, I'm **Ashley Jones**. I've been acting for eight years. I call myself, "The Rebel Actor," because I don't go by the rules/scripts when I'm acting. I realize that acting is a passion of mine because when I watch television or movies, I think and imagine what its like in rehearsals and when they took and read the script for the first time.

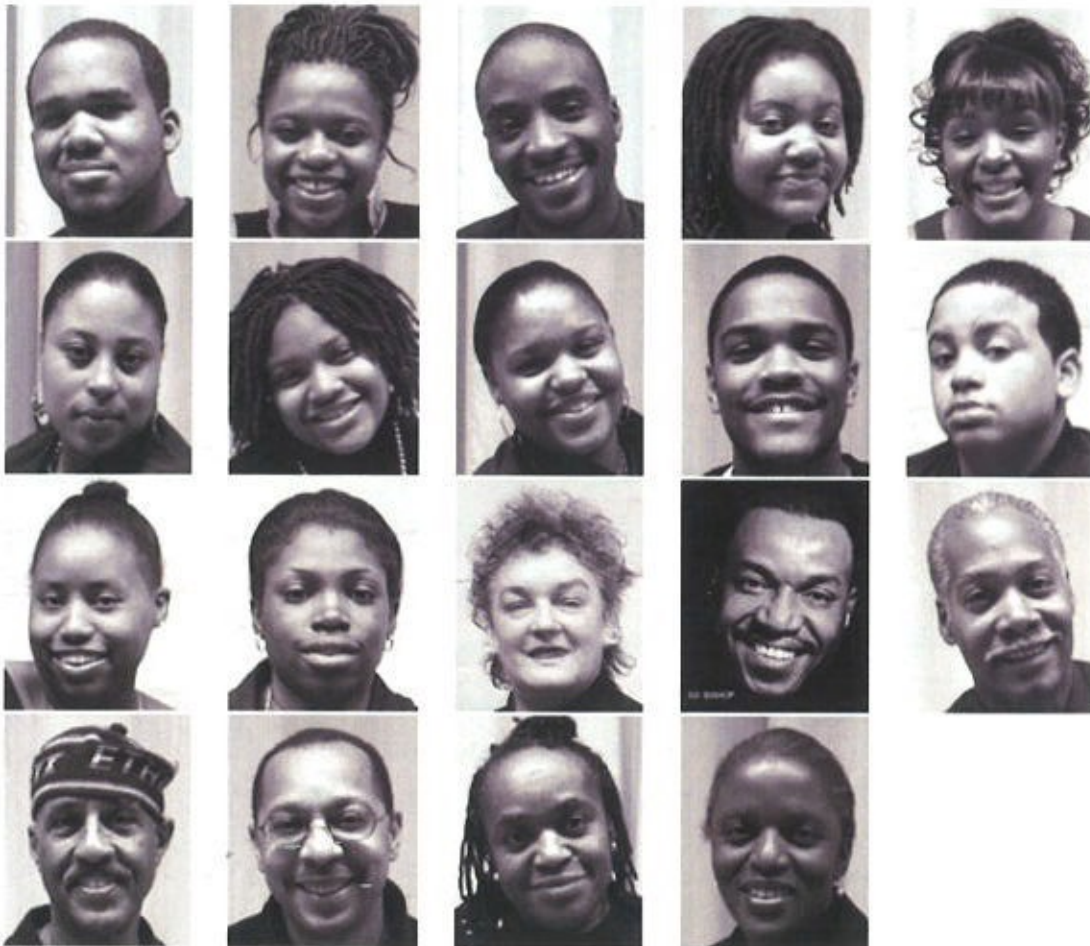
Hello, my name is **Donesha Long**. I was born to be an entertainer. My future goals in theater are to be well known and a legend. I would like to thank my family and friends.

Hi, my name is **Jebbeh Massaquoi**, and I believe I was put on this earth to become an entertainer. I will graduate this upcoming June and will major in communications/film. This performance arts show is just one of my steps to my future goal. So remember my name, because I am bound to be a star. Also, I will like to thank my mom, dad, family, and friends for coming.

Hey, what is going on? My name is **Jazmin Williams**, and I am originally from New York. Growing up in New York, I was surrounded by entertainment. I stand before you today as an aspiring dancer and actress. My other talents are rapping and song writing. I am currently a senior in Dunbar Senior High School. I plan to go to college to major in public relations. While attending college, I plan to further my career with a minor in theatre. This play will give me a head start. Look for my name in lights in the near future. Have a blessed day.

Paul Laurence Dunbar High School & Jah Kente International, Inc.
Present

Redemption Ritual: Inviting The Ancestors to be Present



Row-1: Maurice Wilkins, Princess Best, Sir Reigns Robinson, Jalesia Bush, Jazmine Williams

Row-2: Donesha Long, Jabbeh Massaquoi, Ashley Jones, Afuw Muhammad, Ivan Alston

Row-3: Simone Simmons, Joyce Ishola, Saraj, Ed Bishop, Director, Maurice Johnson, Production Stage Manager

Row-4: Rufus T. Stevenson, CEO Jah Kente International, Norris Wiggins, Public Relations,
Muriel Martin-Horns, Project Director, Dr. Harriett Kargbo, Principal Dunbar High School

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