



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Harlem Renaissance Revue Comes to the Historic Lincoln Theatre
Special Celebrity Guests:
Blair Underwood
Jasmine Guy

WASHINGTON, D.C. – August 28, 2009 – As part of the Greater U Street Festival, the U Street Theatre Foundation, will present a two – day tribute to the Harlem Renaissance on September 17th and 18th.

Coined the *Black Broadway* by singer and Washingtonian Pearl Bailey, the historic Lincoln Theatre stage will come alive with film, music and dance; with special tributes and celebrity appearances by **Jasmine Guy**, **Blair Underwood** and the **Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra**.

On **September 18, 2009 at 8:00 p.m.** the Lincoln’s storied stage will showcase the Harlem *Renaissance Festival Celebration*. This exciting multi-disciplinary art celebration will feature the big band sounds of *Duke Ellington*, *Cab Calloway* and the jazz stylings of *Billy Holiday*; along with theatrical performances drawn from a mosaic of artists and literary figures that fashioned the era. Tributes will be made by celebrity guests **Jasmine Guy** and **Blair Underwood**, as well as performances by the *In Series* Theatre Company and the *Dance Institute of Washington*. Headlining the exceptional evening will be the *Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra* presenting their signature repertoire “*Duke Ellington at the Cotton Club*”.

Tickets are \$30.00 in advance and \$37.50 at the door.

Starring in *the Harlem Renaissance Festival* is six time NAACP Image Award Winner and acclaimed actress Jasmine Guy accompanied by award winning actor Blair Underwood.

Jasmine Guy began her career as a dancer for the Alvin Ailey American Dance Center. Her television work began with a starring role as co-ed beauty Whitley in *A Different World*, which enjoyed a six-season run, and for which she wrote several episodes. Her recent successes as the Director and Choreographer of an Atlanta production of *For Colored Girls*...earned rave reviews and a sell out crowd.

Blair Underwood has distinguished himself as an award-winning actor who is currently showcasing his multitude of talents in film, television and theatre. He has won three NAACP Image Awards and one Grammy Award. In recent years, Underwood has appeared on *The New Adventures of Old Christine*, *Dirty Sexy Money* and *In Treatment*.

The Harlem Renaissance was an explosion of brilliant prose, poetry, politics and music by African-Americans ready to say their piece in the 1920s and early '30s. Yet before the Harlem Renaissance, there was the vibrant beat of the U Street corridor. An artistic movement that was fueled by an ingenious cadre of Washingtonians, including musician and composer *Duke Ellington*, writer and poet *Langston Hughes* and many more. From the Duke, to Ella, to Lady Day, these are just a few of the legendary artists who have preformed at the Lincoln Theatre.

Join us as we recreate the extraordinary energy of the Harlem Renaissance. Tickets can be purchased at the Lincoln Theatre box office 10:00 am – 6:00 pm or Ticketmaster outlets. Visit www.lovethecoln.com for more detailed information.

About the Lincoln Theatre:

The historic Lincoln Theatre is a non profit performing arts venue located in the vibrant U Street district and managed by the U Street Theatre Foundation. Originally a vaudeville theatre and movie house open in the 1920s, the “Jewel on U” has reopened as DC’s National Theatre and a cultural crossroads where culturally diverse and stimulating entertainment programming is offered. Visit www.lovethecoln.com for more information.